Effect of Increasing L-Lysine-HCl and Amino Acid Ratios on Performance of Finishing Pigs from 109 to 129 Kg.

Larissa L. Becker1, Mike D. Tokach1, Robert D. Goodband1, Joel M. DeRouchey1, Jason C. Woodworth1, Jordan T. Gebhardt1, 1Kansas State University

Abstract: A total of 1,789 pigs (PIC; 337×1050; initial BW 108.9 ± 1.14 kg) were used to determine the effects of increasing L-Lys-HCl and AA ratios on performance of late finishing pigs fed corn-soybean meal diets without DDGS. The study used 2 groups of pigs and each study lasted 18 and 27 d, respectively. Pigs were housed in mixed gender pens with 20 to 25 pigs/pen and 19 replications/treatment (10 and 9 replications/group, respectively). Pens of pigs were blocked by BW and randomly allotted to 1 of 4 dietary treatments. Treatment diets were formulated to 0.70% digestible Lys and consisted of low, medium, or high levels of feed-grade AA and moderate or high AA ratios relative to Lys. Low, medium and high feed-grade AA treatments had increased L-Lys-HCl (0.15, 0.30 and 0.39%) replacing soybean meal to achieve CP levels of 13.6, 12.0, and 11.0. Minimum AA:Lys ratios were 53% Ile, 128% Leu, 58% Met&Cys, 66% Thr, 18.5% Trp, 68% Val, and 34% His in Moderate AA ratio diets and 60% Ile, 128% Leu, 60% Met&Cys, 70% Thr, 21.2% Trp, 72% Val, and 33% His for the high AA ratio treatment. Overall, there was a marginally significant increase in ADFI (quadratic, P = 0.097) observed in pigs fed medium feed-grade AA and moderate AA ratios. Treatment diets had no effect on ADG or G:F. At the end of group 2, carcass data was collected with no differences (P > 0.10) observed for HCW, carcass yield, backfat depth, loin depth or percentage lean. In summary, differing levels of feed-grade AA and AA ratios used in this study did not impact growth performance or carcass characteristics of late finishing pigs with the exception of a marginally significant increase in ADFI.

Keywords: amino acids, finishing pig, growth

Effect of Sensory Attractants Before and After Weaning on Nursery Pig Performance.

Madie R. Wensley1, Mike D. Tokach1, Robert D. Goodband1, Jordan T. Gebhardt1, Jason C. Woodworth1, Joel M. DeRouchey1, Denny McKilligan2, Nathan Upah2, 1Kansas State University, 2TechMix Inc.

Abstract: Two experiments were conducted using 48 litters and 711 nursery pigs to determine the effect of a powder sensory attractant (Exp. 1; Baby Pig Restart APF; TechMix Global; Stewart, MN) or enrichment cube (Exp. 2; supersized pellets resembling cattle cubes) pre- and post-weaning on feed intake and growth. Treatments were arranged in a 2x2x2 factorial with main effects of pre-weaning treatment (without/with attractant), post-weaning treatment (without/with attractant), and BW category (light/heavy). Pre-weaning treatments were assigned in a RCBD and post-weaning treatments were assigned in a CRD. Litters receiving attractant pre-weaning were provided 45 g/d of powder, divided into 2 feedings, in the pan of rotary creep feeders (Exp. 1) or 100 g of cubes once daily on the floor of farrowing stalls (Exp. 2) for 4-d prior to weaning. After weaning, pens of pigs that received attractant were offered 45 g/d of powder, divided into 2 feedings/d for 2-d (Exp. 1), or 100 g of cubes once daily (Exp. 2) top-dressed on feed in the feeder pan for 3-d post-weaning. In both experiments, pre- and post-weaning attractant had limited effects on the growth performance of pigs after weaning. In Exp. 1, the percentage of pigs that lost weight 3-d post-weaning decreased by approximately 20 percentage points when pigs were provided powder both pre- and post-weaning compared with the other 3 treatment combinations (P = 0.015). No differences were observed for BW category. In Exp. 2, the percentage of pigs that lost weight 7-d post-weaning decreased by 11.7 percentage points when pigs were offered cubes compared with no cubes (P = 0.002). On d 3, more heavyweight pigs lost weight (P = 0.007) than lightweight pigs; however, this effect was diminished by d 7. In summary, sensory attractants reduced the percentage of pigs that lost weight immediately after weaning which may be due to encouraged activity around the feeder.

Keywords: sensory attractants, nursery pig, growth