

242 Effects of Providing a Liquid Sensory Attractant to Suckling Pigs in Lactation and After Weaning on Post-Weaning Pig Performance.

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Abstract: A total of 28 litters corresponding with 355 nursery pigs were used in a 42-d trial to determine the effect of a liquid sensory attractant (BlueLite Pro2Lyte; TechMix Global; Stewart, MN) pre- and post-weaning on the feed intake and growth of pigs after weaning. Treatments were arranged in a 2x2x2 factorial with main effects of: 1) pre-weaning treatment (without/with attractant), 2) post-weaning treatment (without/with attractant), and 3) body weight category (light/heavy). Litters that received liquid attractant pre-weaning were provided approximately 88 mL per d, divided into 2 applications, sprayed on the underline of sows for 2-d beginning the morning after farrowing and 2-d prior to weaning. In total, pigs received attractant for 4-d pre-weaning. After weaning, pens of pigs that received liquid attractant were offered approximately 56 mL per d, divided into 3 applications, sprayed on the feed in the feeder pan for 3-d post-weaning. Overall, pre and post-weaning liquid sensory attractant did not have a significant effect ($P > 0.10$) on growth performance of pigs after weaning. For the percentage of pigs that lost weight by d 3 after weaning, a 3-way interaction was observed ($P = 0.016$). Sensory attractant pre- or post-weaning reduced the percentage of heavyweight pigs that lost weight after weaning; however, for lightweight pigs, providing the attractant only pre-weaning increased the percentage of pigs that lost weight after weaning. Additionally, a greater percentage of heavyweight pigs lost weight on d 3 ($P = 0.007$) and d 7 ($P = 0.051$) compared with lightweight pigs. In summary, liquid sensory attractant application pre- and post-weaning had limited effects on the growth performance of pigs; however, varying responses were observed for the percentage of pigs that lost weight immediately after weaning. Strategies to reduce the number of pigs that lose weight after weaning warrant further investigation.

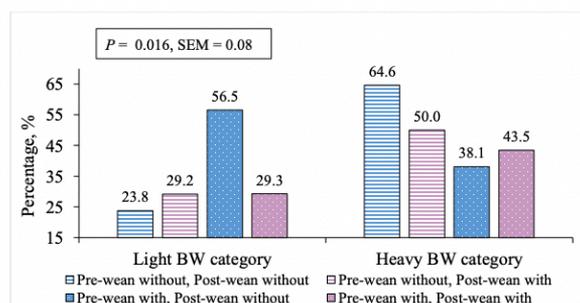


Figure 1. Interaction of pre- and post-weaning liquid sensory attractant application and BW category on the percentage of pigs that lost weight from weaning to d 3.

Keywords: pig, sensory attractant, weaning