

4 The effect of supplemental dietary taurine upon performance of sows and their progeny. S. M. El-Kandelgy¹, D. D. Koehler¹, R. L. Shurson¹, G. C. Shurson¹, R. D. Goodrich¹ and B. J. Crisler¹. ¹University of Minnesota, St. Paul and ²Tri-Quest, Inc., Chesterfield, MO.

Two groups of 24 sows were used to study the effect of 0.5% supplemental dietary taurine on sow performance. Sows received 3.5 kg/d of a 13% CP diet during gestation and had ad libitum access to a 0.5% CP diet during lactation. Sows supplemented with taurine (T) received the same diets except for the addition of 0.5% supplemental taurine. Taurine supplements were fed from day 107 of gestation to weaning in study 1, and from breeding to farrowing in study 2. In both studies, dietary taurine failed to improve number of piglets born, born alive, and survival to 21 d. In study 2, sows fed T had significantly higher lactation weight losses than sows fed control (C) diets (14.3 vs 10.1 kg, $P < .05$), but were not different in lactation backfat loss. Lactation feed intake in study 2 was significantly lower (9 vs 11 kg, $P < .01$) for sows fed T vs C diets. A total of 144 pigs (progeny of study 1 sows) were weaned at 21d and allotted to a starter trial in a 2 factorial arrangement (T or C sow diets and T or C starter diets). A 21% CP corn-soy diet with 10% supplemental lactose served as the control (C) diet. The taurine (T) diet was identical to C except for the addition of 0.5% taurine. No milk products were included in either starter diet. There was no improvement in daily gain or feed efficiency due to T supplementation of starter diets. However, pigs which were weaned from sows fed T had improved feed efficiency (.81 vs .67 G/P, $P < .10$) and a non-significant trend toward increased daily gains (190 vs 158 g) during the first week of the four week trial. In conclusion, taurine failed to improve pig performance when supplemented in nursery diets, but urine supplementation of gestation and lactation diets tended to improve post-weaning performance of sows, and merits further investigation.

Key Words: Sows, Gestation, Dietary taurine

125 Effect of heat stress and dietary energy on embryo survival and gilt performance from days 3 to 24 postmating. C. W. Liao* and T. L. Veum, University of Missouri, Columbia.

A total of 72 bred gilts were used in three trials, 24 gilts per trial, to study the effect of dietary energy and constant heat stress on embryo survival and gilt performance. Gilts were bred by artificial insemination using pooled semen and brought into the environmental chambers on d 3 postmating without any adjustment period. Experiment was a 2 X 2 factorial arrangement of the treatments with two constant temperatures, thermoneutral at 23±1°C or heat stress at 32±2°C; and two dietary ME intakes, 5.40 or 8.10 Mcal of ME per gilt daily. Diets were formulated to equalize daily nutrient intake for each gilt except for ME. Diet intake was 1.60 kg/d for gilts fed 5.40 Mcal ME/d. The 8.10 Mcal ME diet was made by adding 0.35 kg of lard to the 5.40 Mcal ME diet. Diets were fed once a day at 0800. Water was supplied ad libitum. At day 24±2 postmating, the gilts were slaughtered. Ovaries and reproductive tracts were collected. The number of corpora lutea and live embryos, and embryo length and weight were determined. Embryo survival was calculated as the ratio of the number of live embryos compared to the number of corpora lutea. Average daily gain, backfat thickness and dressing percent were determined. Trials were pooled and the data were analyzed by ANOVA with a factorial arrangement of the treatments. There were no interactions ($P > .40$) between dietary energy and temperature for any criteria measured. High energy did not affect ($P > .40$) embryo survival. Average daily gain was lower for gilts fed the low energy diet ($P < .01$) or subjected to heat stress ($P < .01$). Gilts housed in the hot chamber had a smaller number of corpora lutea ($P < .06$) and live embryos (9.9 vs 11.9, $P < .04$), and a lower percent of embryo survival (71.6 vs 82.6, $P < .06$) than gilts housed in the thermoneutral chamber. In conclusion, heat stress had a detrimental effect on embryo survival while dietary energy did not affect embryo survival during early pregnancy.

Bred Gilts, Heat Stress, Embryo Survival

Key Words:

26 Riboflavin nutrition of sows. J. E. Pettigrew¹, S. M. El-Kandelgy¹, L. J. Johnston¹, and G. C. Shurson¹. ¹University of Minnesota, St. Paul² and Morris².

High concentration of riboflavin in uterine flushings of gilts early pregnancy suggests a short-term high riboflavin requirement, and provision of a large dose of dietary riboflavin at that time has been suggested to improve farrowing and litter size. Two studies of the responses of sows to very high dietary riboflavin levels were conducted. Experiment 1 examined the effect of low (2.8 mg/kg; LR) or high (52.8 mg/kg; HR) dietary riboflavin concentrations on a biochemical index of riboflavin status, erythrocyte glutathione reductase activity coefficient (EGRAC), of crossbred sows throughout the reproductive cycle. Diets were fed to sows during one complete reproductive cycle beginning in mid-gestation. Values of EGRAC at 4-wk intervals from the start of the experiment to weaning, on d 8 postbreeding, and at 2-wk intervals till the end of the experiment were higher (more riboflavin deficient; $P < .01$) for sows fed LR. The highest EGRAC (1.68) of sows fed LR occurred in mid-lactation; EGRAC of LR sows at d 8 postbreeding was 1.49. Corresponding EGRAC for HR sows were 1.16 and 1.24, respectively. Experiment 2 evaluated the effect of 4 levels of dietary riboflavin (10, 60, 110, or 160 mg/day) during a first 21 d postbreeding. A total of 113 mixed-parity crossbred sows were used in 2 farrowing groups at each of 2 farms. The farrowing was higher ($P < .10$) on the 3 high levels of riboflavin than on 10 mg/d. There were no effects ($P > .10$) of riboflavin intake on litter size, sow weight change or any other measure of productive performance, or on EGRAC measured at breeding, on days 50 or 100 of pregnancy, or in mid-lactation. These results suggest that sows are not unusually susceptible to riboflavin deficiency during early pregnancy, and that a high riboflavin intake at that time does not increase litter size. However, high riboflavin intake (60 to 160 mg/d) during early pregnancy may increase farrowing.

Item	Dietary riboflavin, mg/day				Error mean square
	10	60	110	160	
% farrowed	74.1	92.3	90.3	89.7	--
Pigs born alive/litter	9.62	10.07	10.45	9.86	7.87
Pigs weaned/litter	9.16	9.04	9.72	9.12	5.97
Wean to farrow, days	5.00	5.02	4.84	5.85	2.85

Key Words: Riboflavin, Sows, Reproduction

127 The interrelationships between dietary lysine and litter size on sow and litter performance. J. L. Laurin*, J. L. Nelsens, R. D. Goodband, and M. D. Tokach, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

One-hundred ninety-three primiparous sows were used in a study with the objective to determine the influence of four litter sizes on the dietary lysine requirement of lactating sows as measured by litter performance and sow weight loss. At farrowing, sows were randomly assigned to one of three corn-soybean meal diets (67, 94, or 122 % lysine) and standardized to one of four litter sizes (8, 9, 10, or 11 pigs). Sows were fed 3.5, 4.5, and 5.5 kg/d of their respective diets from d 0 to 7, 7 to 14, and 14 to 21 of lactation. This provided daily lysine intakes of 24.3, 32.8, and 42.6, 30.1, 42.2, and 54.8; and 36.8, 51.6, and 67.0 g during d 0 to 7, 7 to 14, and 14 to 21, respectively. Ratios of all other essential amino acids were kept constant to ensure lysine was first limiting. All diets contained 5% soybean oil. Sows were fed twice daily and feed disappearance was recorded each day. Litters were adjusted to their treatment size within 72 h after farrowing. If a pig died during the lactation period a pig of similar age and weight was used as a replacement. Sows and litters were weighed weekly and average backfat was measured at farrowing and weaning. During d 0 to 7 of lactation, increasing litter size ($P < .03$) and dietary lysine ($P < .10$) increased litter weight gain. There was a tendency ($P = .12$) for a lysine x litter size interaction. Litter weight gain of sows nursing 8 or 9 pigs was not affected by increasing dietary lysine; however, increasing dietary lysine increased litter weight gain of sows nursing 10 or 11 pigs. Increasing litter size increased ($P < .03$) litter weight gain d 7 to 14 with a numerical ($P < .17$) interactive increase in litter weight gain as lysine and litter size increased. However, for the 14 to 21 d lactation period, a lysine x litter size interaction was not observed ($P > .90$). Neither increasing litter size nor lysine influenced litter weight gain. Sow weight loss (d 0 to 21) was increased ($P < .01$) by increasing litter size but decreased ($P < .02$) by increasing lysine intake. Sow backfat loss was unaffected by either litter size or dietary lysine. In conclusion, in early lactation, litter size interactively affects the sow's dietary lysine requirement. However, large litter sizes appear to shift peak litter gain earlier in lactation, thereby minimizing the influence of dietary lysine during late lactation (d 14 to 21). Interaction means of dietary lysine and litter size are reported below.

Litter gain, kg	67% Lysine			94% Lysine			122% Lysine			CV			
	8	9	10	8	9	10	8	9	10				
D 0 to 7 ^{abc}	9.7	11.6	10.0	11.8	10.9	10.8	12.6	12.4	9.8	11.2	11.5	13.6	20.9
D 7 to 14 ^b	15.1	14.4	15.4	16.3	14.6	15.4	15.8	16.9	13.5	14.4	15.4	26.3	58.8
D 14 to 21	10.5	11.0	11.8	12.0	12.9	12.8	12.0	13.6	12.1	13.9	9.9	10.8	10.9

^aDietary lysine x litter size interaction ($P < .12$). ^bEffect of litter size ($P < .03$).

^cEffect of dietary lysine ($P < .10$).

Key Words: Sows, Lysine, Litter Size