

Enzyme supplementation of piglets fed diets containing barley, wheat, and corn.

J. Sánchez (*Imasde Agropecuaria, Spain*)

A. Fuentetaja (*Copese, S.A., Spain*)

J.C. González (*Imasde Agropecuaria, Spain*)

J.. Peinado (*Imasde Agropecuaria, Spain*)

M. I. Gracia (*Imasde Agropecuaria, Spain*)

A study evaluated the efficacy of a feed additive enzyme (Amylofeed, EC No 34) containing 275 U/g of endo-1,3(4)- β -glucanase (EC 3.2.1.6), 400 U/g of endo-1-4- β -xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8), and 3,100 U/g of α -amylase (EC 3.2.1.1) on performance of piglets from weaning at 28 d to 60 d of age.

Five hundred and twenty eight crossbred piglets (Duroc x Large White Landrace, half of each sex), weighing 7.36 ± 1.29 kg, were allocated randomly to 16 replicates of 33 piglets each.

A completely randomized design was applied using two experimental treatments: 1) basal diet (control), 2) basal diet with 500 mg enzyme/kg feed, the recommended dose.

The experimental design was applied in both the prestarter (28 to 44 d of age) and the starter (44 to 60 d of age) periods.

Diets were based on barley, wheat and corn, and had 2.4 Mcal NE/kg and 14.8 g/kg lysine for prestarter, and 2.4 Mcal NE/kg and 13.3 g/kg lysine for starter. Data were analyzed as a completely randomized design with dietary treatment and sex as main effects and weaning weight as a covariate.

General performance in the post weaning period was good. There were no significant differences between treatments with regard to feed consumption, growth, mortality or piglet cleanliness.

But, for the overall period (28 to 60 d of age), piglets supplemented with the enzyme had better feed conversion ratio than control animals (1.18 vs 1.32 g feed/g gain; $P=0.01$).

It was concluded that the **addition of the enzyme to piglet diets improved feed efficiency** from weaning until 60 d of age.

Key Words: Glucanase, Xylanase, Amylase, Enzyme, Piglets.