

Conséquences d'un rationnement après sevrage sur les performances, le score fécal et l'hétérogénéité des porcs

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Avec la collaboration du personnel technique de la station expérimentale de Romillé (35)

Consequences of a feeding restriction after weaning on pig performance, fecal score and heterogeneity

The effects of a feeding restriction after weaning were evaluated in a 5-week trial involving 734 piglets (Large White × Landrace) × (Large White × Pietrain) weaned at 28 days of age. The feed restriction (75%) was limited to the first 2 weeks after weaning, and was based on consumption in *ad libitum* pens, measured every 2 to 3 days. No dietary treatment was applied but the evaluation was done in two different levels of sanitary conditions at weaning (clean room with 0.52 m² per piglet and colistine during the 3 days post-weaning, or dirty room with 0.26 m² per piglet and no antibiotic). The available length of each feeding trough was 60 cm and piglets were 12 or 6 to 7 per pen. Individual fecal score was assessed (400 piglets) on days 5, 12 and 19 after weaning. Average daily gain was reduced proportionally to the level of restriction. No adverse effect of restriction was observed on live weight heterogeneity and feed conversion ratio whatever the sanitary conditions. Fecal score was improved by the restriction at 5 days post-weaning. But when the level of intake was higher (12 days), no effect of restriction was observed. Moreover, at 19 days, *i.e.* after the liberalization of consumption, no remnant effect of previous restriction was detected. In conclusion, restriction could be applied in order to reduce the use of antibiotics at weaning with limited influence on performances. With few piglets per pen and a minimum of 5 cm length of the trough per piglet, the only consequence was the reduction of piglet daily gain.