Effet de l'incorporation de l'aliment sous forme de farine ou de miette dans la soupe sur les performances du porc en croissance et ses caractéristiques de carcasse

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Effect of feeding diets in meal or ground pellet form on growth performance and carcass characteristics of growing-finishing pigs when fed restrictively

The impact of pelleting on growth performance has mainly been investigated in *ad libitum* feeding conditions. The aim of the trial was to study the effects of feeding diets in meal or ground pellet form to restrictively fed pigs (96 per treatment). A liquid feeding system was used to control the daily feed allowance to group-housed pigs (6/pen): 4.5% mean BW of pen mates at the beginning of the fattening period (BW: 25 kg), thereafter +28 g/d/pig up to 2.55 kg/d for barrows and 2.65 kg/d for gilts. The calculated net energy content of diets averaged 9.65 and 9.57 MJ/kg and the crude fibre content was 4.0 and 4.5% during the growing and finishing periods, respectively. Particle size was approximately 680 microns in the mash diet to prevent gastric ulcers. The daily feed intake averaged 2.13 kg with both diet forms. The feed conversion ratio decreased by 5% (2.54 *vs* 2.66, $P < 0.05$) and the carcass yield was 0.6 point higher (79.6 *vs* 79.0%, $P < 0.01$) with the ground pellets. The carcass leanness tended to be higher for pigs fed with the ground pellets (62.1 *vs* 61.7%). These effects were more important in barrows compared with gilts. When ground pellets are prepared from a medium fibre diet meal, with an average particle size of 680 microns, data is consistent with a positive effect of pelleting on dietary energy content, compared with feeding a meal diet.