

Preventive steps against diarrhoea

Trials and practical experience have revealed a variety of interventions that can prevent diarrhoea.

VetZinc

- VetZinc is prescribed by the herd vet and is allowed in the pigs' feed in the period 0-14 days post-weaning
- 3 kg VetZinc per tonne feed is required

Newly weaned pigs must start eating quickly

- Offer the pigs the same diet in the farrowing facility as at weaning
- Easy access to fresh water via eg. drinking trough, pre-watering or drip watering
- Frequent feedings the first days (min. 4 times daily) in trough/on floor. Possibly along with fresh water
- Floor feeding: the pigs must have eaten the feed within approx. 30 min. after feeding
- Attractive feed with a high content of tasty, easily digestible ingredients (eg. milk powder, dried whey, fishmeal, blood plasma etc.)
- Light in the weaner facility min. 8 hrs a day is a requirement

Restricted feeding

- Room for all pigs to eat at the same time
- Minimum 4 daily feedings - all feed eaten after 15 min.
- Restricted feeding = lower daily gain
- Only practiced in the period when diarrhoea typically causes problems, ie. 4-10 days post-weaning
- For more information see "Supply of water and feed"

Meal feed or expandate vs pelleted feed

- Positive effect on gastric health and diarrhoea
- BUT increased risk of clotting of old feed and feed wastage
- Requires frequent inspection of feeders

Organic acids

- The addition of min. 1 % acid (0.5 % benzoic acid) improves productivity
- Documented effect on diarrhoea if more than 2 % acid is added
- Often pigs can handle more protein in the feed as a result of the addition of acid, which increases productivity

Other interventions:

- Vaccination against Lawsonia
- Vaccination against PCV 2
- Potato starch
- A-38
- Probiotics
- Heat-treated sphagnum



Restricted feeding of newly weaned pigs in long troughs



Meal feed and expandate have a positive effect on diarrhoea