

# Changing diets without triggering diarrhoea

When you switch gradually from one diet to another, you allow the pigs to adjust to the new diet, which helps prevent diarrhoea.

## Gradual transition

- A gradual transition takes min. 4-5 days.
- Mix the two diets. It will not suffice to feed one diet in feeders and the other in troughs or on the floor

## Adjusting to soybean meal while the pigs are given VetZink

- Starter feed containing VetZink prescribed by the herd vet can only be used day 0-14 post-weaning
- The transition from starter feed (with VetZink) to weaner feed (no VetZink and more soybean meal) may subsequently trigger diarrhoea – if so, try one of the below proposals:

### 1. An extra feed cart for diet 2 with VetZink

- Mix VetZink in diet 2 in a feed cart
- Use this cart for feeding the pigs that within 0-14 days post-weaning switch to diet 2
- 14 days post-weaning, switch to diet 2 without VetZink

### 2. An extra starter diet

- Use an extra starter diet with 5-10 % soybean meal and VetZink as transition diet to diet 2
- Wean the biggest pigs directly on this cheaper diet
- 14 days post-weaning, switch to diet 2 without VetZink

## Correct use of VetZink (cross-compliance requirements):

- ✓ Only VetZink is allowed (prescribed by herd vet)
- ✓ Document (in writing) that there is no significant carry-over of VetZink to the subsequent diet (max 150 mg zinc per kg feed) – ask your feed advisor how to do this
- ✓ Check the mixer for carry-over every time you have mixed feed with VetZink



Sudden transition. The pigs have no time to adjust to the new feed, which increases the risk of diarrhoea outbreaks



Gradual transition over a long period of time. The pigs will not notice change in diets



Two feed carts with a starter diet and an extra starter diet ensure a gradual transition



Gradual transition with two feed pipelines and the possibility of manual feeding in feeders