Feed and diarrhoea

Weaner feed may trigger diarrhoea depending on the feed's content of:

- St. digestible crude protein per feed unit (FUgp)
- Soybean meal

St. digestible crude protein per FUgp

- Reduce protein content if diarrhoea outbreaks are triggered by the feed - see figure to the right
- Productivity will drop if the content of st. dig. crude protein is reduced below the standard

Low-protein feed for <u>newly weaned</u> pigs

- Drawbacks of a low crude protein content are often offset by improved wellbeing (less diarrhoea)
- Productivity loss often therefore only marginal
- Pigs off to a good start in life start feeding according to the standards sooner

Soybean meal for weaners

- Research has shown that reduced content of soybean meal in pig feed only marginally reduced diarrhoea
- In practice, highly varying effect on diarrhoea of reducing soybean meal content
- Increasing inclusion of soybean meal reduces the feed price and increases gross margin if the pigs are able to digest the feed

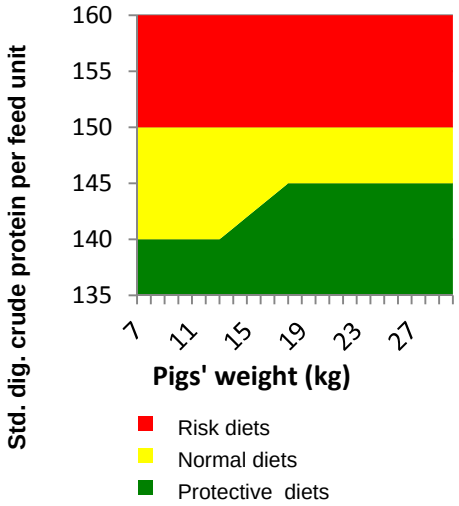
Rules of thumb in evaluation of pig feed

The approximate content of st. dig. crude protein per FUgp based on delivery note can be calculated with this equation:

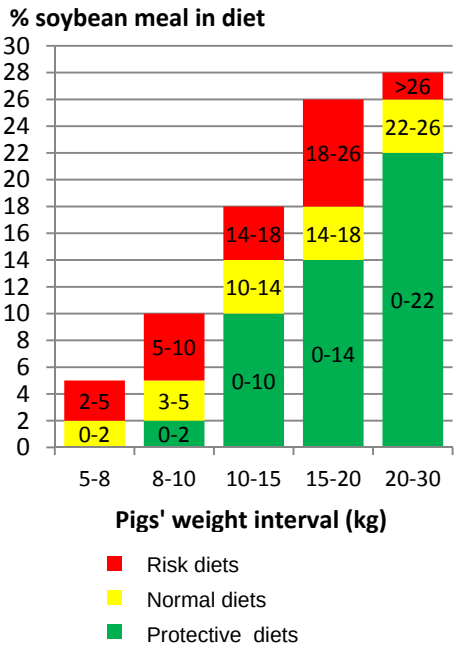
$$\text{Std.dig. crude protein per feed unit} \approx \frac{\text{\% crude protein x10}}{\text{FUgp per kg}} \text{ x DC}$$

Digestibility coefficient (DC) is based on diet composition:

- DC = 0.85 (more than 10% dehul. soy and less than 5% rapeseed)
- DC = 0.87 (more than 10% dehul. soy and no rapeseed)
- Dc = 0.88 (expensive ingedients and less than 10% dehul. soy)



St. dig. crude protein per FUgp. Generally, always use diets in the yellow category



% soybean meal in the diet. The red area is the economically optimum. In most circumstances, the yellow levels will not cause problems. Only consider the green area if the typical types of diarrhoea have been ruled out.