

Meal feed and pelleted feed for finishers

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Abstract

In one herd it was studied whether heat-treated, pelleted feed results in a better production economy in finishers than meal feed when tube feeders are used. The aim was furthermore to study whether fresh meal feed results in better production results compared to pelleted feed.

The trial comprised three groups:

Group 1:	Purchased pelleted feed delivered with an interval of approx. two weeks.
Group 2:	Purchased meal feed (not heat-treated or pelleted) delivered with an interval of approx. two weeks.
Group 3:	Meal feed mixed on-farm, produced daily on the basis of gastight stored grain.

Segregation of copper and calcium was found from the beginning to the end of the feed pipe. In group 3, the content at the end of the feed pipe was approx. 16% lower than at the beginning. The difference was less distinct in group 2 with purchased meal feed, which cannot be explained.

The trial showed that pelleted dry feed fed from tube feeders resulted in a significantly higher productivity (8-10%) compared with meal feed mixed on-farm and purchased meal feed. The freshly fed meal feed in group 3 did not deviate from the purchased meal feed that was delivered with an interval of two weeks. The increased productivity of the pigs given pelleted feed was primarily due to a better feed conversion (approx. 0.1 FUp per kg gain).

The difference in feed conversion between the pelleted feed and meal feed was smaller than what was seen in previous trials carried out in herds with simple dry feeders and single space feeders. One explanation could be that, compared with previous trials, the waste of meal feed was smaller in this trial due to the tube feeders. When using meal feed, it is particularly important to be aware of feed waste, as there is a high risk of waste.