

Fermented grain for weaners

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Abstract

The trial investigated the effect of giving fermented grain in gruel feed to weaners the first three weeks post-weaning. The effect was measured on the production results in the entire weaner period (0-8 weeks post-weaning). The trial included a control group and a trial group. In both groups, the weaners were given gruel feed the first three weeks post-weaning, and were subsequently given pelleted dry feed. In the trial group, all the grain in the gruel feed was fermented, while the grain in the control group was not fermented. No inoculation culture was used during fermentation of the grain.

Each group comprised approx. 843 pigs, and there were 44 replicates in both groups.

The production value per pig was calculated on the basis of daily gain and feed conversion using the same price per FUGp for both groups.

The trial showed that the production value for weaners in the period 0-8 weeks post-weaning increased by 6% when the weaners were given 100% fermented grain in gruel feed the first three weeks post-weaning and then were given pelleted dry feed. The difference in production value between the control group and the trial group was significant. The improved production value paid for the costs connected to fermentation of the grain.

The health status of the herd was generally good. There were no significant differences between the control group and the trial group in mortality or in the number of treatments for diarrhoea.