

Phase feeding for growing and finishing pigs

Problem

Large variation between pigs in a litter or production batch makes it difficult to target their nutrient requirements for optimal growth. Diets are therefore formulated with higher lysine and protein contents than recommended, resulting in wastage of nutrients and unnecessarily high N-emissions.

Solution

A phase feeding plan, with two or more phases, will better reflect the actual need of protein and amino acids for pigs at different live weights (growth phases) as dietary content of crude protein and essential amino acids is decreasing with increasing age of the pigs.

Benefits

Phase feeding will more closely match the pig's nutrient requirements and minimise the over- and under-feeding of nutrients. The feed will be better utilised by the pigs, in favour of both production economy and reduced N-emissions.

Applicability box

Theme

Pigs - Animal husbandry - Feed and nutrition - Production systems - Nutritive values and needs

Geographical coverage

Global

Application time

All year round

Required time

Growing/finishing period

Period of impact

All year round

Equipment

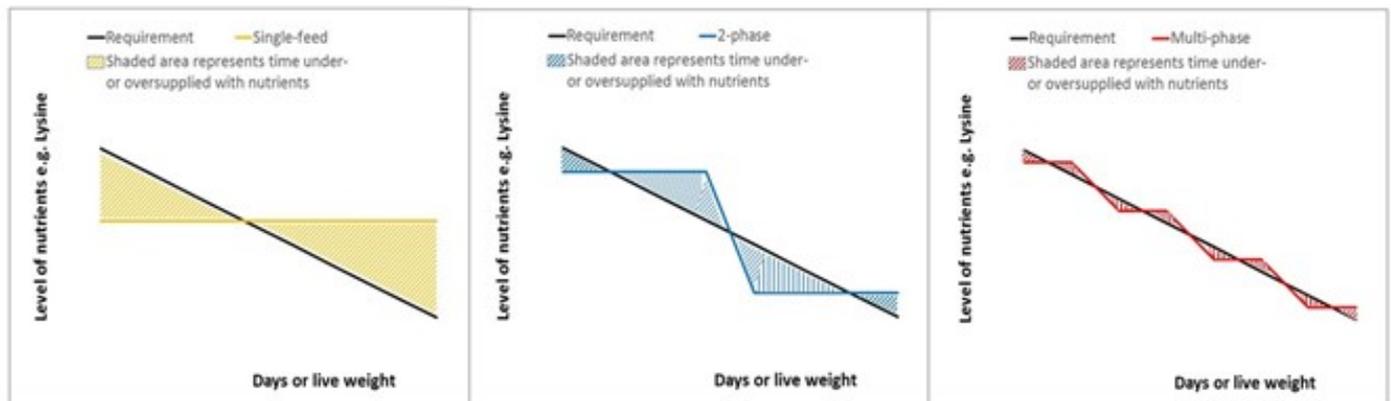
Feed ration planning

Best in

Growing/finishing period

Practical Recommendations

- To get the maximum benefit from phase feeding, diets and feeding should be established based on actual animal performance and profitability/performance goals for each stage of production. It is easier to develop with a small number of pigs per batch (to manage heterogeneity)
- Diets should be formulated on a digestible amino acid basis rather than on a total amino acid or crude protein basis, crude protein should preferably be kept at a low level and ingredients should be analysed for their nutrient contents.
- A phase feeding system is complex and factors such as the availability of high-quality protein feed ingredients, the managing and ordering of feed as well as the need for additional feed bins on the farm must be considered.
- Consult with an advisor or nutritionist to adjust the feeding plan accordingly to meet the production goals.



A single-feed diet meets the nutrient requirements of the pigs "on average" and due to the variation within the group, while 2- or multi-phase feeding will more closely match the pig's nutrient requirements and minimise the over- and under-feeding of nutrients. More phases will better reflect the actual need for protein and amino acids for pigs at different live weights (growth phases). Illustration: Magdalena Presto Åkerfeldt.

Further information

Weblinks

- Check the Organic Farm Knowledge platform for more practical [recommendations on pigs](#) as well as [feeding and ration planning](#).

About this practice abstract and OK-Net EcoFeed

Publishers:

Department of Animal Nutrition and Management, SE 750 07
Uppsala,
Phone , , www.slu.se

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), CH 5070 Frick,
Phone +41 62 865 72 72, info.suisse@fibl.org, www.fibl.org

IFOAM Organics Europe, BE 1000 Brussels,
Phone +32 2 280 12 23, www.organicseurope.bio,
www.organicseurope.bio

Authors: Magdalena Presto Åkerfeldt (SLU)

Contact: magdalena.akerfeldt@slu.se

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**OK-Net EcoFeed:**

<https://orgprints.org/view/projects/OKNetEcoFeed.html>

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Project website: <https://ok-net-ecofeed.eu/>

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