

HOG NUTRITION TIPS

Survival: We must learn how to feed our high-lean gain pigs, changing genetics is not enough!

Protein: We don't feed protein to pigs in the 1990's; we feed lysine!

Amino Acids: We must change our thinking from feeding "protein" to feeding lysine and other amino acids, i.e., threonine, tryptophan, methionine + cystine and valine.

Lean Pigs: For each 0.1" decrease in 10th rib backfat, lysine levels should be increased 5% and the other key amino acids adjusted according to their ideal ratios with lysine.

Ideal Amino Acid Ratios: With the total dietary lysine requirement in a grow/finish diet given the value of 100%, the ideal ratio for the other key amino acids would be: threonine 67%; methionine + cystine 62%; tryptophan 18%.

Split-sex Feeding: Split-sex feeding improves feed efficiency because gilts produce a higher percentage of lean yield and lower backfat, consequently gilts require higher amino acid levels to maximize their lean-gain potential.

Nutrition During Gestation: Mature sows that are expected to gain 44 lbs. of lean tissue during gestation require 8.6 grams of lysine/day while gilts that are expected to gain 66 lbs. of lean tissue require 11 grams of lysine/day. The growth rate of nursing pigs has been shown to be reduced if a low protein (low amino acid) diet has been fed during gestation; even if higher protein levels are fed during lactation. Take home lesson: we need to feed our high-lean gilts and sows higher amino acid levels during gestation.

Lysine Requirements During Lactation: A sow needs an additional 12 grams/day of lysine for each lb. of litter growth. Unpublished data suggests that higher lysine intakes may improve subsequent litter size, at least in young sows.

Valine: Don't use synthetic lysine in lactation diets, it reduces valine.