

# Feeding Pelleted Starter Feeds

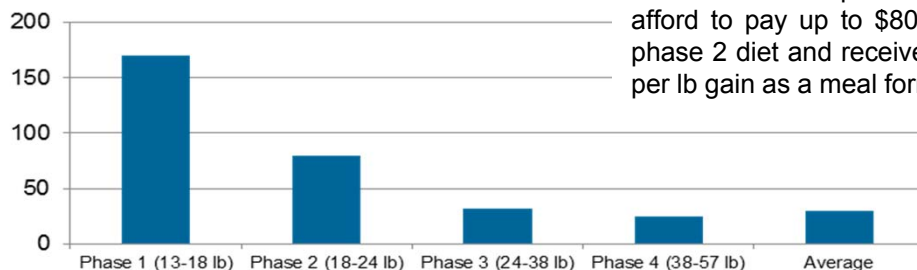
## *-Meeting Today's Challenge of High Feed Costs-*

Studies have shown that feeding pelleted diets until 36 days in age may result in optimized feed efficiency potential compared to feeding the same diet in meal-form. This means that pigs have the potential to be more efficient when fed a pelleted diet; in today's environment with high feed prices, this can make a big difference to the bottom line.

### Optimize Pig Efficiency To Reduce Feed Used Per Lb Gain<sup>1</sup>

- Pigs respond to pelleted diets with optimized average daily gain (ADG) and feed conversion ratios.<sup>2</sup>
- Using pelleted diets can potentially result in improvements in feed conversion of 8-15% (15-30 lb range). Based on a 1.2 conversion (18 lb feed consumed) that saves 1.8 lb; that is worth 45 cents (\$500 ton feed), which translates into a potential of about **\$50/ ton saving**<sup>1,3</sup>.
- Two studies performed at LongView Animal Nutrition Center, MO in 2008 have shown:
  - Pigs fed the UltraCare® program (300, 400, 500) in pelleted form had between **7.3 to 13.2% optimized feed conversion** during phase 2, 3, 4 and overall when compared to meal. There were no significant ( $P > 0.1$ ) differences observed in ADG between pigs receiving UltraCare® program in pelleted vs meal form BUT in terms of cost per lb/ gain, pellets vs meal (phase 2-4) = \$ -0.025
  - In a second trial, pigs fed UltraCare® 350 feed in a pelleted form **optimized feed conversion (5-7%) and ADG (3-5%)** over the same ration in meal form.

#### Breakeven Cost To Use Pellets<sup>3</sup>



This means that producers could potentially afford to pay up to \$80 per ton for pelleted phase 2 diet and receive the same feed cost per lb gain as a meal form phase 2 diet.<sup>1,3</sup>

### Additional Advantages Of Using Pelleted Starter Feeds

- Improved feeder management (proper feeder adjustment, less bridging and less feed wastage) using pellets versus meal feed
- Feeding period and quantities fed can be adjusted to meet both feed budget requirements and a wide range of management situations
- Formulated using optimal ingredient inter-relationships to maximize potential economic performance

For more information on how we can help you meet today's challenge of high feed costs, ask your nutrition specialist about UltraCare® Pelleted Feed or click on [www.UltraCareFeed.com](http://www.UltraCareFeed.com)



**Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC**

Copyright © 2011 Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC. All rights reserved. UltraCare is registered trademark of Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC.

<sup>1</sup>Due to factors outside of Land O'Lakes Purina Feed's control and because of market uncertainties, individual results to be obtained, including but not limited to financial performance, profits, losses or otherwise, cannot be predicted or guaranteed by Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC.

<sup>2</sup>Hancock, J., and K. Behnke. 2001. Use of ingredient and diet processing technologies (grinding, mixing, pelleting, and extruding) to produce quality feeds for pigs. Pp. 469-497 in Swine Nutrition, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., A.J. Lewis and L.L. Southern, eds, Boca Raton, FL CRC Press LLC.

<sup>3</sup>Dan McManus, DVM, Young Animal Specialist, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC.



## When Does Feeding a Higher Priced Nursery Feeding Program Pay?

Dan McManus, DVM  
Young Animal Specialist - Swine  
Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC

The question many producers have is when does feeding a higher priced nursery feeding program pay? The short answer is when it reduces the feed cost per cwt gain and reduces the overall cost per cwt gain in the nursery phase. We conducted a field study in Iowa during 2009, where the producer was challenged to feed a more complex phase 2 pelleted diet. For the field study, UltraCare® 350 complete pelleted diet was substituted for their phase 2 meal diet. The other diets and feed budgets remained the same. Compared to their current phase 2 meal diet, the UltraCare® 350 complete pelleted diet was \$100 per ton more expensive. At 10 pounds per head, it was calculated that it would raise their costs by \$0.50 per head.

### What actually happened?

Item	Previous 12 closeouts	UltraCare® 350 pellet trial
Number of Head	46,800	3886
Average Days on Feed	41.6	44.0
Starting weight, lb	14.0	13.6
Ending weight, lb	51.8	53.7
Average Daily Gain, lb	0.91	0.92 <b>No Diff</b>
Feed Efficiency	1.44	1.33 <b>(9.2%)</b>
Feed cost per cwt Gain	\$31.69	\$30.73 <b>(\$0.96)</b>
Health cost per Head	\$2.42	\$2.02 <b>(\$0.40)</b>
Total Cost per cwt Gain	\$52.56	\$48.74 <b>(\$3.82)</b>
Average Feed Cost per ton	\$440	\$461

There were no differences in performance observed in the study in average daily gain between the dietary treatments; however, the addition of the pelleted UltraCare® 350 to their feeding program **reduced cost of production in feed, health and total costs**. Additionally, a **9.2% reduction in feed efficiency** was observed when feeding the pelleted UltraCare® 350 feeding program. Feed cost per cwt gain was reduced by \$0.96 and health costs were reduced by \$.40 per head. Total costs were \$3.82 per cwt gain less than the previous closeouts. Pigs were visually more uniform when feeding the feeding program with the pelleted UltraCare® 350.

### Why did we observe the above results?

In my opinion, anything we do to optimize feed efficiency (pelleted diets) benefits the animals with the lowest intakes; they are able to gain more out of what they eat. The smaller pigs fall into this category and were able to perform better. Also, supporting the overall health status optimizes the performance of the lighter pigs.

**In summary, if you are looking to optimize performance and to potentially reduce overall costs in your young pig feeding program; don't always look to the cheaper diets. They may not be as effective in reducing costs as you think.**

LAND O'LAKES PURINA FEED LLC