Increase in nursery weight

A farm trial in Hungary has shown an increase in nursery exit weight of 4.3kg and reduced post weaning mortality from 12.5% to 7.1%.

Some 18 litters were offered AB Neo’s Axxcelera-P versus a control of 18 litters on the standard creep feed. They were weaned at 37 days.

Piglets were offered on average 274g of Axxcelera-P and then moved onto the pre-starter. The control was to use the standard creep feed and pre-starter.

There was little difference in weaning weights (control: 9.19 kg vs Axxcelera-P: 9.83 kg) but then the Axxcelera-P pigs accelerate, showing a significant difference out of the weaning weights (control: 30.1 kg vs Axxcelera-P: 34.4 kg), Mortality up to weaning was greatly reduced (control: 12.5% vs Axxcelera-P: 7.7%). This demonstrates how by offering an accelerator to the neonate, lifetime performance can be achieved by making only one change early on in the animal’s life.

New addition to AB Vista team

The newest addition to the AB Vista team, Kendre Stringfellow, has been appointed as North America Technical Services and Sales Coordinator. Dr Stringfellow will provide technical support to AB Vista and Aunir customers in North America.

Aunir, a division of animal nutrition technology company AB Vista, is a leading independent NIR calibration development and delivery company.

New appointment for Topigs Norsvin

Topigs Norsvin has appointed Noel Vitales as General Manager of Topigs Norsvin in the Philippines.

Noel has a wide range of experience in agribusiness, animal breeding and production. He has held several senior management functions in business development, farm operations and technical service.

With this appointment, Topigs Norsvin secures its position as one of the leading suppliers of pig genetics in the Philippines.

“We are convinced that with his appointment we are well prepared to successfully operate in a progressive Filipino swine business with excellent genetics for all participants of the chain and that we can build further on our core values: ambition, innovation, sustainable and partnership,” Martin Bjil, CEO of Topigs Norsvin, told International Pig Topics.

“We believe that Noel, together with his strong team is able to serve our customers in this rapidly changing market.”

Nutrition and gut health

An increasing number of trials demonstrate the impact nutrition has on the animal’s health and performance. Non starch polysaccharide (NSP) content in pig feed is one key variable as it affects satiety, gut motility, nutrient digestion and absorption, as well as changes in gut microbiota. Arabinoyxylan is a key component of the NSP in many raw materials, and its varying solubility influences the amount of undigested substrate left to encourage microbial overgrowth.

Higher concentrations of both NSP and starch substrates have been associated with an increased incidence of swine dysentery (Plisue et al., 1996), and trials have illuminated the correlation between a diet high in NSPs and non-specific colitis. Even simple corn diets contain arabinobioylans, with levels varying according to harvest and other conditions, so this is an issue for swine producers feeding high fibre diets.

The part enzymes and other additives can play

We know that feed enzymes such as xylanase help break down the insoluble arabinoxylans (hemicellulose) in both corn- and wheat-based diets (Myers and Patience 2013, Kiarie et al, 2014).

In addition to reducing digesta viscosity through the hydrolysis of soluble arabinoxylans in the small intestine, certain xylanase generates arabinono-xylooligosaccharides, which act as prebiotics, selectively stimulating the growth of beneficial bacteria. They also produce short chain fatty acids in the intestine, which can be used as an energy source by the animal.

As the industry’s search for the most effective alternatives to in-feed antibiotics continues, and the body of research in this area continues to grow, one thing seems abundantly clear: achieving gut health in the animal is essential to achieving optimal cost and performance.

But what exactly is gut health? Stephan Bischoff has described it as a balancing act that involves achieving homeostasis in interactions between the animal’s gut microbiome, immune function and nutritive processes – a definition endorsed by eminent swine scientists such as John Pluske. While we know that stress can negatively impact this balance, as Marcus Kehrli, Director at National Animal Disease Center-USDA-AFRS pointed out at DuPont’s Maximising Swine Productivity Conference, little has been known about the make-up of the swine microbiome because, until recently, less than 1% of the various bacteria – good and bad – found in a pig’s gut could be cultivated in a lab. With genome sequencing costs dropping, we are starting to learn more.

Animal feed mill in Vietnam

Royal De Heus recently inaugurated their new animal feed mill Vinh Long 2 in Mang Thit district, Vinh Long province.

This is the seventh mill of Royal De Heus in Vietnam. With an investment capital of over US$30 million and the capacity in the first phase of 250,000 tons/year, the total capacity of De Heus Vietnam has increased to 1,000,000 tons/year.

De Heus already has a mill in Vinh Long, specialising in aqua feed. The new mill, therefore called Vinh Long 2, will produce feed for cattle, pigs and poultry as well.

Vinh Long 2 is the first plant with a river port. The logistics of incoming raw materials and outgoing finished products can be organised in a more efficient way via the water ways between Vietnam, Cambodia and Mekong Delta.

For more information visit http://animalnutrition.dupont.com/home/ or email us at info@animalnutrition.dupont.com