“Zinc Different”- Piglet feeding concept as alternative to zinc oxide.

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Background and objectives

Different concepts and additives have been explored in recent years to maintain intestinal health and growth performance in newly weaned piglets. In practice, high levels of zinc oxide (under veterinary prescription) are used to prevent post weaning diarrhoea. Only just adding one additive as an alternative to zinc oxide, seemed not sufficient sofar.

In the current experiment it is investigated what is the effect of a totally different way of thinking and feeding concept (Denkapig Safe-concept) using different raw materials and different additives on the growth performance of newly weaned piglets.

Material and methods

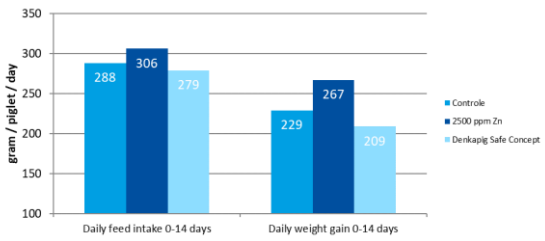
The experiment, done in the weaner period from 0-14 days post weaning, consisted of 3 treatments using: (1) a negative control without zinc oxide; (2) positive control (negative control + 2500 mg/kg zinc oxide in the weaner I phase); (3) Denkapig Safe-concept. From 14-35 days post weaning all 3 treatments groups received the same standard rearing diet. The experiment consisted of 12 replicates (pens) per treatment containing 6 piglets per pen. Diets and fresh drinking water were provided for *ad libitum* intake throughout the trial.

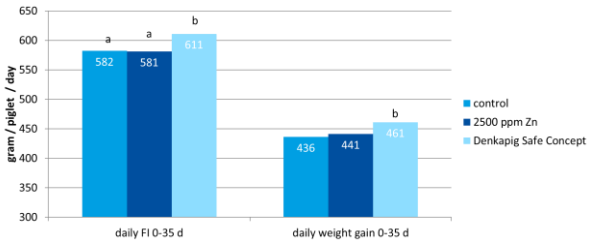
Results

In the period between 0-14 days post-weaning, piglets receiving ZnO performed best regarding ADG, FCR and BW on day 14.

In the period between 14-35 days post-weaning (post-experimental period) piglets receiving Denkapig Safe-concept performed best regarding ADG, ADFI and BW on day 35. Piglets receiving ZnO showed the lowest ADG and ADFI in this period. Faecal consistency (weekly scored) was not influenced by dietary treatment.

Regarding the overall experimental period (d 0-35 post-weaning), piglets receiving Denkapig Safe-concept showed the highest ADG and ADFI.





Conclusion and results

It can be concluded that the Denkapig Safe-concept used in the weaner period in the current experiment improved piglet growth performance over the entire experimental period in a comparable manner as zinc oxide.