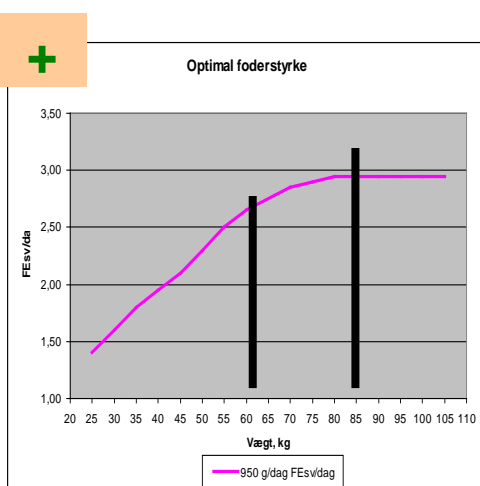


H12 - Finishers - Adjustment of feed curve



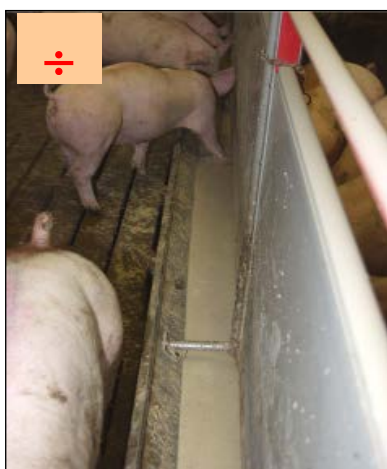
Example of feed curve

With a feed curve, you ensure maximum benefit of pigs' growth potential

1. A feed curve must be adapted to the current production level, i.e. daily gain, feed intake, feed conversion and lean meat percentage.

A feed curve consists of 3 periods:

1. A semi ad lib curve until 60 kg
 2. A restrictive curve from 60 kg to approx. 80 kg
 3. A final curve from approx. 80 kg to slaughter
2. The feed graph is only reliable when mixing accuracy and feeding are correct.
 3. Pick a feed curve that is above the average appetite of the pigs so that the feed strength will only need reducing in the period up to 60 kg (see H11- Finishers – daily adjustment of feed). For instance, as a point of departure pick a feed curve with 1,000 g daily gain and 2.90 feed units per kg gain.
 4. To find the right curve, note the changes made of the valves. Note daily for one month in how many pens with pigs below 60 kg the feed strength is reduced.
 5. If less than 30 per cent of the pigs are regulated in feed strength, the feed curve must be increased by 0.05 daily gain at all points of the curve until the final feed strength is reached.
 6. From approx. 80 kg until delivery for slaughter, give the pigs the same feed dose. Generally, the final feed strength should range from 2.80 to 3.10 feed units a day. Start out with a high final feed strength.
 7. Operate with an average daily feed strength of 2.30 to 2.60 feed units a day in the weight interval 30 to 100 kg. Check the production report to follow-up.



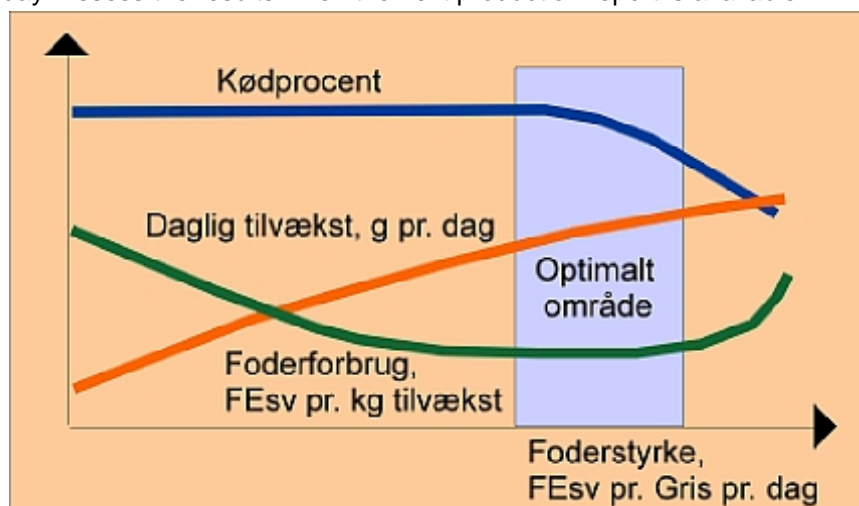
No adjustment of feed

Inadequate adjustment of the feed curve:

- The feed intake is too high or too low, which results in a low daily gain or poor lean meat percentage and feed conversion.
- Weight variation among the pigs.
- Aggressive behaviour among the pigs.
- Feed wastage and mess in the pen.

Additional comments - Finishers - Adjustment of feed curve

1. A liquid feed curve consists of three periods:
 - 1) From transfer to the finisher facility to 60 kg feed semi ad lib to ensure maximum gain; i.e. on three to four daily feedings the pigs are given feed that is eaten up within 30 minutes.
 - 2) From 60 kg until the pigs have reached the final feed strength feed restrictively. The planned final feed strength is reached when the pigs weigh approx. 80 kg, but may vary from 70 to 85 kg. Check daily that the pigs have eaten up within 30 minutes after feeding.
 - 3) From approx. 80 kg until slaughter give the pigs the same amount of feed daily to ensure a high lean meat percentage and a low feed conversion.Optimise the feed curve to the production conditions in your herd. Your advisor can help make a curve that fits the herd.
2. Before changing a feed curve, check that ingredients and feed formulations are entered correctly in the computer and that feed is mixed homogeneously.
3. When the feed curve is higher than the pigs' appetite, feed will only have to be reduced for pens in which the pigs have not eaten up approx. 30 minutes after feeding. The drawback of this is a possible increase in feed wastage when the feed curve is much higher than the pigs' appetite.
4. Every time the feed curve is changed, note the reduction for a month for each valve with pigs below 60 kg. However, this does not apply when the final feed strength is changed.
5. When the form is completed, calculate the percentage of pens that were reduced, and use this result as the basis of adjusting the feed curve to fit the herd.
6. When the feed strength increases, the daily gain increases, but when the pigs' potential for meat production becomes a limiting factor, the lean meat percentage drops. A high final feed strength (above 2.90 feed units a day) may result in a high feed consumption as more energy is required for depositing of fat than of meat. It is therefore important to follow a feeding strategy that lies within the economical optimum area to keep feed conversion low. Use the production report to check whether the final feed strength is correct. This will show whether lean meat percentage and feed conversion are satisfactory. If not, reduce the final feed strength by, for instance, 0.1 feed units a day. Assess the results when the next production report is available.



7. A reliable production report with correct calculation of feed conversion is essential when assessing whether the daily feed strength is adequate.