TestPig***

Testing piglet feed under Danish production conditions

Introduction

At TestPig we test the effect of feed stuffs, feed ingredients and additives on weaning piglets until 30 kg of weight. The concept addresses any company who needs to document the effect of their product on weaned piglets in terms of daily weight gain, feed intake and utilization, diarrhea etc.

Facilities and test conditions

- Customer deliver the feed ingredient to be tested – no other expenses on feed
- Customer compensates for any significant loss in production caused by the experimental treatments
- Feed is produced continuously on site

- Eight sections with 8 available feed dispensers
- Each feed dispenser provides feed for one double-pen
- 60 piglets per double-pen (one observation)
- Free access to feed and water
- Start of test at the day of weaning (day 25 ±3)
- Weight is balanced on the treatment groups
- Test period is up to 6 weeks post-weaning

Standard observations

Average Daily Gain (ADG):

- Piglet weight at weaning (initial weight)
- Piglet weight after 2 weeks in test (change from phase 1 to phase 2 diet)
- Piglet weight after 4 weeks in test (change from phase 2 to phase 3 diet)
- Piglet weight after 6 weeks in test (end of test)

Feed intake and utilization:

- Feed consumption during week 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 post weaning (Phase 1,2 and 3)
- Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) is calculated as kg feed/kg weight gain.

Medicine used in the test period is registered and if other registrations or samples are requested, e.g. fecal score and fecal samples, it can be added to the test protocol.

Precision

With 2-4 treatment groups and 16 replicates per group the test design is expected to detect the following practical differences (Least Significant Differences):

Week 1-2:	ADG: 30 g
	FCR: 0.09
Week 1-6:	ADG: 30
	FCR: 0.05

Contact:

Project Leader,
Dorthe Carlson, M.Sc. Ph.D.
E-mail: doc@sraad.dk
Tel: +45 20 31 57 68

SvineRådgivningen