Utilization of triticale by weaned piglets and growing-finishing pigs

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Utilization of triticale of the « CLERCAL » type (I.N.R.A. variety) was studied in comparison to that of wheat in diets intended for weaned piglets or bacon pigs. The working hypothesis was that the two cereals are equal in terms of energy.

PIGLET-TRIAL

A total of 396 purebred *Large White* piglets were weaned at 27 days. During 13 days they received only a 1st age diet and thereafter the experimental diets for 28 days. Farm experimental diets were tested : wheat-soybean oil-meal and triticale-soybean oil-meal including 18 and 22 p. 100 crude protein. They were offered *ad libitum* in the form of dry meal. A very marked effect of the protein level, there were only few differences between the two cereals : the intake of triticale slightly exceeded that of wheat (+ 4.7 p. 100) and therefore led to a light improvement of the growth rates (+ 4.3 p. 100). On an average, the feed conversion ratios were identical for the two cereals (wheat : 1.85 - triticale : 1.83).

GROWING-FINISHING PIG TRIAL

The trial was made with 88 bacon pigs (44 castrated males and 44 females) housed in individual pens and fed according to a progressive energy restriction schedule. The animals were fattened from 25 kg live weight and until a slaughter weight of 100 kg. Two experimental diets were tested : wheat-soybean oil-meal and triticale-soybean oil-meal with 18 p. 100 crude protein. With the same levels of feed intake, the two diets led, on an average, to the same growth rates (wheat : 726 g - triticale : 721 g) despite a trend of sex × diet interaction as the females grew better with triticale than with wheat whereas the contrary was the case for the castrated males.

The feed conversion ratios were identical, on an average, for the two cereals (wheat : 3.09 - triticale : 3.16).

Utilization of triticale by pigs or piglets does not seem to give rise to particular problems ; it is very well consumed and its energy value is very close to that of wheat.

Comparison of various levels and sources of crude fibre to supplement whey in growing-finishing pig diets

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Two experiments were made to study the effect of supplementing large amounts of whey (maximum 16 l/d.) with feed containing increasing proportions of crude fibre, i.e. 3.5, 4.5, 5.5 and 6.5 p. 100, but whose digestible energy content calculated according to Kirchgessner and Schneider (1978) was maintained constant by a supply of fat. The first experiment was made on four batches including four groups of four castrated male pigs and females with a live weight of 25 kg. The mean whey dry matter content was 24, then 38 p. 100 of the