

ing the same amount of energy and amino acids as the previous regimen for each of both periods. Skim milk was offered either as such or after transformation into yoghurt (*Streptococcus thermophilus*, C.N.R.Z. 160 and *Lactobacillus bulgaricus* C.N.R.Z. 369) or after treatment of the yoghurt with hydrogen peroxyde (0.8 p. 100) to kill the bacteria. The total flora of skim milk obtained from raw milk was multiplied by 150 and coliform bacteria by 190 after 3 or 4 days of preservation. In the yoghurt, coliform bacteria remained at the same level than that of raw milk, below 100 germs/ml. The yoghurt treatment with hydrogen peroxyde destroyed 99.96 p. 100 of the bacteria. However, these results were only obtained with 3 castrated males and 3 females per group. For the whole fattening period the animal performances were not significantly different in the 4 groups, nor was the carcass quality. Only females showed a slightly higher feed conversion ratio than that of castrated males (+ 0.11) and leaner carcasses. This difference could be due to the fact that minimum levels of nitrogen and amino acids were offered to the castrated males and sub-optimum to the females (especially with the yoghurt).

The faecal flora (♀) was not modified by milk or by the treatment of the latter. Only H₂O₂ seemed to produce a slight increase in enterobacteria during the first weeks. In stomachal, intestinal and caecal contents little difference was observed in the amount of enterobacteria and lactobacilli whatever the treatment. Only one bifidobacterium was present in the stomach and intestine of pigs receiving milk, whereas it was absent in the yoghurt group and occasional elsewhere. Although the transformation of milk into yoghurt may facilitate its preservation, it does not seem to show a particular advantage for growing pigs.

Effect of a prolonged feeding of P and Ca deficient diets in growing-finishing pigs

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This experiment was conducted to study the effect of feeding pigs, from 35 kg up to slaughter at 90 kg live-weight, with commercial feeds in which Ca or P were lowered.

No significant differences were observed in chemical values of serum Ca, P, Mg and alkaline phosphatase with the lowered Ca feeds. However, the serum value of the protein content was reduced.

When the level of P was lowered, the Ca and alkaline phosphatase serum value increased and the P serum value decreased. This led to a rise in the Ca/P ratio. The biochemical determination of serum Ca, P, Ca/P and alkaline phosphatase might be used to evidence a deficiency of P in the feed.

No lameness or locomotion disturbances were observed during the assay but the bone ash and its Ca and P contents were lowered when using the experimental feeds. This trend was more marked with the P deficient than with the Ca deficient diets. However, the histological structure did not change.

The daily weight gain and the feed efficiency decreased with the P or Ca deficiency of the experimental diets.
