

The amounts of mineral components and the sludge loads excreted (parameters expressed in g/day/animal) are not significantly different according to the type of feeding and in an animal of comparable weight receiving an equivalent amount of dry matter.

The amount of excreta is highly correlated with the amount of feed ingested, but depends also on the nutrient quality. For instance, ingestion of 23 liters whey would produce an excretion of dry matter equivalent to that obtained with the ingestion of 1 kg flour.

Farm wastes in the Lamballe-Matignon region (Côtes-du-Nord)

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The Lamballe-Matignon region has greatly developed its pig and egg production. In 27 towns, 42 000 fattening sows and 240 000 fattening pigs (0.9 fattening sow and 5 fattening pigs per ha agricultural area) and 2 700 000 poultry were recorded.

Taking into account all the animal species, the excreta may produce per ha agricultural area and per year 160 N units, 125 P₂O₅ units and 120 K₂O units corresponding to a complete soil fertilization. However, there are frequently losses of the fertilizing elements from animal excreta (at collection, storage and manure spreading) and a reduced efficiency on the cultures, especially for nitrogen. Moreover, the available quantities of excreta are variable depending on the towns and the farms and do not always correspond to the culture needs. For instance, 246 farms produce more than 400 N units/ha, which exceeds their fertilization needs. Others could use more than they produce.

An individual inquiry was made among 133 farmers possessing at least 50 fattening sows or 400 fattening pigs. Most farms have surpluses in N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which are still increased by the supplies of manure to neighbours and purchases of commercial fertilizers.

Soil analyses were made on 103 parcels, 79 of which had received manure regularly for at least 5 years, not the 24 others. These analyses showed the P₂O₅ and K₂O enrichment of the soils due to animal excreta.

Thus, in this region savings could be made on mineral fertilizers. A better valorization of animal excreta could be obtained from a better knowledge of their fertilizing value, an improvement of pig mature quality, an increase in storage capacities and a development of exchanges between animal producers and neighbour farmers.

Pig manure utilization in a region with pig production units

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The results of an inquiry on the pig manure problem made in Brittany during the summer 1980 among 147 farmers have allowed to determine some of the components of this problem.

Beside the question concerning the manure load per hectare varying from one farm to another, many other elements have to be taken into account to analyse the improvement of the waste utilization policy. According to our investigations, manure is only spread on about one third of the agricultural area and only 14 p. 100 of the farmers is using it on their whole farmland area. According to these farmers, pig manure spreading is not possible on 7 p. 100 of the agricultural area because of regulations, topography or access to the lots.

Moreover, the choice of the culture and the quantities to spread per type of culture are important factors. For some cereals with straw they do not exceed 50 m², while for pasture or maize they may exceed 100 m².

Agricultural utilization of manure seems to remain the best solution and the methods used can still be improved. However, the storage capacities represent an important limiting factor for controlling the chronological distribution of manure according to cultures.

II. - FEEDING

Utilization of cereals in simple diets for weaned piglets Influence of the protein level (crude protein and lysine)

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Six trials were made in the same conditions and in two experimental stations using cereals (wheat, maize, barley) at three protein levels obtained by a soybean meal supplementation (18, 20, 22 p. 100). Furthermore, in order to examine the advantage of using industrial lysine, we tested a fourth diet including 18 p. 100 protein and the same lysine level than that obtained with 22 p. 100 protein feeds.

The incorporation levels of the cereals varied from 53 to 72 p. 100 and that of the soybean meal « 50 » from 19.5 to 38 p. 100. Piglets were weaned at 26 days of age on an average (5.9 kg) whereafter the experimental groups were formed taking into account the weight at weaning and the mean litter weight at birth. They were housed in groups of 6 to 7 animals per box in isolated, warmed and ventilated post weaning houses (flat-deck). They were fed for two weeks the first age diet (pellets) already used before weaning, then for 28 or 35 days one of the experimental diets (pellets) *ad libitum*.

A total of 3 096 piglets were used, i.e., 120 to 168 animals per diet.

Simple diets composed of cereals and soybean meal allowed to reach high performance when used between 8-10 and 25-27 kg in the weaned piglet (feed consumption : 900-1 000 g/d, growth : 400 to 600 g/d).

Starting from a protein level of 18 p. 100 it is possible to improve the growth rate and the feed efficiency by increasing the lysine content of the diet either by enhancing the proportion of soybean meal or by adding industrial lysine. The best performance was reached with a diet including 3.5 to 3.8 g lysine per 1 000 Kcal digestible energy.