

I. — INTRODUCTIVE PAPER

The extent and results of outdoor piglet production

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Since 1982, given the increasing cost of buildings and equipment to establish a farrowing unit, a new interest has been observed for a modern conception of outdoor pig production. In January 1986, this management system concerned 19,319 sows kept in 427 breeding units (\bar{x} 45 sows). The most important development is observed in areas of high pig production. This type of management is mostly applied by young farmers (54 p. 100 are less than 30 years old). At the start, most of them sell weaners. When their financial balance is higher, they invest for post weaning equipment and then for fattening accommodation.

Owing to a group of 20 breeders belonging to 13 producer associations, it has been possible to determine the level of performance obtained and to define the management conditions required in this type of production. The first results show that on an average the same number of piglets is obtained per sow and per year (20.1) as in indoor herds (20.9).

Investment cost is on an average 7 times lower. Working time is slightly shorter. Sow feed consumption is about 70 kg higher.

This management system may change with time. Its application requires skilled pig farmers.

II. — FEEDING

Nutritive value of low glucosinolate new rapeseed meals and whole seeds for growing-finishing pigs

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The nutritive value (energy and protein value) of 30 samples of rapeseed oilmeals and whole seeds of high (HG) and low glucosinolate (LG) content was calculated by direct measurement of the digestibility in growing-finishing pigs. The results obtained are reported for each type of meals (solvent extracted, pressed, normal and dehulled) and for the treated seeds. They were compared to data available in the literature. They allowed to determine precisely the nutritive value of rapeseed derivate products and particularly of the new low glucosinolate normal and dehulled oilmeals for the pig.

The glucosinolate content of rapeseed seeds and (HG) and (LG) derivate oilmeals are indicated. The various technological treatments are evaluated with the aim of improving the nutritional value of rapeseed meals and seeds (LG).

These data show the possible range of progress obtained with the use of low glucosinolate (LG) dehulled rapeseed meal whose nutritive value is markedly increased for the growing-fattening pig.