

**Influence of the physical form of the feed on the performance of bacon pigs.****1. Comparison between dry meal, soup and pellets.****2. Technical and economical influence**

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Four trials involving 486 pigs were made in restricted feeding conditions to compare a diet fed either as a dry meal, a soup (2.5-3 l per kg diet), or as pellets (dry pellets in trials 2 and 3).

During the growing period, pellets improved the daily mean gain in all trials compared to dry meal or soup : on an average the daily mean gain reached 763 g/d with pellets versus 703 and 707 g/d with the other two diets. In three trials out of four, weight gain was lower with soup than with dry meal. During the finishing period, the highest growth rates were obtained with pellets and the lowest with dry meal. On an average, the daily gain was 792 g/d with pellets, 744 g/d with soup and 703 g/d with dry meal. On the whole growing-finishing period, pellets led to the best performance (776 g/d), dry meal to the lowest (703 g/d) and soup to intermediate performance (723 g/d).

In three trials out of four, carcass yield was higher with pellets, but on the average of the 4 trials, results were not different with the three diets.

In the 4 trials, the muscle percentage of carcasses was lower with pellets (50.9 p. 100) than with dry flour (52.0 p. 100) and soup (52.5 p. 100).

These technical results were followed by an economic analysis.

**Self-fed whey in bacon pig feeding : Influence of the energy level and physical form of the supplementary feed**

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A total of 128 Large-White pigs were distributed into 8 groups and 4 replicates of 2 castrated males and 2 females kept together. The factorial design combined 2 levels (2.5 and 6.5 p. 100) of crude fibre (wheat bran), in diets pelleted or not and including whey or not. From a live weight of 26-100 kg, pigs were fed the diet ad libitum, whereas whey reconstituted daily (6.5 p. 100 of DM) from powder was acidified by lactic acid bacteria (pH 4.6) and fed at the trough for 4-6 hours a day. Water was available in the same trough the rest of the time.

Pigs fed the low-fibre diet ingested significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) less dry matter (2.09 vs 2.27 kg), less whey (12 vs 18.2 p. 100), had a higher daily mean gain (DMG) (811 vs 724 g) and a better feed conversion ratio (CR) (2.6 vs 3.19) than those fed the cellulose-rich diet. Pelleting of diets