

High Quality Fishmeal shown to be the best protein source for Weaned Piglets



Young piglets are extremely sensitive to the different sources of protein in their diets while their digestive system is still developing post-weaning. There can be a significant difference in the palatability and amino acid digestibility in piglets diets depending on the protein source and the processing undertaken. Anti-nutritional compounds are found in many vegetable proteins and attempts are being made to reduce these to improve piglet performance. Poor protein sources can cause greater stress to young piglets and result in poorer growth performance which can never be recovered.

IFFO recently commissioned some research at the China Agricultural University to compare the effect of a number of different dietary protein sources on the performance of young piglets. The trial was to compare the performance of high quality fishmeal made from very fresh raw material low in histamine and Total Volatile Nitrogens (Super Fishmeal), more average quality Fishmeal, Soybean meal, Linseed meal as well as fermented products from these two plant meals.

The trial of these 6 protein sources involved 6 replicates each with 8 piglets and lasted from the 26th day after birth to 53rd day. The results, shown in the graph below, demonstrate that fishmeal (added at only 5%) gave superior growth and lower feed conversion ratios than the vegetable protein sources, although the fermentation process did seem to improve the performance of the plant proteins. The research also showed that the super fishmeal gave a better performance than the average quality fishmeal, producing the heaviest and healthiest pigs on the lowest feed conversion ratio.

Acknowledgments

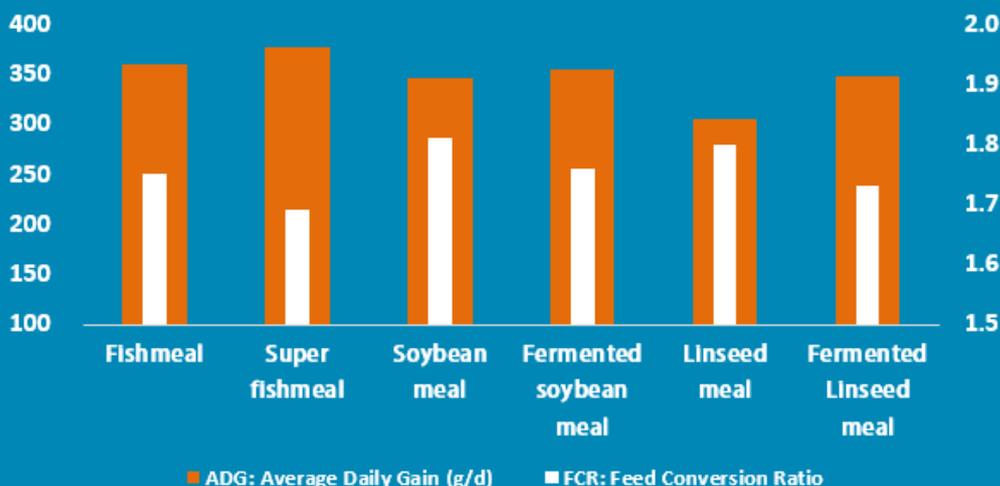
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Super fishmeal (SFM) is the best protein source for growth performance



Tests also showed that the piglets fed the super fishmeal had a good balance of intestinal microflora which will have contributed to their heavy weights and good health making them ideal for on-growing.

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