

The effects of including a blend of encapsulated organic and inorganic acids in diets for weanling pigs.

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One hundred and twenty weanling pigs were used in a five-week nursery experiment to evaluate the effect of including the acidifier Aciprol[®] in the phase 1 and the phase 2 diets for nursery pigs. Aciprol[®] consists of a blend of organic and inorganic acids that are encapsulated. Four experimental groups were included in the experiment. Treatment group 1 was the negative control group – pigs in this group were fed the phase 1 and the phase 2 diets without the supplementation of any growth promoting agents. Treatment group 2 was the Aciprol[®] supplemented group (0.5 and 0.3% in the phase 1 and the phase 2 diet, respectively) while pigs on treatment groups 3 and 4 were fed diets supplemented with 3000 ppm of zinc oxide and 50 ppm carbadox, respectively. Pigs were weaned at an age of 20 d, and they were placed in groups of five pigs per pen. There were six pen replicates per treatment group. The phase 1 diet was offered on an ad libitum basis during the initial two weeks post-weaning, while in the next three weeks, the phase 2 diet was provided. During the initial two weeks post-weaning, pigs fed the diet containing zinc oxide grew faster ($P < 0.05$) and had a higher ($P < 0.05$) daily feed intake than had pigs fed any of the other diets. However, during the following 3 weeks and overall for the entire experimental period, no differences ($P > 0.05$) between the four groups were observed for daily gain or for average daily feed intake. Pigs fed the Aciprol[®] supplemented diets had a greater ($P < 0.1$) gain to feed ratio during the second phase of the experiment and overall for the entire experimental period than had pigs fed diets 1 and 3. The results for the Aciprol[®] supplemented diet were not different ($P > 0.1$) from those obtained for the carbadox-supplemented diet. From the present investigation, it is concluded that the dietary supplementation with Aciprol[®] during the nursery phase may be as beneficial as the supplementation with carbadox.

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