



Managing the gut in pigs

The intestine of a pig evolves as the pig develops. At birth the gut is almost sterile. Up to weaning the gut receives sow milk as the principle nutrient and lactobacillus and bifidobacteria dominate the intestine.

After weaning the nutrient supply changes resulting in a replacement of lactoflora by the entire range of bacteria found in the adult pig. The lack of immunocompetence and the loss of maternal antibodies can lead to enteropathogen challenge and scours.

The selection of feed additive should mirror this development process and the change in microflora.

Newborn piglets ingest quantities of maternal faeces so the sow needs a protected acid product to reduce enteropathogen numbers in the sow intestine. Protected acids like Kiotechagil's Bact-a-cid are essential in highly buffered lactation rations.

At weaning maternal antibodies stop, yet the immune system is im-

mature. Early weaning leaves pigs vulnerable to infection. The lactic acid bacteria supported by sow milk now require a fructo-oligosaccharide to survive.

Kiotechagil's Prefect provides a fructo-oligosaccharide for the bacteria and butyric acid as an energy source for the intestinal lining.

After weaning pigs are moved to other locations with different bacterial challenges. Post-wean scour can be linked to a period of acclimatisation to different feed materials.

These challenges are not feed-borne infections; hence the need for a feed additive that works throughout the intestine to promote a healthy microflora, whatever the source of the enteropathogen challenge.

Once immunocompetent a strong acid such as Kiotechagil's pHorce will provide a pH barrier to help prevent the challenges found in any grower pig operation.

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