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Stabilized rice bran boosts antibiotic-free piglet growth

Supplementation with rice bran also increased intestinal beneficial bacteria levels.

North Carolina State University researchers boosted piglet growth performance without antibiotics by including stabilized rice gran in the piglets' feed. Supplementation with stabilized rice bran correlated to a 10 percent improvement in the growth to feed ratio of antibiotic-free piglets.

In the study, stabilized rice bran seems to have improved the efficiency of nutrient utilization in antibiotic-free piglet diets and increased intestinal beneficial bacteria levels. Stabilized rice bran may exert beneficial prebiotic effects in weanling pigs, concluded the authors of the study published in the Journal of Animal Science.

Stabilized rice bran study procedure

Two hundred piglets were weaned at 21 days and assigned to four groups with different diets.

- antibiotics + stabilized rice bran
- antibiotics only
- stabilized rice bran only
- neither antibiotics nor stabilized rice bran

The pigs were kept in groups of five. The piglets' pens intentionally were not sanitized between weaning groups to more closely replicate farm conditions, as opposed to those of a sterile laboratory.

After 28 days, one pig from each group was euthanized and dissected so that its intestinal conditions could be analyzed. Piglets in the rice bran group tended to have larger colonies of beneficial bifidobacteria in their colons.

Results of adding stabilized rice bran to piglet diets

Overall, piglets on the stabilized rice bran only diet improved piglet growth to feed ratio, but not if the diet also included antibiotics. However, antibiotic supplementation did increase average daily gain for the piglets from days 14 to 28 by 6.4 percent.

http://www.wattagnet.com/articles/28597-stabilized-rice-bran-boosts-antibiotic-free-piglet-growth?v=preview