

Abstract

Impact of a dietary probiotic supplementation (*Enterococcus faecium* DSM 7134) on the performance of fattening pigs

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Abstract

High zootechnical performances in modern pig production require a sound intestinal tract of the animals. A dietary probiotic supplementation has a regulatory and stabilising function in pig intestines. The objective of the study was to identify the effects of a supplementation of fattening feeds with the probiotic *Enterococcus faecium* DSM 7134 on the performance of fattening pigs.

In a university trial, 144 fattening pigs were divided into a control (no probiotic) and a treatment group (supplemented with *E. faecium*). Results indicate that the average daily weight gain increased significantly by 5.6 % during the total fattening stage. Feed intake did not vary considerably between animal groups. Thus, feed conversion among pigs was found to be significantly better (-5.8%) when adding *E. faecium* to the diet. With almost same slaughter weights, pigs of the two trial groups showed virtually no differences in the lean-meat content. It can be concluded that the pigs utilised the nutrients, especially the amino acids, more efficiently when receiving the dietary probiotic supplementation.

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