



Slowing down growth performance of market pigs

K-State Applied Swine Nutrition Team

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*** These options are only meant for temporary use in emergency situations and work with a nutritionist and/or veterinarian on any changes suggested. Additional pig observation is recommended when implementing any of these options. ***

Management changes: As a general rule, management strategies will have a faster impact on changing growth rate than nutritional strategies. Producers need to be very mindful of minimizing animal welfare concerns with any of these strategies.

- Increasing barn temperature: reduce to minimum ventilation to increase barn temperature
- Tightening feeder adjustment: reduce openings to approximately 15-20% pan coverage to limit ADFI by making pigs work harder to access feed. Watch closely for any feeders that become restricted and do not allow feed to flow to the trough.
- Increase stocking density: limit ADFI by creating more competition for resources within the pen
- Mixing pens: limits ADFI and ADG by disrupting the social structure of the pen
- Switch wet/dry feeders to dry feeders: if wet/dry feeders are used in the pen and separate water source is available, shut off the water supply to the feeder making it a dry feeder.
- Feed pigs intermittently: If facilities allow, consider feeding pigs daily instead of ad libitum.

Nutritional strategies: The marginal change in growth rate from altering the nutritional program will be less than if different management strategies are utilized. Care must be taken to ensure adequate animal health and well-being is granted if nutritional changes are used to reduce growth rate of pigs.

Compensatory gain from reversing many of these strategies can be expected and therefore, the total impact on pig performance must be considered if only utilizing for a short period of time.

- Removing all growth promotional feed additives and added fat
- Increasing fiber: to dilute the diet and reduce nutrient intake. Soy hulls, wheat midds, DDGS are common ingredient to use but cost and availability may limit this practice. A dietary NDF level should be at least 20% to achieve reduced feed intake.
- Reduce diet amino acids (crude protein) by 10-15%. We recommend keeping a minimum of 100 lb of soybean meal in the diet unless extreme growth limiting is required.
- Reducing Tryptophan:Lysine ratio to 16%
- Increasing analyzed (total present) Ca:P to 2:1: ensure adequate diet P is still present.
- Add calcium chloride (CaCl): Including 2.5-3.5% CaCl will reduce voluntary feed intake, also adjust limestone to balance the calcium diet level. Availability of CaCl is limited reducing the use of this approach.
- Maintain normal levels of salt and vitamin and trace mineral premixes when implementing the above nutritional strategies.