

Pellet Quality Counts

WHAT ARE FINES COSTING YOU?

RESPONSE OF 24 DAY OLD WEANERS TO INCREASING LEVELS OF FINES IN 5/32nd INCH STARTER-FEED PELLET FED FROM DAY 1 TO DAY 7 OF WEANING. PIGLETS RETURNED TO "NO-FINES" FOOD ON DAY 8.

<i>% Fines of Volume Offered</i>	<i>2% (Control)</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Feed Intake/Day (g)</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Average Daily Gain (g)</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>179</i>
<i>FCR</i>	<i>1.20</i>	<i>1.22</i>	<i>1.24</i>	<i>1.34</i>
<i>Weekly Gain (kg)</i>	<i>1.78</i>	<i>1.52</i>	<i>1.27</i>	<i>1.25</i>
<i>Days to 90 kg (198 lbs)</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>158</i>
<i>Video Recorded Observations</i>				
<i>Aggressive incidents at trough</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>+7%</i>	<i>+8%</i>	<i>+9%</i>
<i>Nosing compared to eating actions at trough</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>+6%</i>	<i>+21%</i>	<i>+25%</i>

CONCLUSIONS: *Piglets fed increasing levels of fines (dust) in post-weaning food eat less, convert worse and are more restless. 10-15% fines in this trial resulted in 29 to 56 lbs more feed needed to reach slaughter weight (about 6%-12%). We were very surprised at how the weaners eating extremely dusty pellets never seemed to recover their growth impulsion.*

(John Gadd)

