

Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science, 22 (Supplement 1) 2016, 3-9
 Anniversary scientific conference „Animal Science - Challenges and Innovations”, November 4-6, 2015, Sofia
 Agricultural Academy, Institute of Animal Science – Kostinbrod

THE EFFECTS OF THE ADDITION OF THE PROBIOTIC “PRIMIX FORSIL” AND THE ADSORBENT “VITACORM REO” ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND SOME BLOOD PARAMETERS IN GROWING PIGS

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Caisin, L., A. Danilov, V. Ceban and T. Snitco, 2016. The effects of the addition of the probiotic “Primix Forsil” and the adsorbent “Vitacorm REO” on productivity and some blood parameters in growing pigs. *Bulg. J. Agric. Sci.*, 22 (Suppl. 1): 3–9

Abstract

The aim of the present study was to investigate the effects of the addition of the probiotic “Primix Forsil” and the adsorbent “Vitacorm REO” into the feed for young pigs, using different schemes based on the morphological and biochemical parameters of the animal’s blood. The scientific and economic experiment took place at the SE “Moldsiungibrid”. Forty hybrid gilts of Landrace x Pietrain breed were used as they were separated into 4 groups on the principle of analogy (10 animals in each group). The gilts in the control group were fed the basic ration, while the pigs in the experimental groups were fed a feed supplemented with different substances, namely: the probiotic “Primix Forsil” (0.5 kg/t) – for the pigs in the first group, the adsorbent “Vitacorm REO” (4.0 kg/t) – for the pigs in the second group, and the probiotic “Primix Forsil” and “Vitacorm REO” in equal proportions – for the pigs in the third group. The feed was balanced according to the feeding norms, and modified in compliance with the animals’ age and body weight. The obtained results demonstrated that, the supplementation of the fodders for pigs with the adsorbent “Vitacorm REO” both separately or in combination with the probiotic “Primix Forsil”, had a good influence on the general level of blood protein. At the end of the experiment, the albumin level as well as that of the AST (Aspartate Aminotransferase) in the blood of the pigs in the experimental groups were higher in comparison with that in the pigs in the control group.

Key words: young pigs, productivity, probiotic, adsorbent, blood parameters

List of abbreviations: CG - control group, EG - experimental group, NCB - base mixed feed, FCR - feed conversion ration, AST - aspartate aminotransferase, ALT - alanine aminotransferase, ALP - alkaline phosphatase, PHOS - phosphorus, A/G - the ratio of albumin to globulins

Introduction

The intensification of breeding technologies and the increase in the number of pigs have resulted in a significant enhancement of the technogenic and microbiological load on the animal organism, which in turn, has caused a disturbance of their digestion and metabolism, a loss of their productivity and the emergence of intestinal infections (Malik, 2001; Subbotin, Danilevsky, 2006; Tmenov and Vanieva, 2013).

In order to increase the nonspecific immunity, to improve the utilization of nutrients in the feed, and to stimulate the growth and development of animals, probiotic, prebiotic, combined preparations and other drugs are used (Fuller, 1992; Yushchuk et al., 2001; Simon et al., 2001; Danilevskaya et al., 2002, 2003; Egorov et al., 2004; Gryazneva 2005; Buckley, 2006; Walker et al., 2006).

The use of feed probiotics helps to improve the existing system of farm animals’ breeding and feeding. They have be-

come an important component of modern rational feeding of animals (Pavlov et al., 2008; Egorov et al., 2012).

Probiotics feed additives contribute to the correction of digestive processes, affect the immune system as a result of the optimization of the protective functions of the body, and help to restore the biological status. The use of probiotics significantly reduces the cost of the treatment of diseases in animals, increases their productivity and improves the products' quality (Panin, 2008; Volkov et al., 2010; Shvydkoi, 2011; Egorov et al., 2012; Kurmaneva, Bushov, 2012). Because of the widespread proliferation of fungi that produce mycotoxins in grain, mycotoxicoses have been a serious problem in animal husbandry. Their prevalence is linked primarily to the mass destruction of crops by pathogens, which constitutes 25% of the annual global harvest (Tremasov, 2005; Antipov et al., 2007; Ivanov, et al., 2010; Bennet, Klich, 2003).

The consumption by animals of forages polluted by mycotoxins can cause a decrease in their immune system function, injury to their livers and kidneys, deterioration to the reproductive qualities, and an increase of their mortality (Smirnov et al., Zaychenko, Rubezhnyak, 2006). To prevent mycotoxicosis, various enterosorbents are used which reduce the intensity of their adverse effect. However, despite the positive effect based on the removal of toxins from the organism, most of the enterosorbents possess side effects, namely – the high sorption, as a rule, affects not only toxins but also nutrients.

In this regard, the study of the efficiency of the utilization of adsorbents and probiotic feed additives which positively influence the animals' productivity with a simultaneous improvement of the quality of the obtained products, and a decrease in the pathogenic influences of the environment, is actual and is of scientific interest.

Hence, this study was conducted to document the effects of probiotic and adsorbent supplementation on the productivity and some blood parameters in growing pigs.

Material and Methods

The research was conducted in the conditions of the State Enterprise for Pig Selection and Hybridization "Moldsuingibrid" in the district of Orhei, the Republic of Moldova. Forty Landras x Pietren pigs (of identical growth energy during the preparatory period, and with an average initial weight of 15.86-16.27kg) were divided into four equal groups, and used in a 150-day trial (Ovsianicov, 1976).

Different levels of feed additives were used to study their associated effects on the pigs' performance. The feed for the pigs in the experimental groups E₁, E₂ and E₃ was supplemented with the probiotic preparation "PriMix Forsil" and the adsorbent "Vitacorm Reo" in different quantities according to the scheme (Table 1).

In EG₁ the probiotic "PriMix-Forsil" in the quantity of 0.5 kg/t was used, in EG₂ the sorbent "Vitacorm Reo" in the quantity of 4.0 kg/t was used, and the mixed fodder for the pigs in EG₃ was supplemented with both "PriMix-Forsil" (0.5 kg/t) and the sorbent "Vitacorm Reo" (4.0 kg/t).

The mixed feed for each period of the experiment were prepared using the formulas developed with use of the software program "HYBRIMIN®", and in accordance with the requirements of feeding norms (Kalashnikov et al., 2003). The concentration of the main nutrients in the mixed fodders for different age periods of young pigs, during the first period of the experiment (the growing period, until the pigs reached 40 kg of live weight) was as follows: 12.4 MJ of exchange energy, 13.5% of digestible protein, 0.72% of lysine, 0.51% of methionine + cystine, 0.75% of calcium, and 0.64% of phosphorus. During the second experimental period (when the pigs' live weight was 40-70 kg) the experimental animals received feed with a content of exchange energy of 12.1 MJ, digestible protein of 12.0%, lysine of 0.58%, methionine+cystine of 0.45%, calcium of 0.78%, and phosphorus – 0.66%.

Table 1
Scheme of the experiment

Group	Number of animals	Feeding features
CG	10	NCB
EG ₁	10	NCB + „PriMix Forsil” *(probiotic)
EG ₂	10	NCB + „Vitacorm Reo” ** (adsorbent)
EG ₃	10	NCB + „PriMix Forsil” + „Vitacorm Reo”

* Preparation "PriMix Forsil" is a product in the form of dry powder made from mill waste (bran), using a new technology, and lyophilized live microorganisms: *Lactobacillus acidophilus* – 2x10⁹ CFU/g; *Lactobacillus plantarum* – 1x10⁹ CFU/g; *Lactobacillus fermentum* – 5x10⁹ CFU/g; *Bifidobacterium bifidum* – 3x10⁹ CFU/g.

** Adsorbent "Vitacorm REO", (Odessa, Ukraine) according to the procedures set out in TC U 15.7-31253255-001: 2011. It is a complex preparation prepared by mixing dried preparations and products approved for use in the food industry, animal breeding and veterinary medicine. It contains: extruded wheat bran – 10%, bentonite – at least 25%, vermiculite – at least 25%, palygorskite clay – 30%, acidifying agent – 5%, and yeast authorization – 5%.

During the third experimental period the content of the exchange energy was 11.9 MJ, of the digestible protein – 11.7%, of the lysine – 0.59%, methionine + cystine – 0.44%, calcium – 0.75%, and phosphorus – 0.68%.

The pigs were weighed at the beginning of the experiment and at the end of each of the experimental periods. The weight gain was calculated subtracting the initial weight from the final weight. During the research the accounting of feed palatability was conducted by weighing daily the amount of fodder given to the pigs and the amount of fodder left after feeding. The fodder intake was calculated subtracting the quantity of fodder which was not consumed from the initial quantity of fodder. Feed conversion ratio was calculated by dividing fodder intake by the weight gain.

For the purpose of studying the metabolism intensity and the physiological state in the experimental animals, blood from three heads in each group was taken at the beginning and at the end of the experiment (Svezhentsov et al., 2002).

The data obtained in the experiment were processed using the method of variation statistics (Plokhinsky, 1969; Cucu and Maciuc, 2004) in the Excel program.

The purpose of the present experiment was to study the effect of feed additives on the performance and hematologic indicators of blood in growing pigs. The economic efficiency was also studied.

Results and Discussion

The difference between the initial and final weights (kg) during the three phases of the experiment was not significant (Table 2).

Throughout the entire experimental period, ADG in EG₁ was by 2.1% and in the EG₂ by 4.1% higher than in the CG, and by 10.6% higher in the pigs fed the diets supplemented with probiotic and adsorbent (EG₃) compared to the pigs fed the basic diet.

The trend was similar for total feed intake (kg) and feed conversion ratio, respectively and was not significant (Table 3).

The total feed intake, average daily feed intake (ADFI, kg) and gain/feed were a little affected by the introduction of the preparations, and was lower in EG₁, EG₂ and EG₃ and higher in CG during the entire experiment.

Table 2
Growth performance, (X± Sx)

Specification	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
	<i>Live weight, kg:</i>			
at the beginning of the experiment	16.11±0.25	15.86±0.35	16.11±0.32	16.27±0.15
at the end of the first growth period	41.10±1.51	41.30±0.31	41.70±1.42	43.50±1.15
at the end of the second growth period	67.70±1.20	68.10±0.82	69.30±1.03	71.40±1.38
at the end of the experiment	93.70±1.81	95.00±2.23	97.00±2.09	98.30±1.82
	<i>Average daily gain, g</i>			
during the first growth period	417±25.90	424±20.80	430±22.01	454±24.23
during the second growth period	504±33.20	558±15.80	575±25.60	581±34.20
during the third growth period	619±21.59	640±43.70	660±41.10	640±49.70
during the whole period	517±12.60	528±16.40	539±13.70	547±12.10

Table 3
Fodder consumption and fodder conversion, kg

Consumption, kg	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
during the first experimental period	968	966	964	960
during the second experimental period	1146	1145	1140	1127
during the third experimental period	1171	1166	1162	1150
during the whole experiment	3285	3277	3266	3237
(FCR) specific consumption per 1 kg of gain	4.23	4.14	4.08	3.94

A slight decrease in food intake during the second growth period was observed in the experimental group EG₃ – it was by 1.7% lower than in the control group. The lowest specific consumption of mixed fodder, required to produce 1 kg of gain with a good feed conversion, was registered in the experimental groups EG₂ and EG₃, in which it was lower by 3.6% and 6.9% respectively than in the control group. The results corresponds to those obtained in some other experiments, which showed that moderate fodder restrictions in growing and fattening pigs had positively impacted the specific consumption of fodders (Traian, 1992).

In blood profiles, the results of the research showed that at the beginning of experiment the morphological indicators of blood were identical in all the animals (Table 4).

The analysis of the data of blood biochemical indicators at the beginning of experiment (Table 5) showed that the content of the general protein in the pigs in EG₂ and EG₃ was lower by 19.95g/l and 27.35g/l, respectively, in comparison with the indicators in the animals in the control group; some fluctuations in the content of protein can be connected with the age features occurring in pigs.

At the end of the experiment changes in non-segmented neutrophil values were observed in the animals in all the experimental groups compared with the control group, namely: by $22.67 \cdot 10^9/l$ in EG₁ and by $7.67 \cdot 10^9/l$ in EG₂, in comparison with the indicators in the CG. In the blood of the pigs in the control group the level of the monocytes content was higher ($7.00 \cdot 10^9/l$) t. The increase in the number of tissue mac-

Table 4
Values of the morphological indices of blood at the beginning of the experiment, (X±Sx)

Indices	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
Erythrocytes, 10 ¹² /l	8.31±0.74	8.63±0.41	8.53±0.58	8.23±0.35
Hemoglobin, g/l	116.67±7.57	133.30±4.38	134.67±4.48	121.00±4.16
Color Index, U	0.45±0.02	0.46±0.01	0.47±0.02	0.44±0.01
WBC, 10 ⁹ /l	25.90±2.61	27.57±2.18	29.33±0.84	21.53±0.67
Non-segmented leukocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	1.33±0.33	1.80±0.50	2.67±0.67	9.33±2.91
Segmented leukocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	37.00±7.55	57.67±6.89	30.33±1.67	24.33±0.33
Eosinophils, 10 ⁹ /l	2.33±0.88	1.33±0.33	2.00±0.80	3.00±0.58
Lymphocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	60.00±8.54	49.33±9.94	58.67±1.45	56.67±4.33
Monocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	5.23±1.53	2.00±0.00	6.33±1.86	6.67±1.67

Table 5
The values of the blood biochemical indices at the beginning of the experiment, (X±Sx)

Specification	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
AST, U/L	106.00± 5.86	128.0 0±15.01	127.00±12.10	128.47±19.37
ALT, U/L	77.0 0±10.02	89.33±2.33	85.33±6.17	125.33±23.25
ALP, U/L	548.42±96.07	525.10±16.65	316.81±73.60	150.05±77.9
Calcium, mmol/l	3.46±0.31	3.55±0.35	3.70±0.43	3.35±0.13
PHOS, mmol/l	1.67±0.20	2.20±0.23	1.55±0.17	2.26±0.17
Total protein, g/l	58.75±5.35	62.6 3±5.15	38.80±10.35	31.40±9.27
A/G, g/l	0.55±0.02	0.48±0.03	0.50±0.04	0.50±0.03
Albumin, g/l	35.13±0.55	32.43±1.13	33.37±1.71	33.37±1.37
α ₁ , %	3.73±0.13	3.90±0.76	3.40±0.10	3.43±0.03
α ₂ , %	21.75±9.15	38.17±0.92	36.27±1.00	35.50±2.16
β, %	10.83± 3.62	12.27±0.70	14.63±2.17	13.70±2.31
γ, %	9.87± 3.98	13.23±0.79	12.33±0.97	14.0 0±1.04

rophages (monocytes) indirectly suggested a possible latent infection, including an infection of fungal character.

At the end of the experiment the level of the blood total protein in the control group was of 85.43g/l versus 81.73, 86.43 and 86.97g/l in EG₁, EG₂ and EG₃ respectively. An increase in the albumin of the blood serum, namely by 1.00g/l in EG₂ and by 1.54 g/l in EG₃ compared with the CG, was also observed. Fractions of protein in the experimental groups EG₁ and EG₂ were identical at the end of the research. The ratio of albumins to globulins was approximately equal in the experimental groups in comparison with the same indicator in the control group (0.36).

In the blood of the experimental pigs the content of ACT (aspartat aminotransferaza) was as follows: 36.00g/l in the

CG, and 71.00, 74.00 and 90.00g/l in the experimental groups. It was also observed that the concentration of alkaline phosphatase increased in EG₁ and EG₃, in which the pigs received a probiotic additive in addition to the basic diets.

The content of calcium in the blood of the experimental pigs in EG₃ was by 0.26mmol/l higher than in the control group. Under the influence of supplementation of the ration with “PriMix Forsil” and „Vitacorm Reo” the content of PHOS was 2.56mmol/l in EG₁, and 2.52mmol/l in EG₂ compared to 1.93mmol/l in the control group (Table 7). Thus, when the content of calcium was reduced in the control group, the content of phosphorus also lowered.

The economic analysis of the results of the experiment showed, that the best results were obtained when the mixed

Table 6
Values of blood morphological indices at the end of the experiment, (X±Sx)

Indices	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
Erythrocytes, 10 ¹² /l	7.03±0.15	6.90±0.40	7.33±0.23	7.07±0.32
Hemoglobin, g/l	119.33±5.67	111.00±5.69	115.00±8.08	116.00±4.36
Color Index, U	0.50±0.02	0.48±0.01	0.47±0.02	0.49±0.01
WBC, 10 ⁹ /l	24.50±2.20	25.97±1.72	27.57±2.89	23.37±2.29
Non-segmented leukocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	5.00±0.58	1.33±0.33	0.67±0.67	16.00±11.37
Segmented leukocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	25.33±7.86	48.00±9.64	33.00±2.65	25.67±15.01
Eosinophils, 10 ⁹ /l	5.67±1.20	4.33±1.67	7.33±5.84	2.67±2.67
Lymphocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	57.00±8.19	45.67±10.27	56.00±6.11	53.00±4.04
Monocytes, 10 ⁹ /l	7.00±0.58	1.00±0.0	2.67±1.67	2.67±0.67

Table 7
The values of the blood biochemical indices at the end of the experiment, (X±Sx)

Specification	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
AST, U/L	36.00±1.15	71.00 ±16.01	74.00±21.73	90.00±32.1
ALT, U/L	31.67±10.33	60.33±5.24	35.33±6.23	39.30±3.84
ALP, U/L	163.94±18.16	178.93±24.82	167.80±11.50	199.80±25.33
Calcium, mmol/l	2.10±0.03	2.11±0.11	2.03±0.10	2.36±0.14
PHOS, mmol/l	1.93±0.10	2.56±0.27	2.52±0.29	2.52±0.48
Total protein, g/l	85.43±3.49	81.73±1.88	86.43±3.09	86.97±5.93
A/G, g/l	0.36±0.05	0.42±0.03	0.44±0.12	0.53±0.02
Albumin, g/l	23.97±0.72	28.57±2.02	27.03±3.96	29.77±1.16
α ₁ , %	5.83±0.64	4.93±0.37	4.83±0.20	4.27±0.19
α ₂ , %	26.07±0.96	30.07±3.90	27.27±2.49	28.10±2.21
β, %	23.57±2.48	17.37±2.50	18.27±0.95	13.50±2.07
γ, %	18.47±1.65	18.07±1.35	20.23±4.88	19.20±3.25

Table 8
Economic efficiency

Indices	Group			
	CG	EG ₁	EG ₂	EG ₃
The absolute growth of body weight on average during the experiment, head/kg	77.59	79.14	80.89	82.03
Cost of absolute growth, lei	3026.01	3086.48	3154.71	3199.77
Mixed fodder consumption, kg	328	328	330	323
The cost of the mixed fodder, lei	1946.19	1971.88	1938.41	1920.65
The cost of the preparations, lei	-	57.4	73.92	56.52+72.24
Gross profit, lei	1079.82	1057.2	1142.38	1150.36
Net profit, lei	-	-22.62	62.56	70.54

* Cost of 1 kg of body mass – 39 leis; 1 kg of „PriMix Forsil” – 350 leis; 1 kg of „Vitacorm Reo” – 56 leis; 1 kg of mixed fodder – 5 leis, 93 bani

fodder was supplemented with both the probiotic “PriMix Forsil” and the adsorbent „Vitacorm Reo”. The notional profit from their use amounted to 70.54 leis per head.

Conclusions

The study has revealed that the combined use of the probiotic “PriMix Forsil” at the level of 0.5kg/t and of the adsorbent „Vitacorm Reo” at the level of 4.0kg/t in the mixed fodder has had a positive impact on the growth of the pigs, enhancing their body weight by 4.91%, their daily gain by 5.80% (in group EG₃), and has reduced the specific fodder consumption by 0.23kg or 6.90%, showing a nominal profit by 6.53% higher than in the control group.

The supplementation of the mixed fodder for pigs with the probiotic at the level of 0.5kg/t, and of the adsorbent at the level of 4.0kg/t has also had a good influence on the general level of blood protein. At the end of the experiment, an increase in the protein fraction, as well as in AST (aspartate aminotransferase) was observed in each experimental group in comparison with the control group.

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