
"HOGG SENSE..."



Alex Hogg, DVM, MS
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Protein is Out, Amino Acids are In: During digestion, proteins are broken down into amino acids. Amino acids are absorbed by the pigs digestive system, not proteins. Pigs require a diet that has a balance of the 10 essential amino acids. In corn/soy diets, lysine becomes the first limiting amino acid. The following table lists the percentage of total lysine recommended for 7 stages of growing swine:

Type of diet	Starter 1	Starter 2	Starter 3	Grower 1	Grower 2	Finish 1	Finish 2
Body Weight	8 to 13	13 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 80	80 to 130	130 to 190	190 to 250
Total Lysine	1.55%	1.25%	1.15%	.95%	.85%	.75%	.60%

(Swine Nutrition Guide, Nebraska and South Dakota, Nov. 1995, p 24) (Editors Note: Every swine practitioner should have a copy of this excellent Nutrition Guide. It is available at a cost of \$1.00 per copy plus .55 cents shipping (Nebraska residents add appropriate sales tax) from: Swine Nutrition, P.O. Box 830918, Lincoln, NE. 68583-0918. Payment must accompany your order. Orders over \$10 will be invoiced.

Four Ways to Improve Diagnostic Laboratory Results: 1. Write better histories. Age of pigs, how many pigs in the group, percentage affected and a tentative diagnosis are invaluable to the diagnostician. 2. Size of tissue samples submitted. Large samples for culture, small thin fixed samples for histopath. For meningitis cases, partially decapitate the pig from dorsal to ventral to expose the foramen magnum and swab the meninges. Ship the swabs in transport media. Alternatively, submit the entire skull after trimming off the snout, mandible and skin. 3. Leaky packages. The Hefty Company has a new interesting plastic bag in grocery stores that might be useful for shipping diagnostic specimens. These bags come in quart and gallon sizes with write-on labels. Closure is done with a white slider (similar to a zipper). I tested one of the gallon bags with water and it didn't seem to leak. It is important to evacuate as much air as possible from any bag. If the shipping box is crushed in transit, any bag will leak if it is full of air. 4. List all the tests you would like on the diagnostic accession form. This will avoid the cost of tests that are not needed. (Editor).

Reducing Feed Costs: Research has shown that eliminating trace minerals and vitamins in the diets of finishing pigs destined for market in the next 3 weeks will not affect the performance of the pigs. (Duane Reese, PhD, Ani. Sci. Dept., UN-L, Lincoln, NE.).

Sow Watering Systems and Urinary Tract Infections: Individual nipple waterers in crates reduce urinary abnormalities in gestating sows while intermittent water delivery in troughs puts sows at greater risk. Lack of water is a major cause of urinary tract infections. (Glen Almond, DVM, PhD, NCSU, NHF, Dec. 15, 1995, p. 20).