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Yeast Culture as an Additive in Swine Grower Rations

B. A. Koch, R. H. Hines, and G. L. Allee

Summary

Adding yeast culture at manufacturer's recommended levels to a complete, pelleted, 16% crude protein ration fed to nursery-age pigs produced no measurable improvement in rate of gain, feed efficiency, survival, activity, or appearance.

Introduction

Commercial products resulting from fermentation of bacteria, molds or yeasts are being widely promoted as supplements in pig diets. Yeast Culture, one such product, is derived from a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast.

Procedure

Fifty-eight nursery-age pigs averaging 22 pounds were randomly allotted (on the basis of sex, breed, and weight) to 6 pens and fed 28 days on a complete, 16% crude protein, pelleted ration. Forty pounds of Yeast Culture was added to each ton of ration fed to pigs in three pens. Pigs were housed in the controlled-environment, slatted floor nursery at the Swine Research Farm.

Results and Discussion

Results of the feeding trial are summarized in table 29. Adding Yeast Culture to the ration had no measurable effect on average daily gain,

feed efficiency, survival, activity, or appearance of the animals in this 28 day study. The pelleting process may have affected Yeast Culture activity. However, nothing in the manufacturer's recommendations suggested that as a factor.

Table 29. Results from using Yeast Culture as an additive in swine grower rations.

	Control	Fed Yeast Culture
Number of pigs	29	29
Initial wt., lbs.	22	22
Final wt., lbs.	51	51
Avg. daily gain, lbs.	1.01	1.02
Feed/gain ratio	2.12	2.17
Avg. daily intake, lbs.	2.19	2.25