

Editorial news and events

Conference Report*

The 2nd Conference on „Recent advances in pig nutrition” held in Jachranka, near Warsaw, Poland from 3 to 4 July 1997, was organized by The Kielanowski Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Jabłonna. The conference was attended by 120 participants from agricultural universities and research institutes, feed companies and advisory centres.

The goal of this Conference was to focus attention on problems of:

- * diet formulation according to ileal digestible amino acids,
- * nutrition and meat quality,
- * feed efficiency in growing pigs.

Five invited papers and 39 communications based on recent research findings were presented.

The basic aspects of measuring ileal digestible amino acids, their content in feeds and utilization in the context of diet formulation were presented and discussed. It was reminded that a pioneer approach to the measurement of ileal digestibility of amino acids in pigs was developed by the Institute in Jabłonna about 30 years ago. It was agreed that a feeding system based on ileal digestible amino acids (Lys, Met + Cys, Thre, Trp) should be introduced in formulation of diets for fast-growing pigs up to 60 kg live weight.

It was suggested that further research should focus on methods of measuring the ileal amino acid digestibility of low protein feeds, including *in vitro* methods.

In the review paper entitled „Improvement of meat quality in pigs by genetics and nutrition” the goals for high quality meat production accepted in human nutrition were discussed. Pigs of high genetic merit have the potential for high lean tissue and low fat gain. Such nutritional manipulation as energy:protein ratio, type of fat in the diet and feeding systems are important factors influencing lean pork production.

* Proceedings of the Conference are available from The Kielanowski Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition, Polish Academy of Sciences, 05-110 Jabłonna, Poland

The presentations and discussion on feed efficiency in growing pigs focused upon factors determining the feed conversion rate in pigs. The Polish model of feed utilization in pigs based on data obtained from studies on energy metabolism and chemical composition of body gain in growing pigs was discussed as an example. It was pointed out that the control (manipulation) of such factors as the energy cost of protein and fat deposition in the body is limited by the individual characteristics of an animal, and that feed utilization can be improved mainly by increasing the rate of protein deposition in the body, which depends upon the genetic merits of the animal, nutrition and environmental conditions.

Lectures on „Protein retention in growing boars of different breeds, and estimation of maximum protein retention” by Andre Chwalibog, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, and on „Pig nutrition in Finland” by Timo Alaviuhkola, Pig Research Station, Hyvinkaa, Finland, were also presented.

In summing up the Conference it was stressed that there is need for future research on nutrient requirements for pigs of different genotypes and improvement of pork quality. A new edition of Nutrient Requirements for Pigs should be elaborated and published.