

Effect of lysine feeding allowance on growth performance and carcass characteristics of growing pigs

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The purpose of the study was the effect of lysine in the diets on the performance and slaughter indices of pigs during fattening. Young pigs of the experimental group, for the introduction to the diet of lysine, for 100 days of fattening had a greater live weight of 7.7 kg, or 6.4%. Control slaughter of pigs about the same indices of slaughter output of carcasses at the level of 84.0-86% in the experimental with a difference of slaughter weight by 4.3 kg in favor of the experimental group. A lower yield of internal fat and average fat thickness of 13.0% in experimental pigs was found, which confirms a more intense synthesis of muscle tissue. The content of total and bound moisture in muscle tissue was higher by 4.7% and 7.5%, respectively, in the pigs of the experimental group against control, but lower by 2.5% of free moisture. The consequence of these indicators is a lower solid content of 4.5% in the experimental group of pigs.

Key words: young pigs; lysine; live weight; carcass weight; marbling, tenderness

Introduction

The high productivity of young pigs during the fattening is based on providing the diet with the necessary nutrients, in particular, crude protein, metabolism, vitamins, macro- and trace elements and other biologically active substances. Among these factors of high productivity of young pigs in fattening, an important role is played by amino acid nutrition and, in particular, lysine. So, if the content of lysine in the crude protein of the diet is taken as 100%, then methionine with cystine should be 60%, threonine – 66%, tryptophan 19%, isoleucine 60%, leucine 110%, histidine 39%, phenylalanine with tyrosine 120%, valine 75%, and surginine – 42%. This is the optimal ratio of essential amino acids in the diets of pigs, the percentage of lysine (Durst et al. 2003). Proteins in animal tissues, including skeletal muscles, are in a dynamic state, which is based on their renewal, caused by the constant synthesis and disorder of muscle proteins, including structural proteins (Yanovich, 2000). Protein muscle tissue of pigs contains 8.7% of lysine, protein of cow's milk – 8.3%, protein of beef – 8.6%, and protein of chicken eggs as standard – 7.2%, whereas grain forage wheat contains – 2.2% and barley – 3.6% of lysine (Kalashnikov et al., 2003).

The low content of lysine in cereal grains indicates that it is impossible to obtain high average daily increments of young pigs for growing and fattening using compound feeds only from cereal fodder. Due to the fact that any protein of a living organism consists of a chain of amino acids and their sequence is genetically determined, the absence or deficiency of at least one vital amino acid leads to disruption of protein synthesis. The primary structure of the protein cannot be synthesized, and unused amino acids enter the process of deamination. For the effective absorption of protein feed, it is necessary that the essential amino acids to be in proportion to each other. Thus, the proportion of essential amino acids for pigs in rearing and fattening pigs should be at least 47% of the total number of amino acids. At least 5 g of lysine should per 100 g of crude protein (Durst et al., 2003). At the same time, it should be noted that domestic standards of feeding pigs of different age groups regulate a lower level of lysine in crude protein compared with foreign ones. According to foreign companies the level of lysine in crude protein is 5.4 - 6.6%, while according to O.P. Kalashnikov et al. (2003), the level of lysine is 4.0 - 4.6% in 1 kg of compound feed.

The high level of protein uptake of the diet of feed in the body of young pigs is also caused by the protein-energy ratio. With a high protein content in the diet, it can be fully utilized for the synthesis of muscle tissue and other pig body needs, even with optimal amino acid ratios. If there is insufficient protein in relation to energy, then the unused energy for protein synthesis is used for fat deposition and, first of all, in the abdominal (Durst et al., 2003).

Protein : energy ratio is also expressed as lysine (g): digestible energy (MJ⁻¹) ratio. For young pigs, at the beginning of fattening, the optimum ratio of lysine to the exchange energy is 0.77 g MJ⁻¹, and at the end of fattening it is 0.7 g MJ⁻¹. The rate of utilization of metabolism for fat deposition is taken at the level of 74%, and for the conversion of protein into body protein - 56% (Durst et al., 2003). Feed additives that are introduced into pig feeds account for over one hundred different feed products that are

constantly updated. Protein additives include betaine (Ostafin), a substance isolated from sugar beet molasses (Semenov et al., 2002).

Y.I. Babkov (2016) registered positive effect when added one kg per ton of compound feed, when evaluated the use of betaine in the growing of hybrid pigs. The use of protein vitamin mineral supplement (VMS) "Enervik" with carnitine during the pig growing increases the average daily gains by 6 g or 6.8% (Gutsol et al., 2016), and when using the feed additive "Minaktivit" the average daily gains increase by 95 g (Gutsol et al., 2016). Feeding by the compound feed "Intermix" increases the average daily increments by 32-67 g or by 4.2-8.7% (Goncharuk, 2016; Mazurenko et al., 2016).

The aim of the research was to check the possible increase in pig growth rate and slaughter quality with increasing of lysine content at the beginning and in the end of fattening.

Material and methods

Table 1. Feed composition, nutrition and content of essential amino acids, minerals, and vitamins

	Start of fattening		Middle fattening		End of fattening	
	control	experiment	control	experiment	control	experiment
wet corn grain (kg)	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5		
sunflower cake (kg)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		
BVMD 10% Agrovetatlantic (kg)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
fodder wheat (kg)	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.2	3.1	3.1
BMP (premix)		0.1		0.1		0.03
Daily allowance (kg)	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	3.3	3.3
Dry matter, kg	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.8	2.9
Feed units (IVF)	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	4.2	4.2
Digestible energy, MJ ⁻¹	25.1	25.3	27.7	28.0	44.0	44.2
Crude protein, g	320.0	324.0	358.0	362.0	497.0	499.0
Lysine, g	15.5	21.3	17.2	23.6	20.6	24.0
Methionine + cystine, g	9.3	9.8	10.2	10.7	13.1	13.4
Tryptophan, g	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.5	4.5
Threonine, g	11.8	12.3	12.9	13.4	15.4	15.7
% of JV:						
Lysine, g	4.8	6.6	4.8	6.5	4.2	4.8
Methionine + cystine, g	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.67
Tryptophan, g	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Threonine, g	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.1
Calcium, g	12.4	15.3	13.7	16.9	15.2	16.9
Phosphorus, g	9.8	11.2	10.2	11.8	12.4	13.2
Iron, mg	2168	2735	2322	2948	2420	2748
Copper, mg	43.8	53.8	49.2	60.3	61.0	66.8
Zinc, mg	196.6	241.6	215.2	264.9	253.0	279.1
Manganese, mg	401.7	507.8	455.8	573.0	572.1	633.5
Cobalt, mg	2.9	3.7	3.2	4.1	3.6	4.0
Iodine, mg	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.1	2.4
Carotene, mg	6.1	6.2	5.2	5.3	3.3	3.4
Vitamin A, mo	11401.5	14821.5	16313.7	16381.1	13860.0	15840.0
Vitamin D, mo	3.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	2.8	3.2
Vitamin E, mg	121.8	141.2	124.2	153.1	142.7	157.8
Vitamin B1, mg	9.6	10.2	10.8	11.4	16.5	16.8
Vitamin B2, mg	7.0	8.4	7.8	9.3	9.8	10.6
Vitamin B3, mg	39.1	46.1	43.7	51.5	57.9	62.0
Vitamin B4, g	1.50	1.5	1.8	1.8	3.0	3.0
Vitamin B5, mg	143.0	156.0	161.0	174.0	211.0	219.0
Vitamin B12, µg	28.5	37.1	31.5	41.0	34.7	39.6

The studies were performed on young fattening pigs in the experimental farm "Pasichna" in Starosinyavsky district of Khmelnytsky region. Two groups of 15 pigs (Large White x Landrace breed) were formed according to the principle of the method of analogous groups, taking into account the live weight of animals, age, sex, breed, fatness, and health status – 60-day-old nuts. The control group pigs consumed compound feed produced on the farm from wheat forage, silage corn grains, sunflower meal, BVMD (AgroVetAtlantik), experimental - additionally introduced into the diet premix with lysine. Feeding was carried out from 45 kg of live weight over 100 days. The content of lysine in the protein in the feed of the control group of pigs at the beginning of fattening was 4.83%, and the experimental - 6.57% in the crude protein.

Feeding of animals was carried out according to the established norms; keeping was in groups in premises for rearing and fattening of pigs. Distributed feed mixture (feed) in the feeder in dry bulk form once every few days twice a day, an average of 3.2-3.3 kg per head. Animal access to the water was free. Consumption of feed was taken after each weighing, and there were four of them, with the determination of gross and average daily increments (g), feed consumption per kg of live weight gain (kg), exchange energy (MJ^{-1}) and lysine (g). The increase in live weight of the animals was determined using group weighing data. Individual weighing of the animals was performed at laying and at the end of the experiment. According to the obtained results, the gross and average daily increments, feed costs per kg of growth were determined and a control slaughter of experimental pigs was conducted in order to study the slaughter qualities. Muscle tissue and internal organs were collected for laboratory testing during slaughter.

Meat productivity and quality of slaughter products were evaluated according to the conventional method with determination before slaughter mass, slaughter weight and carcass yield. Qualitative and organoleptic characteristics of muscle tissue and internal organ morphological studies were studied on three typical animals from each group. Meat tenderness measurement was performed using the INSTRON 3342 testing system with Warner-Bratzler attachment, according to the method provided by Szalata et al. (1999). The physicochemical assessment also included meat color, determined with the Minolta CR 310, using the $L^*a^*b^*$ system (L^* – brightness, a^* – redness and b^* – yellowness) (Itten, 2001). The amount of total pigments in the meat was determined after their conversion to hematin according to the Hornsey method (1956).

The composition of the feed, nutrition, content of essential amino acids, minerals and vitamins for pigs in the control and experimental groups in the beginning, in the middle, and after the fattening are given in Table 1.

The feed for both groups of young pigs was fairly balanced in terms of nutrition, content of crude protein, macro- and trace elements, and vitamins. The difference between compound feed for the control and relatively experimental pig groups is convincing regarding the lysine content of the crude protein.

The results obtained were statistically analysed by calculating the arithmetic mean (\bar{x}) and the standard deviation (s). Calculations were performed using one-way analysis of variance ANOVA. Tukey's test was used to determine the significance of the differences between the study groups. Calculations were done using the STATISTICA 10.0 (2011) computer software.

The data in tables presented like average and standard deviation ($M \pm m$).

Results

The productive effect of the feed of the pigs of the experimental group with a high content of lysine in the crude protein was 11% higher than the control group. At the beginning of fattening, the content of lysine in the crude protein of the feed of the fattening pigs diet was 6.57% versus 4.83% in the control group or 29% more. Feed for pigs of both groups was balanced on all indicators of standard feeding, no doubt, except for the content of lysine in the crude protein. Confirmation of the balance of compound feed for pigs in the control group is the average daily gain of 748 g. This is almost 750 g of average daily gain. As a rule, the productive effect of feed is evaluated first of all by the parameters of growth and development of young pigs and the cost of feed per unit weight gain. These indicators are presented in Table 2. The same table shows in parallel the daily average increments of pigs and the experimental group. Obtaining high average daily increments of pigs of the experimental group at the level of 827 g is justified by the increase in the content of lysine in the crude protein.

Table 2. Indexes of young pigs during the fattening (n = 13)

Indexes	Groups	
	Control	Experimental
Duration of fattening, days	100	100
Number of animals	15	15
Live weight of animal at the beginning, kg	45.4±0.1	45.2±0.20
Live weight of one head at the end, kg	120.2±0.9	127.9±0.9
% to control	100	106
Weight gain:		
absolute, kg	74.8	82.7
% to control	100	111
Average daily increase, g	748	827
% to control	100	111

Young pigs of the control group for 100 days of fattening reached a live weight of 120.2 kg, and experimental for the same period - 127.9 kg, i.e., the difference is 7.7 kg, or 79 g more. The difference is convincingly indicative of the important role of balancing diets for pigs in fattening lysine in dietary protein. The high productive effect of high lysine compound feed (Table 1) is the metabolism of pigs.

Analyze the total content of protein and its fractions and the content of inorganic phosphorus, total calcium, glucose and urea in the blood of pigs of both groups (Table 3).

Table 3. Morphological and biochemical parameters of blood in experimental pigs, (n = 3)

Indexes	Groups	
	Control	Experimental
Erythrocytes, T / l	5.2±0.7	5.3±0.7
Hemoglobin, g / l	112±11.4	112±12.4
Total protein,%	7.58±0.5	7.69±0.6
Protein fractions:		
albumins,%	46.2±3.1	48.4±2.3
α - globulins,%	15.4±3.4	18.2±2.4
β - globulins,%	15.7±1.4	17.4±2.5
Inorganic phosphorus, mg%	8.77±0.9	8.42±0.6
Total calcium, mg%	13.6±0.4	12.4±0.5
Urea, mg%	25.0±0.3	19.0±0.6
Glucose, mg%	66.8±1.7	68.6±1.6

Analysis of the morphological and biochemical parameters of the blood (Table 3) showed a tendency of increasing the content of total protein, albumin, α and β - globulins, and inorganic phosphorus and total calcium were almost at the same level. Indicators of a clinical nature - erythrocytes and leukocytes were in compliance with the physiological norm. A lower 24% level of urea in the blood of pigs in the experimental group indicates a lower level of amino acid disinfection and, as a consequence, a higher level of protein synthesis in muscle tissues and a higher increase in live weight of animals. The difference of 79 g of average daily gain in favor of pigs of the experimental group is confirmed by the higher content of lysine in the compound feed. Thus, the content of lysine in the raw protein of the feed of the pigs is a limiting factor for their high productivity and, obviously, the production of less fat and more meat.

After 100 days of pig fattening, a control slaughter was performed and samples of muscle tissue were taken to determine the necessary parameters (Handbook, 2004). The results of control slaughter pigs are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Control slaughter indices of experimental pigs, (n = 3)

Indexes	Groups	
	Control	Experimental
Dead weight, kg	120.2±0.9	127.9±0.9
Slaughter weight, kg	101.2±1.2	105.5±0.9
Carcass weight, kg	85.0±1.3	90.7±1.4
The output of the carcass,%	84.0±2.2	86.0±1.9
Internal fat, kg	1.9±0.1	1.4±0.1
Mean fat thickness, mm	34.6±0.6	30.2±0.8

Control slaughter of pigs at first glance indicates the same indices of slaughter output of carcasses 84.0% in the control group and 86% in the experimental with a difference of slaughter weight by 4.3 kg in favor of the experimental group. However, it is necessary to analyze a lower yield of internal fat and average fat thickness of 13.0% in experimental pigs, which confirms the more intense synthesis of muscle tissue. In the control group of pigs, the processes of amino acid deamination took place at a higher level than in the pigs of the experimental group. Comparing the increase in average daily increments by 10.5% higher in the group of pigs with a higher content of lysine in compound feed against control, and a decrease in fat thickness by 13.0% is the body's response to the reduction of fat deposition, i.e., the intensity of lipid metabolism.

Table 5. Biochemical indexes of the longest back muscle of fattened pigs, (n = 3)

Indexes	Groups	
	Control	Experimental
Total moisture,%	69.2±1.8	73.7±2.2
including free,%	18.7±0.8	16.2±0.8
linked,%	50.5±1.3	57.5±1.7
Dry matter,%	30.8±10.1	26.3±1.3
pH	5.68±0.2	5.74±0.1
Intensity of color, E 100	66.9±3.1	65.4±3.4
Tenderness, N per cm ²	256.6±12.4	262.6±18.8
Marbling	19.8±0.7	18.4±2.0
Protein,%	20.4±0.4	22.8±0.4
Fat,%	5.3±0.2	4.1±0.3
Ash,%	5.3±0.2	3.5±0.3

The results of studies (Table 5) of the longest back muscle indicate that the total moisture content was higher by 4.7% in the pigs of the experimental group against control, but lower by 2.5% free moisture, along with the associated moisture was more than 7.5% in the muscle tissue (meat) of pigs of the experimental group. The consequence of these indicators is a lower solid content of 4.5% in the experimental group of pigs. Indicators of intensity of color, tenderness and marbling practically had no significant deviations between groups.

Attention should be paid to a higher protein content of 2.4% in the muscle tissue of pigs of the experimental group and a natural fat content of 1.2%. This is because the animals in the control group used some of the protein, due to their lower lysine content, to spend on fat in their muscle tissue as well as internal fat. The imbalance of crude protein with the essential amino acid lysine is significantly reduced by the productivity of all farm animals, but pigs and poultry are the most responsive. Taking into account the rate of need for piglets in lysine in the crude protein of the diet, the protein in barley lacks 20% (1.2 g kg⁻¹), oats 30% (1.7 g kg⁻¹), corn 40% (1.9 g kg⁻¹) and sunflower meal is about 30%. In terms of total protein content of nitrogen in essential amino acids, soybean meal is only inferior to animal products (chicken, milk, meat, and fish), but exceeds that of other oilseeds.

In Table 1 we presented the composition of the feed for pigs in the control group and the introduction of soy meal based protein additives in it. The lysine content was quite high but did not provide the need for more than 6.0% crude protein. Such a level of lysine can be ensured only by introducing into the compound feed a certain level of lysine of synthetic or microbial origin, that is, in the composition of the corresponding premix. The balance of the diet in the content of macro and microelements for pigs of both groups affects the optimum level of up to 3.5% ash in meat (Table 5), whereas the imbalance leads to an ash content of 1.3 - 1.6% in g ulcer tissue in the experiments of many authors (Begma, 2009).

Conclusions

At intensive fattening of young pigs the content of lysine in the crude protein should be at the growing, beginning and middle of the period of fattening at the level of more than 6.0%, and in the final period up to 4.5%. With the same crude protein content, the average daily increments of experimental pigs with a higher meat yield and with a lower fat content, and with a lower fat content, increase by 10.5%.

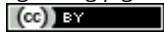
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