PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS OF CINTA SENESE PIGS FROM 30 TO 60 KG: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Francesco Sirtori[1]; Alessandro Crovetti[1]; Chiara Aquilani[1]; Gustavo Campodoni[1]; Carolina Pugliese[1]

[1]Department of Agrifood Production and Environmental Sciences, School of Agriculture, University of Florence

Abstract: Protein requirements of pigs during the first phase of life is crucial for both achieving high growth rates and avoiding nitrogen waste. Autochthonous breeds possess specific requirements in this regard and the literature is poor even for the Cinta Senese breed. Thus the effect of different level of crude protein (CP) in Cinta Senese pigs, between 30 and 60 kg, was evaluated within the TREASURE* project. Twelve male pigs were individually reared indoor, fed with four isoenergetic diets with different levels of CP (18, 16, 14 and 12%) equally distributed among animals. The animals, with an initial average live weight of 27 kg, were fed *ad libitum* and slaughtered after 2 months of trial. Left side of carcass was sectioned in six cuts: head, neck, loin, shoulder, leg and ribs. Each cut has been dissected into the main tissues. As regards *in vita* performance a slightly higher growth rates with decreasing protein levels were recorded (64.2, 62.3, 61.5 and 60.7 kg of slaughter weight with an ADG of 0.700, 0.690, 0.660 and 0.647 kg/d respectively for 12, 14, 16 and 18% of CP), though only the two extreme levels of CP (12 vs 18%) resulted statistically different.
Cuts weights and the percentage of the main tissues were similar between diets. Replication of the trial expected for the next autumn could provide better insights.

Keywords: Protein requirements, Cinta Senese pig, Growth rate, Carcass composition.

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