

# Feeding Triticale to Weaner Pigs

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Recent success in replacing hulless barley with triticale in diets for market pigs has led to the question "How does triticale perform in weaner diets?" To answer this question we conducted an experiment in which 4 week old weaners were fed diets based on wheat, triticale or a 50:50 mixture of wheat and triticale over a 4 week period. Average daily weight gain (ADG), feed intake (ADFI) and feed conversion efficiency (F/G) were measured. Pronghorn triticale (X Triticosecale Wittmack L.) was cleaned and used in this experiment. Seventy-two piglets, initially 9 +/- 2 kg body weight and 24 to 30 days of age, were weighed individually and randomly allotted to treatment by weight regardless of sex. There were 4 replicates of 6 pigs per pen per treatment. Diets were formulated to contain 3500 kcal per kg of DE and 1.34 % lysine. Pelleted diets and water were offered free choice. Animals and feeders were weighed at the start of the experiment and weekly thereafter. Feed disappearance was calculated for each pen on a weekly basis. Analysis of variance was used to detect differences among treatment means. The pig was the experimental unit for weight gain calculations while pen data was used for ADFI and F/G. Initial weight was used as covariate in the analyses. All pigs finished the experiment in good health. Average starting weights of pigs in the three treatment groups were 9.66, 9.77 and 9.64 kg. ADFI was similar for the wheat and the 50:50 diet, being 742 and 745 g respectively. These intakes were higher than that of the triticale diet (673 g) but not significantly different (P=0.08). Average daily gain reflected this difference in feed intake with the wheat and 50:50 pigs gaining at 505 and 503 g/day, respectively and the triticale pigs at 464 g. However, these average gains were also not significantly different (P=0.20) from one another. Average animal weights and (STD) at the end of the experiment were 23.80(2.86), 23.85(3.08) and 22.65(2.77) kg for the wheat, 50:50 and triticale diets respectively. Feed conversion efficiency was similar for all treatments with wheat, 50:50 and triticale treatments being 1.47, 1.49 and 1.45, respectively.

## Implications:

Triticale (var. Pronghorn) completely replaces wheat in the diets of 4 week old weaned pigs with no significant loss of performance.