Influence of increasing ExtraPro™ on feeder pig performance in a commercial farm

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ExtraPro™ is a unique combination of extruded peas and full fat canola that provides both energy and protein in swine diets. There is increasing evidence that feeding higher energy diets to grower pigs (up to 75 kg) can result in higher growth rate, better feed efficiency and greater income over feed cost. However, many on-farm feed mills do not have the capability of handling a liquid fat source required to achieve high energy levels. Including added fat in the pig diets can challenge feed flow in bins, augers and feeders. ExtraPro™ contains 21% oil supplying energy in a dry, granular meal that flows easily. ExtraPro™ is also an excellent source of protein (22%) that compliments other protein sources commonly included in western Canadian swine diets.

The objectives of this experiment were to determine the impact of feeding increasing levels of ExtraPro™ in the winter months on feed disappearance, growth rate, feed efficiency, carcass fat, loin depth, lean yield, index and income over feed cost (IOFC). A total of 945 pigs were used in an 84-day experiment conducted in a commercial research facility. There were five dietary treatments (0, 5, 10, 15%, graded levels decreasing) with diets fed in four phases from 36 to 118 kg. Treatment diets within each phase were formulated to the same TID lysine and NE. The TID lysine was 0.98, 0.89, 0.75, and 0.61%, while NE levels were 2.5, 2.5, 2.4, and 2.35 Mcal/kg. Feed intake, daily gain, feed efficiency, feed cost per kg gain, and IOFC was not different up to a 10% inclusion rate of ExtraPro™. Growth rate and feed intake for the overall trial period were very good averaging 0.983 kg/day and 2.65 kg kg/day respectfully, with feed conversion at 2.69. All carcass characteristics (carcass fat, lean, loin depth and index) were similar with all diets except when ExtraPro™ was included at 15% of the diet. Based on current commodity prices, it can be cost effective to include up to 10% ExtraPro™ in the diets to achieve optimum IOFC.

Implications: ExtraPro™ is a cost effective, high-energy protein blend of extruded canola and peas that can be fed up to 10% in pig diets. Current commodity costs can offer savings of up to $0.50-$1.00/pig.