Adding an enzyme can save 50p a pig

Fishers Feeds is adding the enzyme Porzyme to its grower and weaner range from this autumn, following a series of farm trials designed to see which in-feed enhancer could best aid the digestibility of these vital rations.

More than 2,500 pigs went through a series of feed trials organised by the company, and Porzyme came out on top.

In both the trials below, the pig producer saved at least 50p a pig over the weight range.

In the first trial, the killing out percentage was improved, the weight gain was l.5kg per pig higher, and the feed conversion ratio improved by 5% when compared with the control group.

In the second trial, the growth rate was much improved, by 7%, resulting in almost 3kg better weight gain per pig and again gave a 5% better feed conversion ratio.

In addition, Fishers had used Porzyme strategically for a number of years in the feeds of various customers who had experienced nonspecific diarrhoea (colitis) in their pigs. And, in most cases, Porzyme reduced the problem, resulting in cleaner pigs with reduced incidence of digestive disorders.

Trial 1

	CONTROL	PORZYME
Weight in	56.0 kg	53.1 kg
Weight out	91.2 kg	89.8 kg
Growth rate	902 g/day	942 g/day
FCR	2.52	2.40
Killing Out	72.7%	73.5%
P2	10.3 mm	10.3 mm

Trial 2

	CONTROL	PORZYME
Weight in	48.5 kg	50.1 kg
Weight out	81.6 kg	86.1 kg
Growth rate	922 g/day	987 g/day
FCR	2.53	2.40

"Farmers looking for improvements in their new rations can expect benefits of around a 5 per cent improvement in growth rate, 3 per cent improvement in FCR, less digestive disorders, and more even pigs," says Fishers Feeds technical director Simon Record.

Porzyme, with the active ingredient the enzyme xylanase, works by aiding the pigs own digestive enzymes to break down feed ingredients, in particular the non-starch polysaccharides (NSP).

Pigs do not naturally secrete this enzyme, so inclusion in the feed allows the pig to digest these NSP'S, which are present at high levels in wheat, usually the highest inclusion ingredient in pig feeds.

This, in effect, increases the energy content of the feed, and also improves the amino acid availability because cell walls are broken down more fully, allowing better access to intracellular protein by the pig's digestive juices.

Other benefits will include: more uniform pigs; less nonspecific digestive disorders; improved feed digestibility and therefore less nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of the environment; reduced viscosity of gut digesta which allows digestive juices more access to the feed particles, and easier absorption of nutrients; better balance of microbial populations in the small and large intestines, resulting in improved gut health.

Keywords: Porzyme 9300, xylanase, pig, swine, colitis, diarrhoea