



Prairie Swine Centre E-Zine

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Feed Efficiency

With diets costing \$50-60/t more than budget all farms are looking for feed cost relief. Grain purchasing strategies are an essential part of the feed cost/ kilo of gain solution, but what do we do to improve the efficient use of the feed we grow or purchase? The conclusion of an international feed efficiency conference in Omaha last month was that in spite of tremendous sow productivity improvements, and improvements in reducing mortality losses, the offset of feeding more fibrous diets (use of DDGS) and higher finished hog weights has resulted in the trend for feed efficiency being flat. The resolve of the group of academic and industry personnel attending the very dynamic conference was that we can and must do better to stay competitive and ensure farm profitability.

Prairie Swine Centre will be hosting a series of 9 seminars available on-line featuring presentations from Research Scientists and pork producers who are making a difference and challenging our old paradigms of how to improve on-farm feed efficiency. Focus on Feed Efficiency will be a series of one-hour interactive seminars accessible from anywhere via the internet starting in February and running to June 2012. Information on registration and program will be available on the Prairie Swine website (www.prairieswine.ca) and through this EZine later this month. Topics will include; Understanding Dietary Energy Concentration, Herd Management Effects on Feed Efficiency, Effect of Feed Processing, Amino Acid Nutrition, and new technologies to watch.

Higher feed costs look to be a part of our business for the future, using alternative, often higher fiber ingredients also is becoming part of the typical diet. Learning how to adapt and improve feed efficiency will be an important part of pork production success in the future.

Hot articles on feed efficiency can be accessed today from our information database PorkInsight by following the following links.

Although over 70% of feed is used in grow-finish, the sow herd plays a significant role, and particularly timely as farms may be adjusting allocations to sows with the cooler winter temperatures upon us.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/practical-control-of-sow-feed-costs/>

Growth rate and feed efficiency are linked, if you are wondering where to start in your feed efficiency review try this checklist approach to eliminate the things that are working well and concentrate on areas that could improve feed efficiency.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/34360.pdf>

Feed budgets help with controlling feed costs by targeting expensive feeds in the area of the barn they will do the most good. Particle size tends to vary widely between mills, especially as hammers and screens wear. Most feed samples tested show average particle size is much larger than is ideal for optimizing feed efficiency.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/survival-strategies-%e2%80%93-when-every-penny-counts-2/>

