

Many advantages in using controlled fermented feed

New Danish experiences with fermented feed show fewer problems with Lawsonia, reduced FCR and mortality.

By Anne Olsen

The Danish adviser Jens Legarth, are observing the improved production results at farms using controlled fermentation.

- The general picture is that, when using controlled fermentation, the feed conversion rate improves by 10-15 percent, that mortality rates reduces, and that Lawsonia seems to disappear from the nursery units, states Jens Legarth.
- It really surprised me, and it is certainly nothing anybody would have expected, says Mr. Legarth.

Farmer faces fewer problems with Lawsonia

The Danish farmer Poul Jensen produces about 36.000 pigs a year and have used fermented feeding since 1999. He likes the system, although, he admit that it haven't always worked properly. However, the latest half year, after using controlled fermentation after his adviser Jens Legarth's receipt, he is convinced that the feed quality has improved.

- It is easy to see it at the animals, he says.
- In general I have observed fewer health problems the latest half year, and Lawsonia is no longer a problem, he says.
- We use medicine for other purposes, therefore, it is hard to say whether the fermented feed had cured the pigs or not. However, I'm convinced that controlled fermented feed improves the pigs' health in general, Mr. Jensen says.

Accordingly to Jens Legarth, one should rather measure the content of lactic acids than the pH in the feed. This is very expensive and the analyses lasts 10 days. However, when tasting the feed, it gives a hint whether or not the feed is all right. Therefore, Poul Jensen tastes the feed every day.

- In the beginning I just tasted the feed, but now I eat about 2 dl of the feed every day. Today I actually ate half a litre. I like the feed, and when it keeps the pigs healthy, it probably also keeps me healthy, Poul Jensen says.

Micro organisms are conserving the feed

- By the fast fermentation by using the right temperature and micro organisms, the feed are conserved, states Jens Legarth.
 - At the contrary to normal liquid feed that will putrefy quite quickly, fermented feed stays fresh for weeks, and can be fed without consequences for the pigs' health, says Jens Legarth.
- He continues:
- Imagine the perspectives of feeding fermented feed in countries with hot climates, for instance in the Southern part of Europe. There, a common problem is that liquid feed petrifies quite quickly in the long pipelines in the warm pig unit. By conserving the feed through the fermentation process, this problem can be completely avoided.

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About Jens Legarth

Jens Legarth has the latest year worked full-time in his own consultant company, where he advises farmers, who want to use controlled fermented feed. Today he has about 50 customers in Denmark, Norway and Sweden – all pig producers, who practice controlled fermented feeding.

- In the beginning, however, I had many problems because of the huge difference between how things work in theory and in real life. Therefore, in the beginning, I lost some customers, but not the latest half-year, where all new fermenting facilities have worked properly.

In the nearest future, Jens Legarth is helping the first few British customers to begin controlled fermentation, and potential customers in more countries - Canada among others - have showed interest in establishing a fermenting system.

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