Schothorst Feed Research

Facilities piglet battery

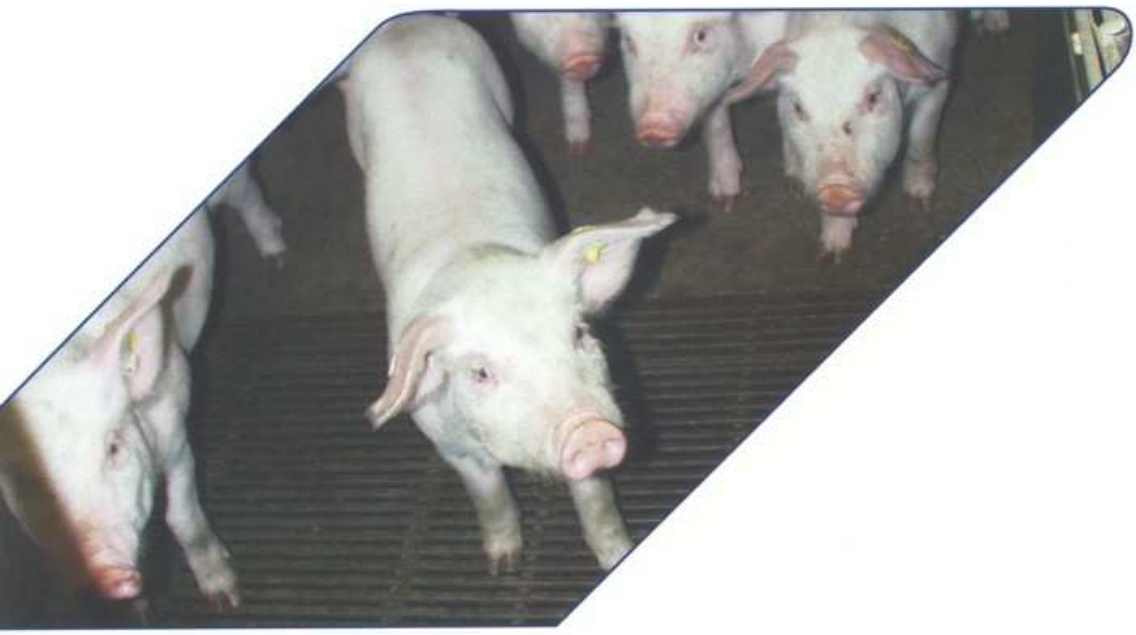
Statistical characteristics of the experiments			
Number of rooms	10	10	10
Number of pens per room	8	8	8
Experimental unit	6 piglets / pen	6 piglets / pen	6 piglets / pen
Replicates per treatment	n=6	n=10	n=15
Number of treatments	2-6	2-6	2-6
Least Significant Difference*:		Week 1-2	
- total weight gain (g)	32	25	21
- total feed intake (g)	31	24	20
- feed conversion ratio	0.08	0.06	0.05
Least Significant Difference*:		Week 1-4	
- total weight gain (g)	42	33	27
- total feed intake (g)	33	25	21
- feed conversion ratio	0.05	0.04	0.03

** reliable estimates ($P \leq 0.05$), based on the average results of performed experiments 2007-2010*

SPECIFIC FEATURES

- The piglet battery consists of eight compartments with semi-slatted floors and floor heating. Each compartment contains ten pens (2.00 x 1.13 m) with 6 piglets per pen.
- Piglets are weaned at 28 days of age.
- Average growth of piglets in piglet battery is approximately 480 g.
- The experiment starts immediately after weaning and will last for 4-6 weeks.
- Piglets will have free access to feed and drinking water.
- Recording of data per pen:
  - bodyweight at day 0 and 14 post weaning and at end of study
  - feed intake, daily gain and feed conversion ratio from day 0-14, 14-end post weaning and total period
  - faecal consistency is monitored visually twice a week on a scale from 1-10 (1=liquid faeces, 10=hard and dry faeces)
- Recording of data per piglet:
  all health disorders and medical treatments

SFR FACILITIES PIGLETS



SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES

- Experimental diets are produced in a specialized production unit under GMP+ conditions.
- Both limited as well as *ad libitum* feeding is possible. The design of the pens ensures sufficient trough space per piglet in experiments with restricted feeding.
- The experiment is designed in such a way that in each compartment littermates from 6 litters are allotted equally to treatments, ensuring a uniform genetic background in each pen per block.
- Incidental period effects are excluded since replicates are repeated in time. As standard procedure each week a block of ten pens is started.
- The design of the experimental diets is based upon the mode of action of the tested products or –concepts in order to maximize animal response to the dietary factor investigated.
- Experimental unit is a pen with six piglets, but if required, individual body weight of piglets can be registered to measure effects on variation and homogeneity within pen.

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