The effect of a high-fibre gilt development feeding program on body composition and first lactation performance

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Background

Ad libitum feed intake can optimize mammary gland development

BUT

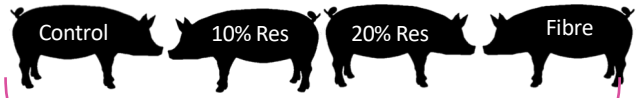
Increases risk of over-conditioned gilts

Growth rate and body condition can influence future reproductive productivity, lactation and risk of culling

Objective

Evaluate a high-fibre feeding program during the development period on gilt body composition and subsequent lactation performance

Method



90 Days of Age

Feed Intake
Body Weight
Backfat

Breeding (End of Treatment)

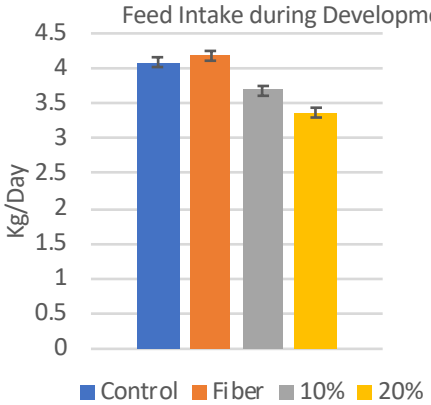
Body Weight
&
Backfat

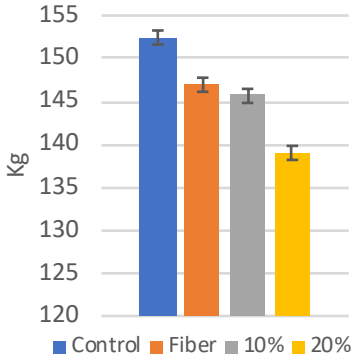
Farrowed

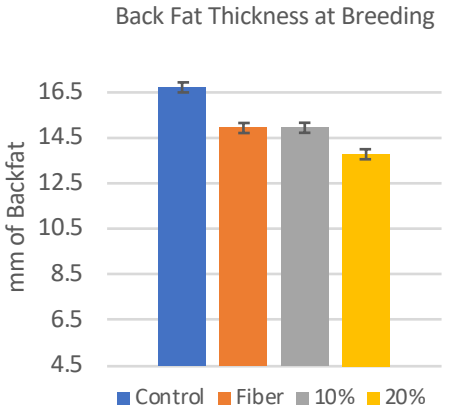
Farrowing and weaning body weight
Backfat mid lactation and weaning

Body weight on day 0,2,7,14 and 21 of age

Results







- BW and backfat depth did not differ by end of gestation, during lactation, or at weaning.
- When fed a common gestation and lactation diets, the differences in body weight and backfat caused by the feeding program were overcome.
- Piglet growth did not differ among treatment groups
- Piglets achieved the same body weight at weaning



Take home message

1. **High-fibre diets successfully limited growth rates and backfat of gilts prior to breeding with no effect on milk production (piglet growth)**

2. **Provides an option for ad libitum feed access in group housing, while controlling body weight and condition prior to breeding**

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