

The behaviour of weaners fed *ad libitum*

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Summary

Ad libitum feeding reduces competition for space at the trough, and enables all young pigs in pens to take any amount of feed they need. However, in such feeding system the variation in the growth rate of individuals is also observed. The 24-hour behavioural observations of 40 weaners were taken to observe the factors that determine the way of food intake by individual animals. It was found that the time spent near feeder and the frequency of visits at trough were correlated with the place, occupied in the hierarchy (dominant individuals as compared to the marginal ones stayed much longer and more often came to the place of feeding). Differences in the nutritional behaviour parameters according to sex were small.

Key words: weaners / *ad libitum* feeding / behaviour / food intake