

The effect of using a herbal additive in sows' diet on the rearing results of piglets

Anna Rekiel, Justyna Krawczyk, Michał Gagucki

Summary

The aim of this study was to determine the influence of adding the herbal feed additive Payapro to the sows' diet on the quality of produced milk and the rearing of the offspring. For the study 16 sows: 8 – experimental (E) group, 8 – control (C) group, and 165 piglets have been selected. From the second day before parturition, the experimental sows were given 15 g of the Payapro additive per day for the next 14 days. The control sows were not given any feed additive. Litter size, body weight and mortality have been controlled. Milk samples have been collected in order to check their quality and to assess the mammary gland. The influence of using Payapro additive on the growth and health condition of piglets has not been found. The chemical composition of milk, however, varied between the groups: in group E vs. C the protein, fat and lactose content was higher by 0.41%, 0.36% and 0.38%, respectively (differences statistically insignificant). In the milk of sows from group C vs. E the somatic cell count (SCC) has been found higher by 50.7%. This suggests a positive effect of the herbal additive on the mammary gland of sows.

KEY WORDS: sows / extract of herbs / milk / piglets / growth rate