



Aleta™ supplementation to sows is benefiting the piglets

Author: Valentine Van Hamme

Key Conclusions

Aleta™ decreases pre-weaning piglet mortality when supplemented to the sow during gestation and lactation.

INTRODUCTION

Pre-weaning piglet mortality is a major economic and welfare issue in pig production. Pre-weaning piglet mortality varies to a large extent between farms and ranges from 5 to 35% (E. Mainau et al., 2015). The causes are multiple and often involve a correlation between management, environmental and health factors. Management and environmental factors need to be controlled at farm level, while health status of the animals need to be monitored closely. One of the strategies to improve animal health is using feed supplements. Aleta™ is an in-feed solution, based on beta-glucan derived from a unique source, an alga called *Euglena Gracilis*. Previous research has shown that beta-glucan is a component that improves the animal's immune status and increases the resistance to disease (Vetvicka V. et al., 2014). The objective of this trial was to evaluate the effect of Aleta™ supplementation to sows during lactation and gestation on their performance and for the benefit of the piglets.

KEYWORDS

Aleta™, piglets, sow, mortality

MATERIAL AND METHODS

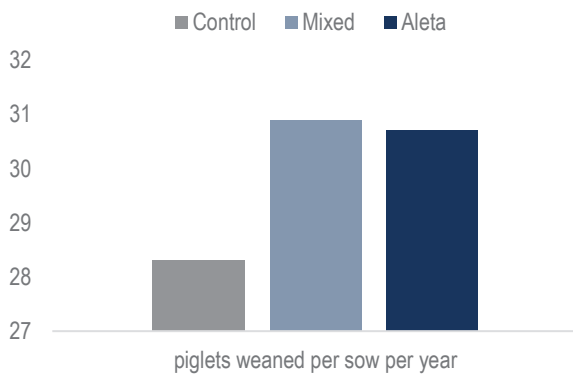
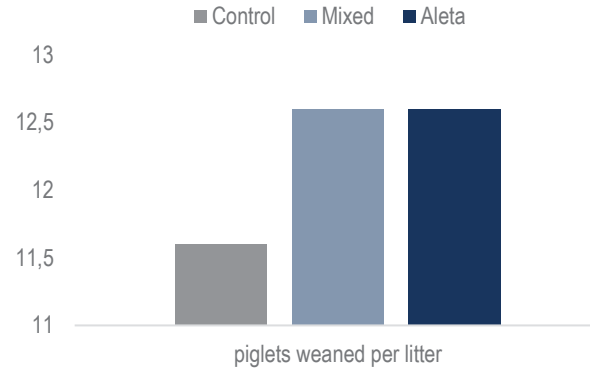
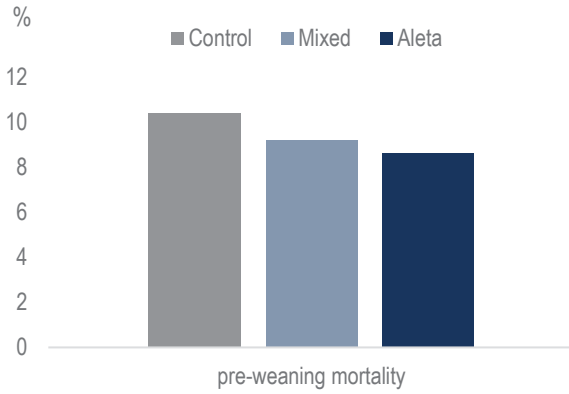
- Animals: 115 Landrace, 23 Duroc, 30 Yorkshire and 67 TN70 sows were included in the trial.
- Duration:



- Control period: historical performance data, no Aleta™ supplementation.
 - Mixed period: New pregnant sows supplemented with Aleta, but still other sows are farrowing which were not yet supplemented with Aleta™.
 - Aleta™ period: All sows are supplemented with Aleta™.
- Treatments: Aleta™ was supplemented to the sows at different dosages: 500 g/ton of feed during gestation, from day 21 until farrowing, and at 250 g/ton of feed during lactation.
 - Performance data of the sows were recorded during these periods and compared with historical performance data where no Aleta™ was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During this trial we could observe a decreased pre-weaning mortality of the piglets coming from sows supplemented with Aleta™, leading to an increased number of weaned piglets per litter and more piglets weaned per sow per year. The decreased pre-weaning mortality could be explained by an increased IgG titer in the sow's colostrum following to Aleta™ supplementation, which was observed in a previous investigation, even at a lower dosage of Aleta™ given during a shorter period.



ROI calculation:

1 piglet more per sow
 117 sows on Aleta™ => 117 extra piglets * 34 euro =
 3978 euro
 Aleta™ investment: 500 Euro

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{(\text{investment revenue} - \text{investment cost})}{\text{investment cost}} = 7$$

CONCLUSION

Supplementing the sow with Aleta™ does not only benefit the sow's immune status and her colostrum quality, but also benefits the piglets.

REFERENCES

1. SD-18-00039
2. TL-18-00012
3. E. Mainau, D. temple, X. Manteca, Pre-weaning mortality in piglets, the farm animal welfare fact sheet, n 11, 2015
4. Vetvicka V, Oliveira C. β(1-3)(1-6)-D-glucans modulate immune status in pigs: potential importance for efficiency of commercial farming. Annals of Translational Medicine. 2014;2(2):16.