

2C-107: Investigation of the impact of oral rennet supplementation on the serum globulin concentration in neonatal piglets

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Aims and Objectives

To evaluate the benefits of oral rennet supplementation administered during the early post-partum period in a population of piglets derived from induced and non-induced primiparous (PP) and multiparous (MP) sows.

Key Findings

- Oral rennet supplementation of piglets derived from either induced or non-induced MP or PP sows did not influence serum globulin concentrations in piglets at 48-72 hours post-farrowing, piglet bodyweight (at weaning), growth rate or mortality rate.
- Dam parity (MP sows compared to PP sows), combined with a reduction in litter size, had a significant and positive influence on piglet bodyweight at birth and at weaning, serum globulin concentrations, growth rate and survivability.

Application to Industry

This study indicates that piglets supplemented with rennet are unlikely to result in increased serum immunoglobulin with the dose rates used in this study. This study provides additional evidence regarding the association of small piglets with lower serum immunoglobulin levels, higher mortality and lower growth rates. Piglet survivability rates may be improved by increased monitoring of PP sows.