



## Challenge: High Feed Cost Solution: Feeding Pigs Pelleted Diets

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A feeding trial\* conducted in 2008 at LongView Animal Nutrition Center resulted in pigs fed the UltraCare<sup>®</sup> program in pelleted form having superior feed conversion when compared to pigs fed the UltraCare<sup>®</sup> program in meal form (Table 1). Pigs fed the UltraCare<sup>®</sup> program in pelleted form had between **7.3 to 13.2% optimized feed conversion** during Phase 2, 3, 4 and overall when compared to meal. Furthermore, pigs receiving the UltraCare<sup>®</sup> program in meal form had greater ( $P < 0.05$ ) feed disappearance; however, this was due to greater feed wastage. There were no differences ( $P > 0.1$ ) in average daily gain (ADG) in pigs receiving the UltraCare<sup>®</sup> program in pelleted or meal form.

Table 1. Performance of nursery pigs fed UltraCare<sup>®</sup> Pig Starters in Pellet or Meal Form

	Treatment <sup>a</sup>		% Improvement
	UltraCare <sup>™</sup> Program Pellets <sup>1,3</sup>	UltraCare <sup>™</sup> Program Meal Form <sup>2,3</sup>	
No. of Pigs	80	80	
Rem & mort	0	0	
PH 1 (d 0-8)			
ADG, lb	0.570	0.605	
ADFI, lb	0.536	0.570	
Feed:gain	0.945	0.946	
Phase 2 (d 8-15)			
ADG, lb	0.859	0.822	
ADFI, lb	0.895	0.979	
Feed:gain	1.05 <sup>b</sup>	1.21 <sup>c</sup>	<b>-13.2</b>
Phase 3 (d 15-25)			
ADG, lb	1.37	1.43	
ADFI, lb	1.59 <sup>b</sup>	1.80 <sup>c</sup>	
Feed:gain	1.16 <sup>b</sup>	1.26 <sup>c</sup>	<b>-7.9</b>
Phase 4 (d 25-36)			
ADG, lb	1.69	1.70	
ADFI, lb	2.36 <sup>b</sup>	2.54 <sup>c</sup>	
Feed:gain	1.39 <sup>b</sup>	1.50 <sup>c</sup>	<b>-7.3</b>
Overall (d 0-36)			
ADG, lb	1.19	1.21	
ADFI, lb	1.46 <sup>b</sup>	1.59 <sup>c</sup>	
Feed:gain	1.22 <sup>b</sup>	1.32 <sup>c</sup>	<b>-7.6</b>
Pig Weight, lb			
Initial		13.7	
Day 36	56.6	57.2	

<sup>1</sup>UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 200 (8 d), UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 300 (7 d), UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 400 (10 d), and UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 500 (11 d) in pelleted form

<sup>2</sup>UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 200 (8 d) in pelleted form then UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 300 (7 d), UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 400 (10 d), and UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 500 (11 d) in meal form

<sup>3</sup>UltraCare<sup>™</sup> 400 and 500 were manufactured using UltraCare 20/50 Starter Pak and UltraCare Starter Premix

<sup>a</sup>Values are means of 16 pens of five pigs each

<sup>b</sup>Means in the same row with different superscript letter differ ( $P < 0.05$ )

### Conclusion

Using this study performed at Longview, we have shown that feeding pelleted diets until 36 days in age may result in optimized feed efficiency potential with no difference in average daily intake compared to feeding the same diet in meal-form. This means that pigs may be more efficient when fed a pelleted diet; in today's environment with high feed prices, this can make a big difference to the bottom line.

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