

## Maintaining Performance during Vaccination Time

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A recent study was conducted at Iowa State University to evaluate gel feed supplementation on pig performance during time of vaccination. Pigs were weighed, placed in pens based on initial body weight and then randomly allotted to treatments: 1) vaccination without gel feed, 2) vaccination with gel feed, 3) no vaccination without gel feed, or 4) no vaccination with gel feed. Vaccinations were administered on d 10 after weaning and pigs received gel from day 9 to 11 after weaning at a rate of 0.5 lb per pig per day. Pigs received common diets throughout the nursery period (day 0-42 after weaning).

Pigs fed gel feed one day before to one day after vaccination ate **29.0% more feed** and **gained 12.3% faster** leading to **1.3 lb heavier pigs** out of the nursery when compared to pigs not receiving gel feed during vaccination (Table 1). Furthermore, pigs supplemented with gel feed but not receiving vaccination ate **18.9% more feed** and **gained 9.0% faster** during the phase 2 period (day 7 to 14 after weaning) when compared to pigs not receiving gel feed or vaccination.

Table 1. Beneficial effect of feeding gel during vaccination time on average daily gain, average daily feed intake, feed:gain and body weight gain.

Item of Interest	Treatments <sup>a</sup>			
	No Gel		Gel	
	No Vaccination	Vaccination	No Vaccination	Vaccination
Phase 2 (day 7-14 postweaning)				
ADG, lb <sup>bcd</sup>	0.557	0.503	0.607	0.565
ADFI, lb <sup>bce</sup>	0.72	0.63	0.856	0.813
Feed:Gain, lb <sup>bc</sup>	1.30	1.27	1.45	1.48
Pig Wt., lb				
Day 7	12.44	13.57	13.58	12.75
Day 14 <sup>b</sup>	17.0	16.6	17.3	17.0
Day 42 <sup>b</sup>	54.20	53.2	53.8	54.5

<sup>a</sup>Values are means of 12 pens of four pigs per pen

<sup>b</sup>Day 7 Wt. was used as a covariate

<sup>c</sup>Gel effect P < 0.05

<sup>d</sup>Vaccination effect P < 0.10

<sup>e</sup>Vaccination effect P < 0.05

Conclusion: Gel feed is a unique concept in swine nutrition! Its high moisture content and natural intake enhancers are designed to encourage intake, prevent dehydration and support intestinal health during times of stress such as weaning and vaccination. These data demonstrate that feeding gel during vaccination time may improve intake and gains resulting in heavier pigs at the end of the nursery. To view the whole paper please go to: <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/report/air/?pg=tablecontent08> Animal Industry Report 2008, [AS Leaflet-R2358](#) How Does the Addition of Gel at the Time of Vaccination Affect Overall Nursery Pig Performance?

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