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Effect of Catosal® on appetite and body weight of sows during lactation

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Introduction

Weight loss by the sow should not be more than 12% during lactating period, which will support good piglet assistance, a fast return to heat after weaning and a good reproductive performance in the subsequent parturition (1). The aim of this trial was to evaluate the impact of Catosal® (Butaphosphan 100mg and Cyanocobalamin 0,05mg/mL; Bayer Animal Health; in some countries available as Catosal®B12, Coforta® or Phosphorum®B12) in lactating sows on different parameters, including feed intake and weight loss during lactation period.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted in a Brazilian commercial farm including 360 sows which were equally distributed in blocks according to the parturition order: first parturition, second parturition, and between third and sixth parturition. These blocks were distributed into four treatments, with 90 repetitions, and each animal was considered an experimental unit. Around 110 days of gestation the sows were transferred to the farrowing facility and received the lactation diet in the restricted amount of 2.0 kg/day. After farrowing, feed was distributed twice in a day, ad libitum. The wet feed consisted of 58% feed and 42% water. Sows were weighted in the entrance and in the exit of the farrowing unit, and the feed intake was measured daily. The weaning was proceeded when piglets were 21 days old. The treatment groups were classified as: T1 (negative control), T2 (10mL of Catosal®), T3 (15mL of Catosal®) and T4 (20mL of Catosal®). The product was administered intramuscularly after detection of the first signals of parturition.

Results

Average weekly feed intake was high for all treatments in the first lactation week. However, the T4 group had statistically higher average feed intake ($p < 0.05$) than the control group T1 on lactation week 1, 2 and 4 (Table 1) as well as total feed consumption during lactation of T4 was significantly higher than T1. For absolute values of weight loss, it was observed that the T4 group had a lower weight loss with statistical significance ($p < 0.05$) than the groups T1 and T2. The T3 group also had a lower weight loss with statistical significance than the group T1.

For the percentages of weight loss, only the T4 group had a lower weight loss with statistical significance ($p < 0.05$) than the groups T1 and T2.

Table 1: Weekly feed intake (kg/day) of lactating sows and average consumption during lactation.

	W1	W2	W3	W4	AC
T1	7.71 B	9.54 B	10.45 A	8.28 BC	9.28 B
T2	8.00 A	9.84 AB	10.45 A	7.86 C	9.40 AB
T3	8.07 A	9.76 B	10.50 A	8.70 AB	9.43 AB
T4	8.21 A	10.17 A	10.58 A	9.00 A	9.64 A

W = average consumption during a specific week of the lactating period; Number after W = week of the lactation period; AC = average consumption for the entire period of lactation. Different capital letters in the same column indicate statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$)

Table 2: Sow weight loss during lactation in kg.

	Weight loss (kg)
T1	27.57 A
T2	26.39 AB
T3	24.36 BC
T4	22.43 C

Different capital letters in the same column indicate statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion

Sows that received 15 and 20 mL of Catosal® at farrowing had lower weight loss during the suckling period with a difference from T1 such as 3.21 kg and 5.14 kg respectively. This fact is clearly associated with an increased feed intake (appetite) in these treatment groups. Catosal® application at farrowing stimulates the appetite of sows during lactation and prevents from weight loss at the critical time point where sows should feed newborn piglets.

References

1. Clowes, E.J. et al. J Anim Sci. 81:753-764, 2003.