Ekolak and Ekofish Meal as feeding component for weaned piglets

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Creep feeding and feeding of piglets in first days after weaning is extremely important for further growth and fattening of piglets. Interruption and disturbance in this stage make enormous increase of costs for medical treatment, and even negative consequences, which will all be manifested during whole period of growth. Increased mortality rate is often result of this state. If on farm, there aren't optimal conditions for breeding of weaned pigs, what often happens on our farms, this problem is much larger. Components in mixture used in feed and quality of the most important protein feed are crucial in this stage of pigs feeding. Soybean meal or grits aren't the only and most important components resource of proteins in this stage, specially if weaning started earlier and if pigs aren't used on consumption of enough feed. As alternative, in that case, high quality but expensive feed of animal origin (dried blood plasma, fish meal, milk powder and whey) and products based on soybean proteins, are often used. **Bankom company produced 2 feeding components** - **Ekolak and Ekofish Meal** based on soybean proteins**. Ekolak** is already in use for several years on many farms, and **Ekofish meal** is a new product and it's use just started.

Ekolak i Ekofish Meal are intended for feeding of young animals. **Ekolak** is natural milk replacement for growing animals feeding, enriched with milk sugar, lactose. It has a good taste and it's easy digestible feed made from raw materials of very high quality. **Ekolak's** formula is specially designed to answer on all nutritive needs of young animals**. Ekofish Meal** is made of thermally treated, fat free soybean powder, izolate of soybean proteins, glutten,animal yeast, calcium carbinate, amino acids (lysine, methionine, treonine) vitamin E, enzymes and antioxidant.

Experiment on pig farm

To verify effects of use of this feed in weaned pigs, it was organized experiment on pig farm at Bantsko Novo Selo. There were included 4 groups of 90 weaned pigs at experiment**.** Pigs were at same part of farm, under same conditions, the only difference was in used feed or added **Ekolak and Ekofish Meal** in feed.

Use of **Ekofish meal** and **Ekolak** in experiment made a significant increment in weight gain of weaned pigs and better feed utilization. At control group I average daily weight gain was 161 g, at group II, where was added **Ekolak,** weight gain was increased on 182 g. Use of **Ekofish meal** in feed of group III made a daily weight gain of 208 g, while the biggest daily weight gain was in group IV, where were included both products.The weight gain was 216 g.

At the first period of experiment, **Ekofish meal** had bigger influence on daily weight gain than in later periods, while effect of **Ekolak** was much bigger at the second period of experiment. Food consumption for kilogram of weight gain in control group I was very high - 2,94 kg/kg gain. In control group II where was added **Ekolak** conversion was reduced on 2.63 kg, in third group where **Ekofish Meal** was added, conversion was reduced on 2.33 kg. The group with the least food consumption about 2.33 kg was group IV where both products were used.

The average daily food consumption in all groups at the beginning was the same, although pigs were fed ad libitum.

A bigger daily weight gain and more efficient use of feed in groups with **Ekolak** and **Ekofish Meal** made a significant reduce in cost of feeding.

Based on results of study, we can conclude that examined products had very high stimulant effect and certainly will find place in feed of weaned pigs.

Production of examined pigs

Group	I	II	III	IV
Ekofish Meal	✗	✗	✓	✓
Ekolak	✗	✓	✗	✓
Num. pigs	90	90	90	90
Mortality	1	-	1	-
Weight, kg				
- at beginning	8,17	8,34	9,18	8,88
- changing feed	9,63	9,82	11,11	11,16
at the end	12,83	13,63	15,21	15,13
Daily gain, gr/day				
- prestarter	103^{A}	104^{A}	136^{Bc}	161^{Bd}
- starter	229^{a}	272	293^{b}	283^{b}
Average	161^{Ac}	182	208^{B}	216^{d}
Feed conversion, kg/kg				
- prestarter	2,83	2,72	2,31	2,17
- starter	2,99	2,60	2,33	2,26
Average	2,94	2,63	2,33	2,23
Feed consumption , kg/dan				
- prestarter	0,291	0,283	0,314	0,349
- starter	0,685	0,707	0,683	0,640
Average	0,473	0,479	0,485	0,482
Cost of feed din/kg of weight gain	60,45	58,85	52,04	53,70
Index	100,0	97,35	86,09	88,83

Values with different caps are highly significant, values with different small caps are significant.