



# PORK BRIEFS

The Latest Information  
on Swine Nutrition



## RAISING SUMMERTIME HOG ISSUES

Ken Palen, Kenpal Farm Products

Some great news with raising hogs this summer has been the excellent health and performance of these creatures allowing producers to have more time available for crop nurturing and spending time with family. So far this summer has been kind of backwards, with many rainy days and not a lot of sun. This has created other issues for pork producers like slow crop growth and lower summertime hog prices. At the time of writing, these two issues are definitely weighing heavy on producer minds. However, some optimists are predicting lots of sun and heat in August and September which should help both crops and hog prices. While we are waiting for the summer to proceed, we can review the issues affecting summer hogs:

**Average premix prices have dropped from December 2008 to July 2009:**

TABLE 1	
Class	% Drop
Sows	- 22%
Pig Starter	- 4.9%
Grow Finish	- 9.5%

Average premix prices have dropped every month since December, helping to reduce costs of production. Even though growing and finishing premix costs only impact the total cost of raising a hog of between \$4.00 to \$7.00 per hog depending on what the technology is added other than premix (ie. amino acids, phytase enzyme, etc.). It is still nice to know some costs are coming down.



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### Inside this Issue

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### It's a fact - Another Kenpal Customer has Success with Lacta-Fat™

**Lacta-Fat in the Lactation Sow Diet has increased the sows milk production and increased litter weaning weight by over 10%.**

**Kevin Van Bakel  
Dublin, Ontario**



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## DDGS, Amino Acids and Phytase All Still Pay:

With commodity prices bouncing all over the map, when you consider the total ration cost of feeding finishing pigs, it still pays to feed up to 20% DDGS (Dried Distillers Grain with Solubles) along with the other technologies including adding a range of amino acids (not just lysine) and the phytase enzyme.

TABLE 2		
Feeding Program	Cost per Pig	Savings per Pig
Traditional Lysine	\$67.79	0
AAP (amino acid phytase)	\$65.54	-\$ 2.25
AAP – 10% DDGS	\$61.88	- \$5.91
AAP – 20% DDGS	\$58.96	- \$8.83
Commodity prices : 48% SBM \$475/Tonne, DDGS \$155/Tonne, Dry Corn \$183.00/Tonne delivered to farm July 24, 2009, Source Burgessville.		

## Can I feed ½ SBM and ½ DDGS so I can use one bin?

It is possible to feed half DDGS and half SBM blended into one bin from a nutritional point of view. However, there will be additional mixing costs to the blend and the full benefit of feeding 20% DDGS will not be obtained.

TABLE 3		
Feeding Program	Cost per Pig	Extra Cost per Pig
AAP – 20% DDGS	\$58.96	0
AAP – 50% SBM 50% DDGS	\$61.76	+ \$2.80
Commodity price: 50:50 blend of SBM and DDGS \$329.00/tonne July 24, 2009, Source Burgessville		

Slightly higher ratios of DDGS up to 60% DDGS with 40% SBM could be considered to help reduce costs further but considerations of mixing and separation should be considered. Also, using a blend like this for pig starters may be too high in DDGS.

### Another Kenpal Customer has Success with Quality Premixes & Lacta-Fat™

"Kenpal consistently delivers me high quality Premixes and advice. I feed the AAP finishing program using 3 premixes and 4 rations, all with added Lacta-Fat™ on my farm.

I started feeding DDGS during 2008. My feed conversion in my finisher barn was 2.35 kg feed/kg gain for the entire year and my mortality has been between 1 and 2%."

Brian Willemse



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## Commodity blends with Wheat Shorts or Soya Hulls etc.

Feeding high fibre diets in the summertime to growing and finishing hogs can reduce performance (average daily gain and feed efficiency) due to the heat increment created by the pig having to digest the extra fibre. In other words, the pig's body feels hotter while digesting extra fibre which in turn results in the pig getting less energy. When balancing diets using the new Net Energy System which was developed in Europe where a lot of high fibre feeds are used it shows how crude fibre can impact actual net energy in the feeds.

**TABLE 4: DE, ME, NE (Kcal/kg) and Crude Fibre (%) in some feedstuffs**

<u>Feedstuffs</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>ME</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>Crude Fibre</u>
Corn	3390	3320	2650	2.5 %
Soya Meal 48%	3520	3202	1936	3.4%
Wheat Shorts	3010	2900	2150	4.9%
Soya Hulls	2010	1860	1005	34.2%

Adapted from Sauvant et al., (2004)

Note that the higher the crude fibre of feedstuffs the bigger the drop in net energy and the wider the difference between the ME and NE. Indications are that sows can digest higher levels of fibre without as much impact as growing pigs.

## Improved Feed Efficiency Pays Big Time

Anything that we can do to improve feed efficiency from a nutritional point of view still pays even if we need to add some additional cost when adding additional energy. Dropping feed efficiency by 0.1 point in the finishing barn without increasing the cost of the ration will save \$2.34 per pig just on the finishing pigs. It is of utmost importance to check the following:

### Improving to Maintain Feed Efficiency:

- Keep feed mixer calibrated and set correctly.
- Check feeders daily for feed wastages.
- Check waterers daily for flow rates and plugging.
- Check complete feed bins for mold buildup.
- Add extra energy to ration as needed.



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## Feeding Wheat or Barley

Wheat or barley may be fed to hogs, depending on the commodity costs at time of harvest. This year we will need to be concerned about quality with the wet weather. Fusarium mold could be present so feed should be monitored for vomitoxin, zearalenone and T2 toxin. Other factors like processing are very important. Wheat ground too fine can cause reductions in feed intake while wheat and barley ground too coarse can reduce feed efficiency. The following chart shows guidelines of mixing the different wheats and barleys:

**TABLE 5**

	<u>SOFT WHEAT</u> (red or white)	<u>HARD WHEAT</u> (red)	<u>BARLEY</u>
Dry Sow Diets	50%	50%	100%
Lactation Sow Diets	30%	40%	30%
Pig Starter Diets	25%	40%	20%
Grower/Developer Diets	50%	100%	100%
Developer/Finisher Diets	50%	100%	100%

Source: Kenpal Farm Products Inc.

This chart is a guideline only. Many factors affect what quantity a feedstuff can be mixed at, including quality, processing equipment, weight of hog, etc. Producers should talk to their nutrition advisor to determine actual amounts to add on the farm.

### In Summary

Please enjoy the rest of the summer and take time to spend with family and friends. Hopefully you find some ideas in this edition of Pork Briefs will be helpful when making your summertime business decisions.

Thank you

*Published by:*



69819 London Road, RR #1, Centralia, Ontario, Canada, N0M 1K0

Tel: (519) 228-6444 or 1-800-265-2904 • Fax (519) 228-6560 • Email [kpalen@kenpal.on.ca](mailto:kpalen@kenpal.on.ca) • [www.kenpal.on.ca](http://www.kenpal.on.ca)

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