

Formulating Swine Diets with DDGS to Reduce Feed Costs

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Research demonstrates that including DDGS in swine diets can reduce feed costs and improve profit per pig during the finishing phases. However, research has also shown that feeding greater amounts of high-fat DDGS will negatively affect animal performance and fat quality. Reduced-fat DDGS such as Dakota Gold minimize these negative effects on fat quality while still supporting optimal animal performance. This strategy provides a good option during times of tight profit margins in the swine industry.

BACKGROUND

Swine Performance and Economics

In a recent article published in the Journal of Animal Science, Overholt, et al., (2016) observed that feeding 30% DDGS did not affect average daily gain or feed intake during the early-finisher feeding period (Figure 1).

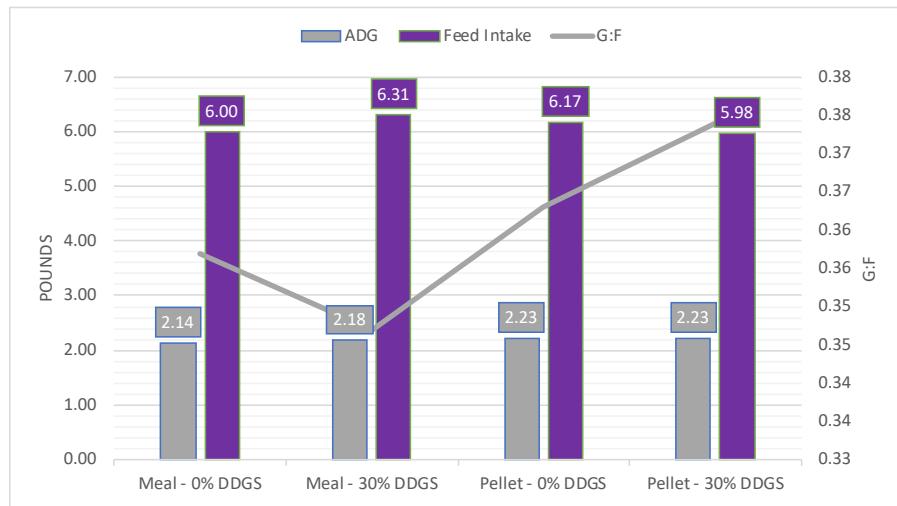
However, the true value of the research relates to the feed cost savings. Using U.S. Upper Midwest commodity prices for April of 2018, the 30% DDGS formulation reduces feed costs by almost 9% per ton. Intakes increased slightly for the pigs fed the DDGS diet so when adjusting for greater intake, this resulted in feed cost savings of \$1.20 per pig for the early and late-finisher feeding phases combined.

Fat Quality

Producers often associate greater inclusion of DDGS during the finishing phases with poorer fat quality because of greater intake of unsaturated fatty acids. However, current trends in DDGS technology can address this concern. Technologies such as POET's BPX process results in a DDGS (Dakota Gold) with less oil but with similar metabolizable energy values to conventional DDGS with greater oil concentration. This means producers can feed greater amounts of Dakota Gold with less oil content (and less potential to negatively affect pork fat quality) while at the same time, providing similar amounts of energy as conventional DDGS.

If you would like more information on how Dakota Gold can lower your feed costs or if you would like more information on the commodity prices used in the above example, please contact POET Nutrition.

(Figure 1) Swine finisher performance fed a meal or pellet diet with 0 or 30% DDGS. Overholt, et al., 2016.



*These results are not a guarantee of nutritional value, as laboratory results are influenced by factors beyond the control of POET Nutrition.