

# 30% extra dose of crystalline lysine, methionine, threonine, tryptophan and valine in relation to the “Ideal-protein-concept” halves piglet diarrhoea outbreaks

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## Background

Low-protein diets are known to efficiently reduce diarrhoea but also reducing growth and feed efficiency in pigs.

## Objective

The aim of this study was to determine the effect of protein concentrations and crystalline lysine, methionine, threonine, tryptophan and valine relative to the “Ideal-protein” on productivity and diarrhoea incidence.

## Materials and Methods

A study was conducted with 6,454 piglets in a surface-response trial with four protein concentrations and five levels of added crystalline amino acids (AA) with 23 replicates of 20 treatments. Methionine, threonine, tryptophan and valine were kept in the proportions 32, 62, 22 and 67%, respective to lysine. The protein ranged from 13.8-21.8% crude protein (CP). The AA ranged at each protein level from 99-136% standardized ileal digestible (SID) lysine:leucine (Lys:Leu), expressing the added crystalline AA:protein. 100% SID Lys:Leu approximates the internationally used “Ideal-protein”-ratio between essential SID AA:lysine. Statistical analyses were conducted with classical surface-response methods in SAS.

## Results

Productivity improved with increasing protein (average daily gain (ADG): P<0.0001; feed conversion ratio (FCR): P<0.0001) and with higher doses of the five crystalline AAs (ADG: P<0.0038; FCR: P<0.0001). ADG peaked at 20.6% CP and 113% SID Lys:Leu. The best feed efficiency was reached at 21.8% CP and 131% SID Lys:Leu. The *average diarrhoea treatment days per pig* per 49 days in trial (ADTDPP) increased from 1.7 to 7.1 curvilinearly to protein concentration (P<0.0001). ADTDPP decreased linearly with minimum a factor 2 when elevating the concentration of these five AAs from 100% SID Lys:Leu to 130% SID Lys:Leu (P<0.0001) at all protein concentrations. See Figure 1, where the levels of the 20 treatments are shown in framed purple numbers.

