



Feeding programs for growing–finishing pigs to enhance global competitiveness: Opportunities across Canada

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This project aims to match dietary nutrient supply with the growing-finishing pig's nutrient requirements to reduce feed cost per kilogram of carcass or lean pork and also to reduce nutrient losses into the environment.

Summary

Feed cost is by far the greatest cost of pig production (65-70%), and growing-finishing pigs account for around 80% of feed consumed. The continued high costs of feed with peaks in 2012 are evidence of the need to develop cost-effective feeding strategies for growing-finishing pigs.

During this project, the researchers will work to:

- expand the feedstuff matrix in Canada with new and improved feedstuffs well characterized for inclusion in diets for growing-finishing pigs.
- determine the impact of precision feeding techniques to meet the nutrient requirements of individual pigs on Canadian commercial grow-to-finish operations.
- improve the usefulness of biological models to evaluate the environmental and financial effects of alternative feeding strategies for groups of growing-finishing pigs.
- Conduct growth performance and meat quality studies to validate optimum feeding strategies that vary with pig genotypes, gender, health status, locally available ingredients, and financial conditions.

Collaborators

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