

Feeding organic minerals to gilts and sows: effects on milk quality and litter performance

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Overview

This project was part of a larger project, where the effects of a partial substitution of inorganic minerals with an organic source on performance and physiological status of sows and their piglets was studied.

For this study, researchers focused on the impact of substituting 50% of inorganic minerals (Cu, Zn and Mn) with organic minerals on milk composition of sows over their two first parities.

Highlights

The Availa®Sow premix, which contains trace elements in organic form, was used at a rate of 750 mg / 1000 kg of feed that was provided to gilts as of 25 kg body weight until completion of the second lactation. The composition of sows' milk, including dry matter, fat, protein, lactose, somatic cells and Immunoglobulin A (IgA), was determined in samples collected on day 7 of lactation for both the first and second parities.

It was observed that this feeding strategy had no significant effect on the composition of sow milk.

Implications for the swine industry

Even if this feeding strategy could potentially have a beneficial effect on sow longevity, results demonstrated no benefits for sow milk composition.

Collaborators

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