



285 Research paper

Effect of Brazilian red pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi) essential oil on performance, diarrhea and gut health of weanling

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In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Feed / gut health \ Feed additives and supplements Specific

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;

Summary:

This study aimed to evaluate the effects of dietary Brazilian red pepper essential oil and an antimicrobial agent on weanling pig growth performance, diarrhea, pH of the digestive content, small intestine cells, and intestine microbial counts. Ninety weanling castrated male pigs were given five treatments: a diet supplemented with 0 (negative control), 500, 1000, and 1500mg/kg Brazilian red pepper essential oil vs with 120mg/kg chlorohydroxyquinoline (antibiotic). Treatments had no effect on growth performance, diarrhea occurrence, pH of the digestive content, gut mucosa and intestinal microbial counts of weanling pigs. However, pigs fed the diet containing 500mg/kg essential oil had thicker gut mucosa than those fed diets containing the antibiotic or 1000 and 1500 mg/ kg essential oil. Thus, Brazilian red pepper essential oil and the antibiotic are of limited benefit for enhancing the growth of weanling pigs. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of growth enhancer additives may be reduced in non-challenging situations.

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