



477 Research paper

Using probiotics to improve swine gut health and nutrient utilization

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In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Specific alternatives \ Pre-/probiotics Feed / gut health

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Not stated;

Summary:

Beyond its physiological function as the alimentary canal for nutrient digestion and absorption, pig's gastro-intestinal tract (GIT) is also one of the largest organs that helps animal's immune function, because by nature the gut is animal's first line of defense against the microbial pressure from its environment, especially the invasive pathogens from the GIT lumen. Activation of the GIT immune system incurs the direct cost of producing a diverse set of specialized immune cells and signaling molecules, as well as the losses in the efficiency of GIT digestive function. Therefore, only a healthy gut can lead to a healthy pig. And only a healthy pig can utilize dietary nutrients efficiently for tissue accretion, and lead to a better production performance and, thus, a higher return on investment for swine producers. This review paper aims to provide some much needed up-to-date knowledge and comprehensive references for swine nutritionists and producers to refer to before making prudent decisions and for scientists and researchers to develop better commercial products.

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Where to find the original material:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5941265/pdf/main.pdf>;

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