



488 Research paper

Do weaner pigs need in-feed antibiotics to ensure good health and welfare?

by Diana, A., Manzanilla, E.G., J.A. Calderon Diaz, Leonard, F.C., and 2017 PLoS One 12: e0185622

In Significant Impact Groups:

AMU reduction strategies \ None Feed / gut health

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;

Summary:

Antibiotics (AB) are an effective tool to control and treat infectious diseases in intensive production systems where high densities of animals facilitate the spread of pathogens. However, there is an overreliance on their usage and farmers often see them as the only solution to disease challenges. Prophylactic use of AB in feed around weaning is common on Irish pig farms. This could contribute to create AB resistance which is a major global concern for human as well as animal health. This study has shown removing AB from the feed of weaner pigs had minimal effects on health and welfare indicators.

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Where to find the original material:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5628837/pdf/pone.0185622.pdf>;

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