

Effects of supplying extra milk on production in suckling piglets on a high production farm

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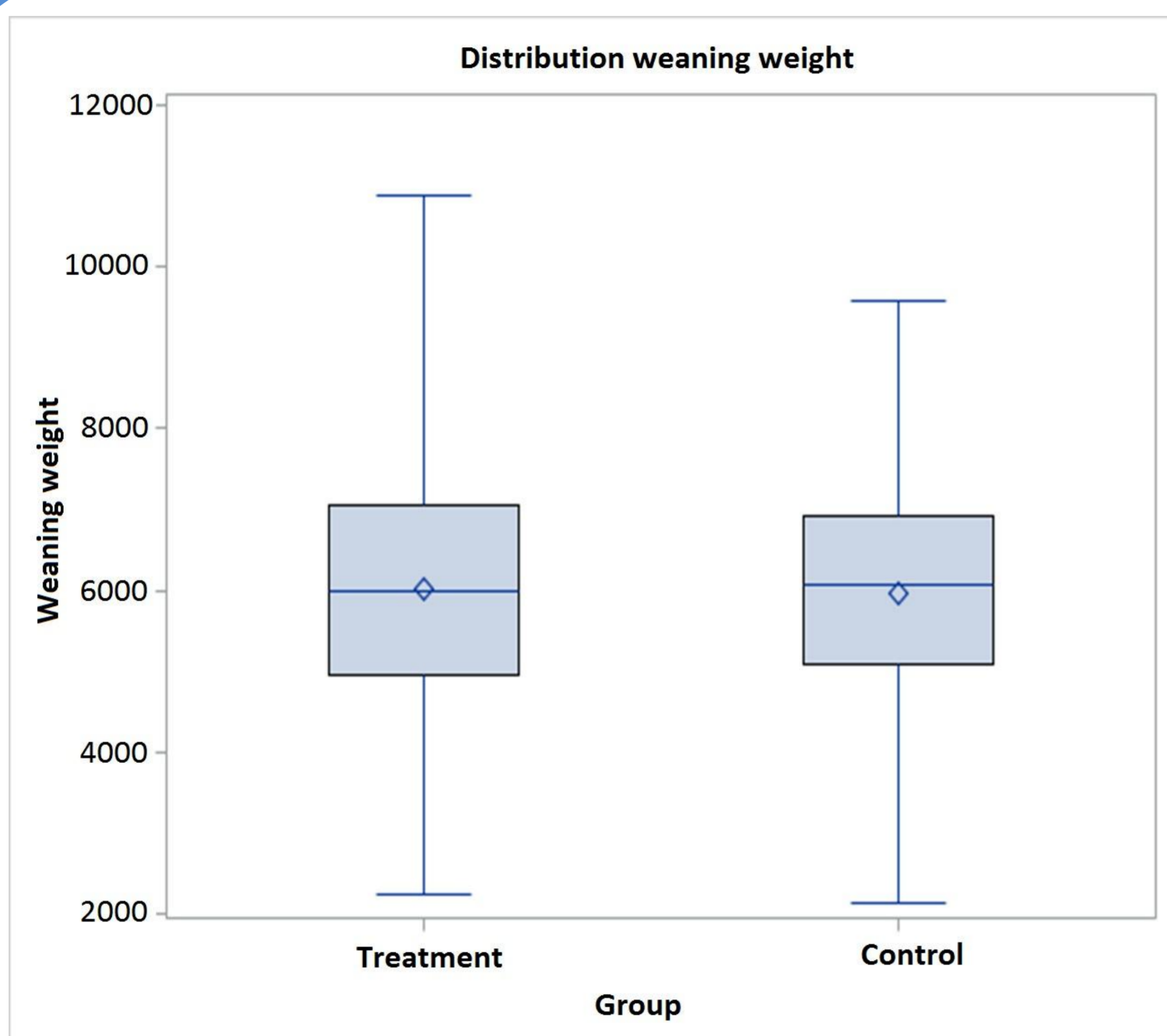
Introduction

Optimising production is an important aspect in pig farming. To increase the growth of small piglets, extra artificial milk can be supplied in the farrowing crate, for example by introducing Rescue Cups[®]. The question however is, whether the provision of extra milk can decrease piglet mortality and increase the growth of small piglets.



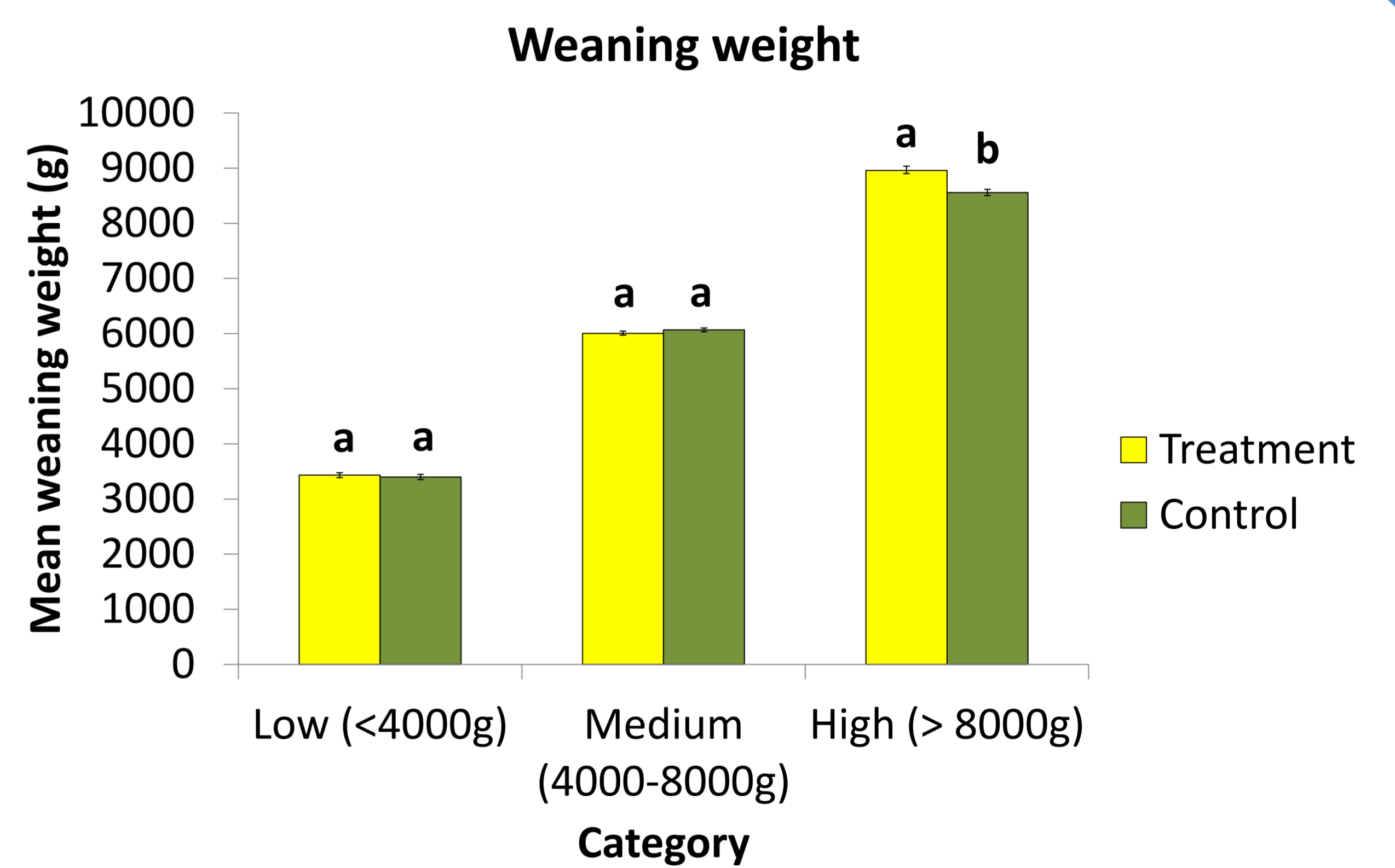
Materials and method

- 795 piglets from 63 sows had access to extra milk (Rescue Cups[®]; treatment group) (day 4 to day 15) and 780 piglets from 64 sows had no access to extra milk (control group)
- Birth weight, weaning weight and piglet mortality were measured.

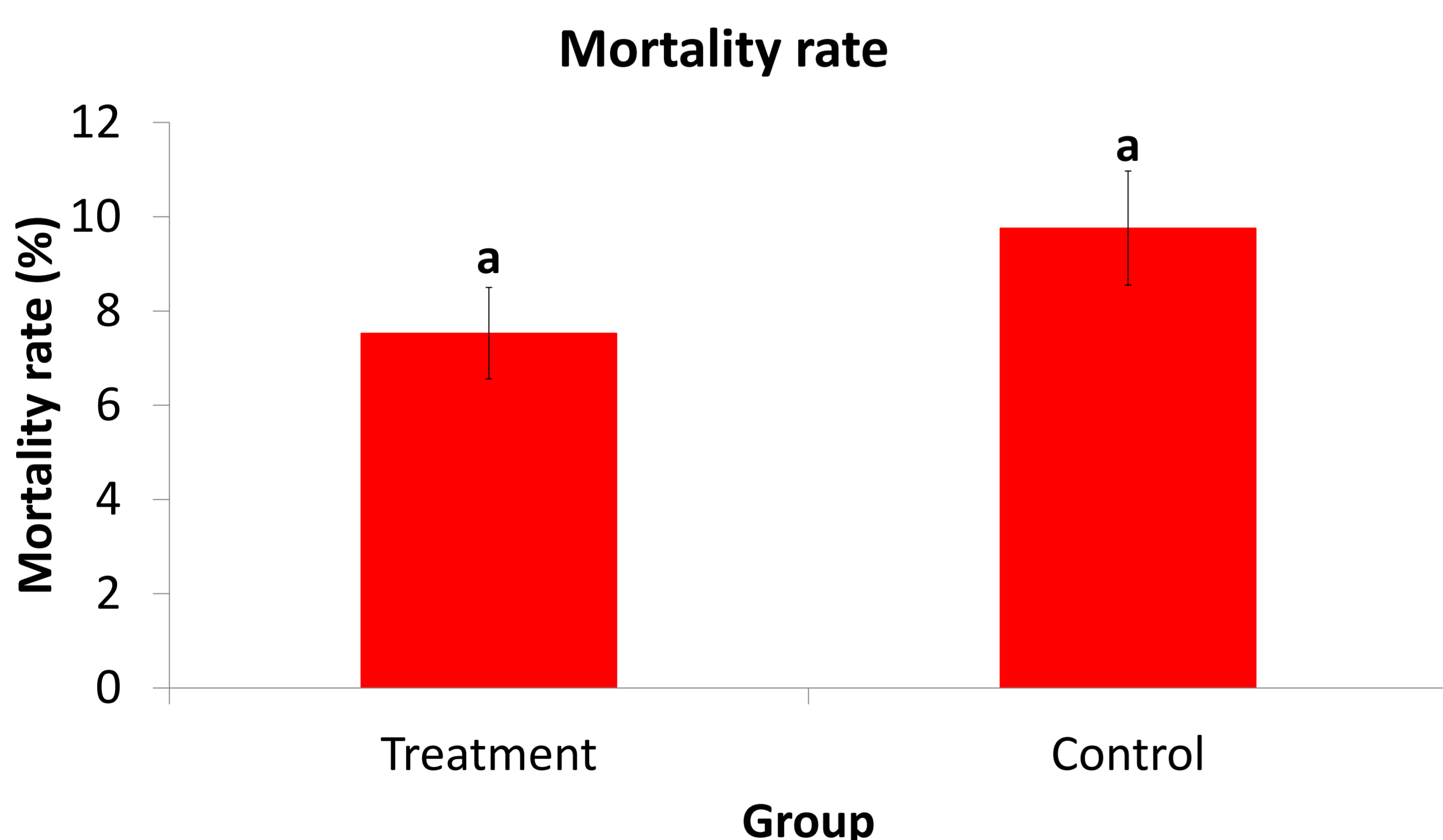


1. The uniformity is better within the control group compared to the treatment group.

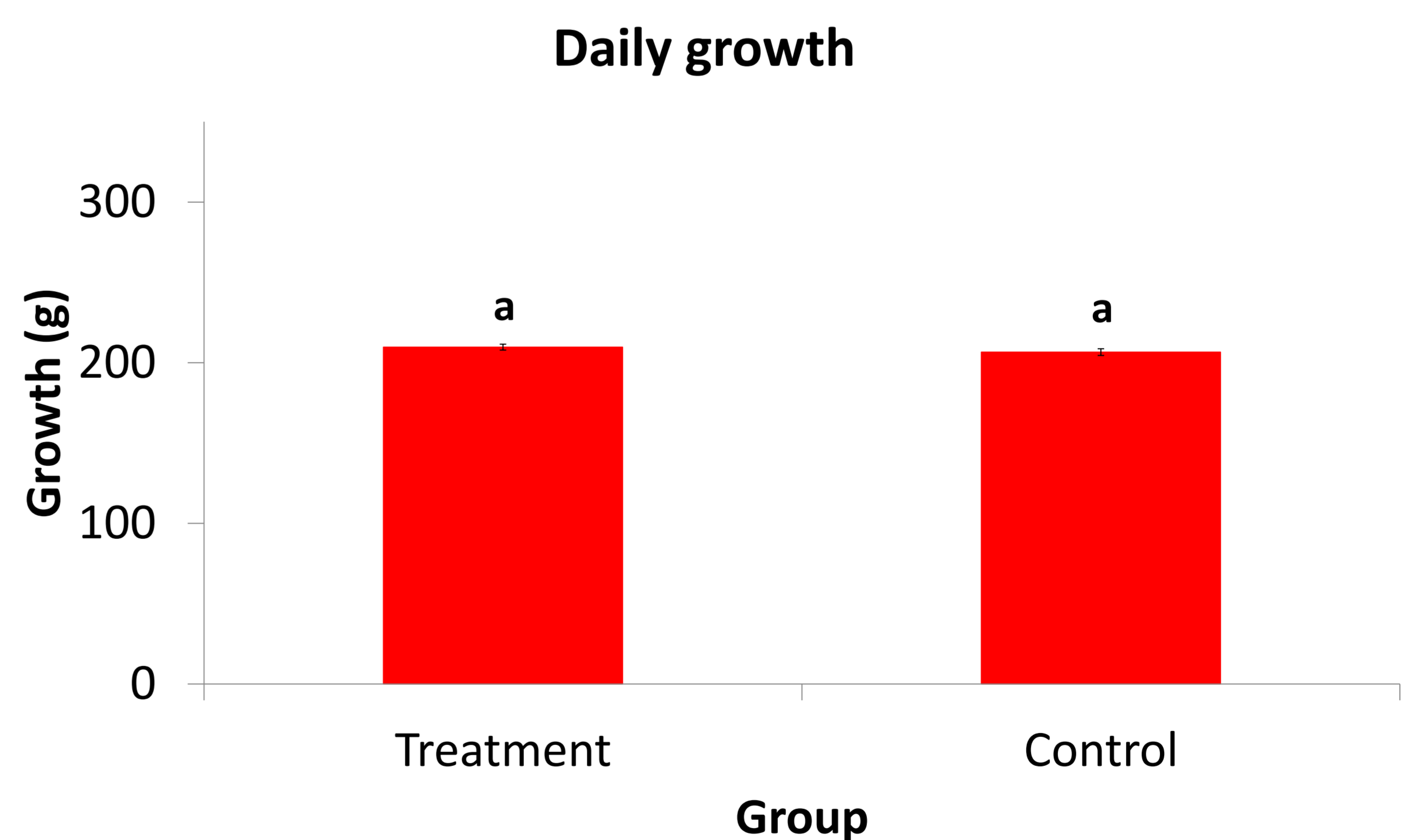
Results



2. There is no difference in mean weaning weight within the group of piglets with the lowest weaning weight between treatment and control group.



3. There was no significant difference in mortality rate.



4. Daily growth did not differ between treatment and control group.

Conclusions

- When the management at a pig farm is good, as this was the case in this study, additional measures to decrease the mortality rate do not always lead to benefit.
- Not only small piglets, but also heavier piglets drink milk from the Rescue Cups[®].

Acknowledgements

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