

Productivity and feeding behaviour of finishing pigs fed with a calming herbal extract blend (ConverMax®)

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INTRODUCTION

ConverMax® is a mineral feed containing a mixture of herbal extracts compounds



By improving energy utilization



Better growth performance



Modifying pig behaviour

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the effect of the inclusion of herbal extracts blend on growth performance, feeding behaviour and skin lesions in finishing pigs

Material and Methods

- 72 Pietrain x (Landrace x Large White) pigs
- From 84 (75 kg BW) to 130 days (110 kg BW) of fattening:
 - **Control group** = common basal diet
 - **Treatment group** = common basal diet + 2 kg/tn of **ConverMax®**
- Ad libitum access to water and feed
- 6 pens (12 pigs/pen) with one automatic feed intake recording equipment each
- Completely randomized block design
- Measurements:
 - Individual growth parameters
 - Feeding behavioural parameters (ADFI, number of effective visits (>100g/visit) and feed intake/effective visit)
 - Skin lesions at 2 days post-fasting



Skin lesions

Total amount of lesions of the right side of the body of each pig were evaluated 2 days post-fasting according to the following scale adapted from Welfare Quality®(2009)

Level 0:

Up to 4 visible lesions



Level 1:

From 5 to 10 visible lesions



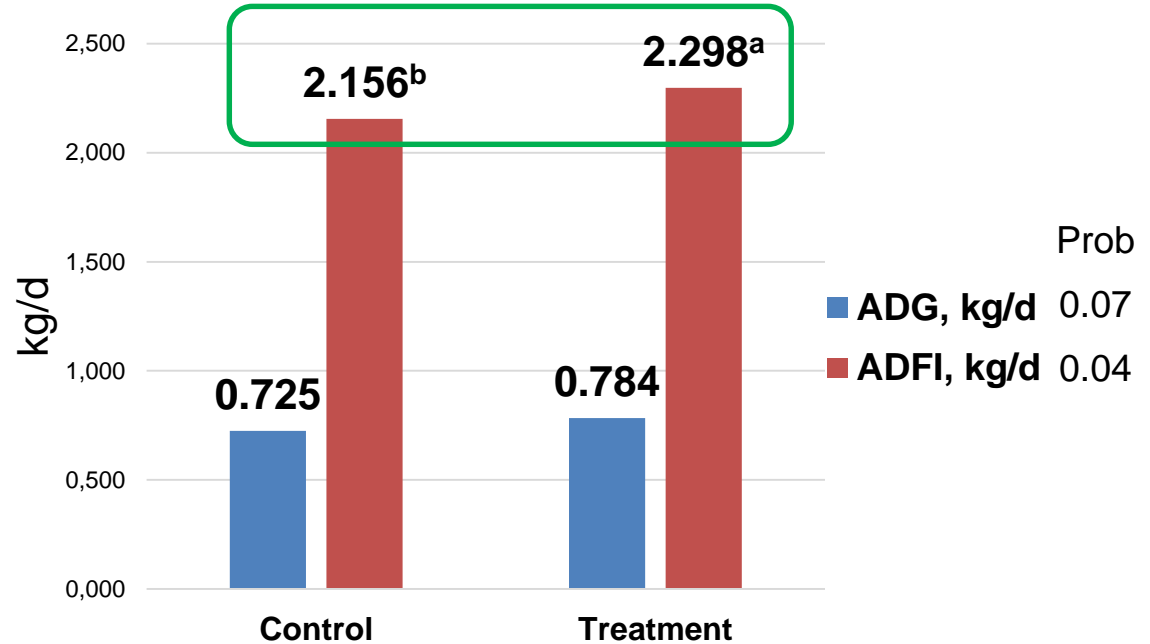
Level 2:

More than 10 visible lesions



RESULTS: Growth performance, 84 to 130 d

Pigs fed with herbal extracts blend had an ADFI greater and tended to grow faster than pigs fed with control diet



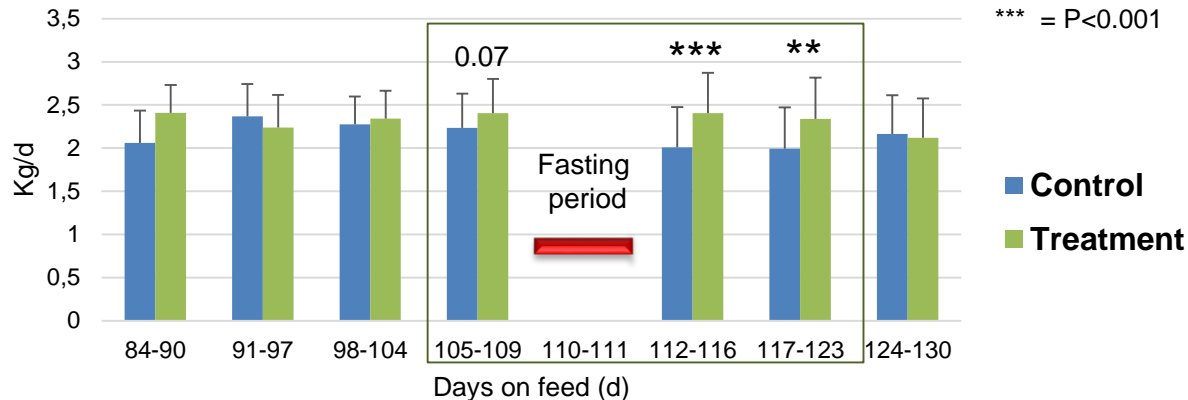
- ✓ No significant differences were shown for BW on day 84 (75 kg) between treatments

RESULTS: Feeding behaviour

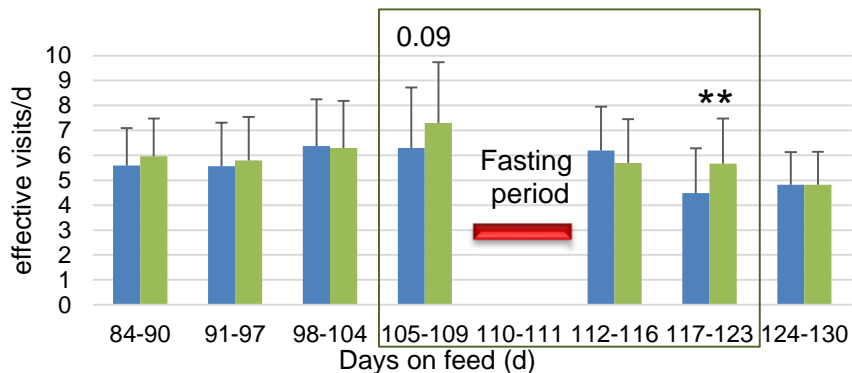
After 20 days feeding with herbal extracts blend, ADFI increased as a result of:

- ↑ effective visits/d
- ↑ feed intake per effective visit/d

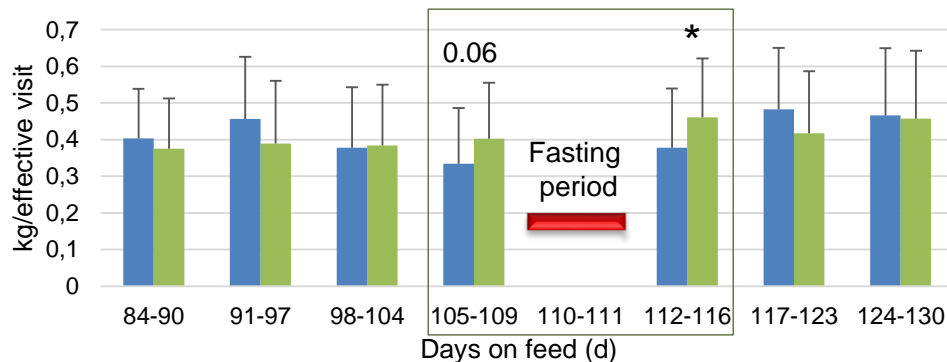
ADFI



Effective visits

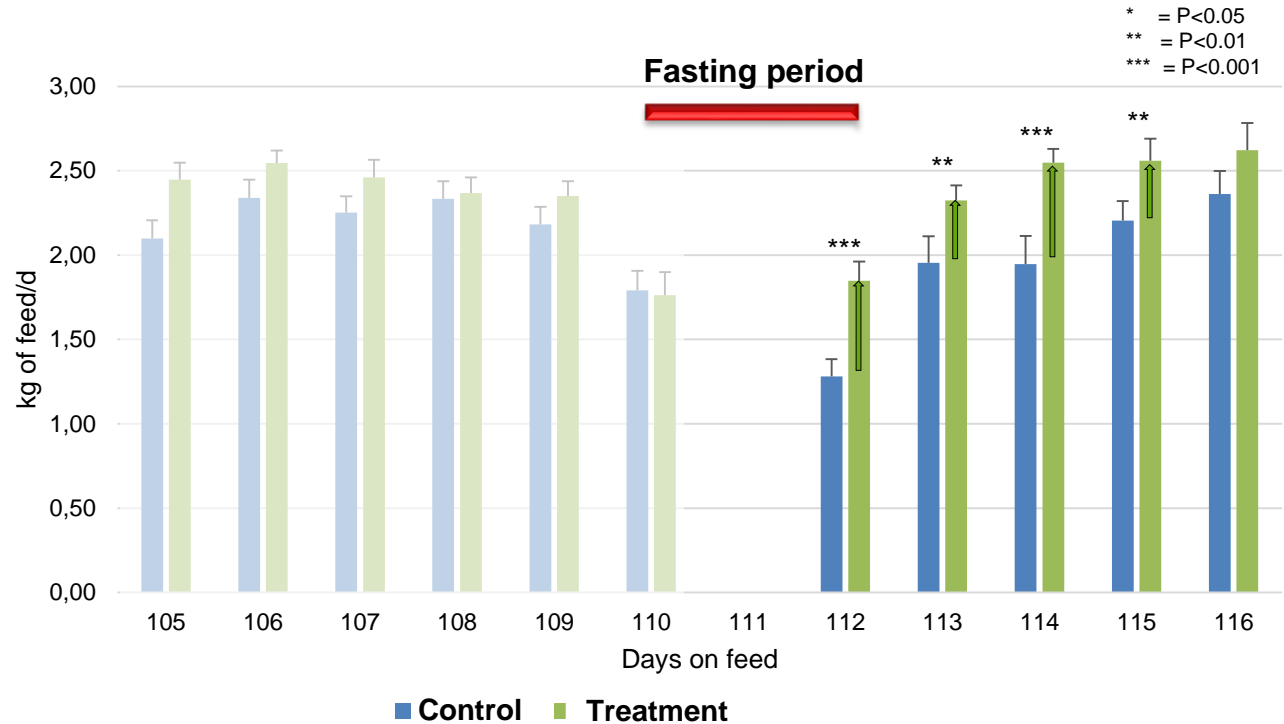


Feed intake per effective visit



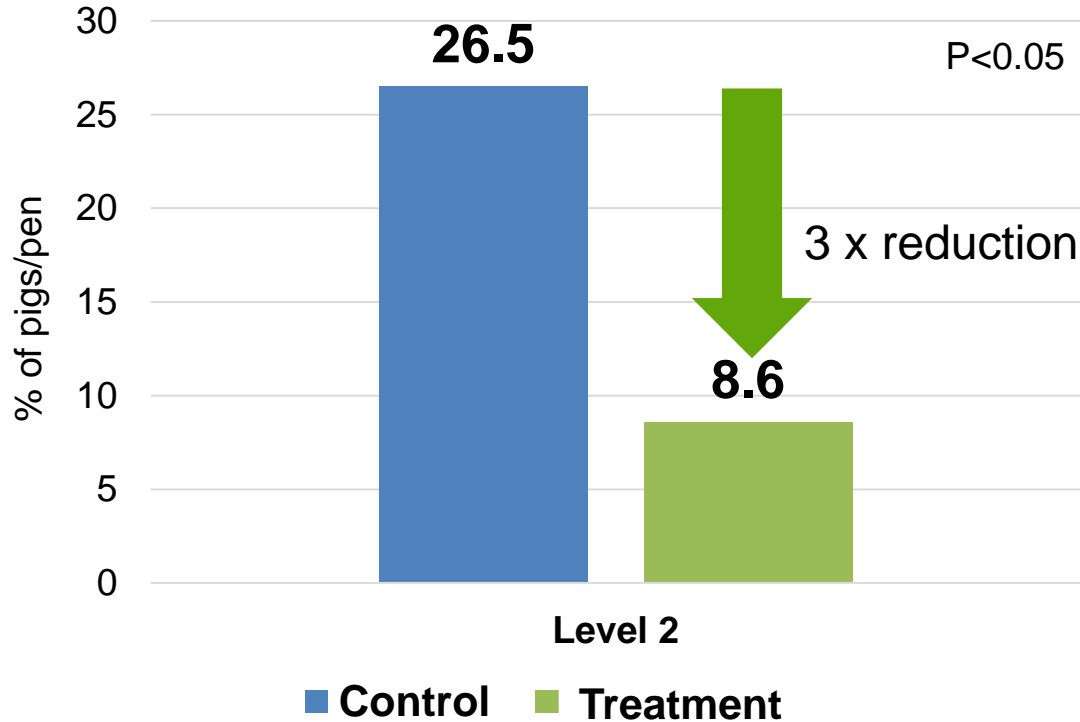
RESULTS: Daily feed intake recovery after 42 hours fasting

Treatment pigs
recovered feed intake
faster than Control pigs



- ✓ No significant differences were shown between treatments for any other feeding behavioural parameter the following five days after fasting period

RESULTS: Severe skin lesions 2 days post-fasting



Herbal extracts blend reduced by three-fold severe skin lesions

CONCLUSION: Pigs fed with ConverMax® ...

Growth Performance

...had a greater ADG and ADFI than pigs fed with control diet



Agressiveness

...had fewer severe skin lesions 2 days post-fasting than pigs fed with control diet

Feeding behaviour

...recovered feed intake faster after fasting period than pigs fed with control diet



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