

It's well known that using plasma in piglet nursery diets helps get pigs off to a good start. What you might not know is to obtain the maximum economic and performance benefits of plasma, it is important to use the appropriate feeding duration and level of plasma in nursery pig diets.

Research demonstrates that "least cost diets" which are formulated to meet minimal nutritional requirements, with lower digestibility ingredients, may not provide sufficient nutritional value to meet growth and performance needs. These diets may be less palatable and/or contain less digestible sources of proteins.



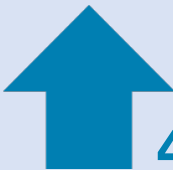

On the other hand, "best cost diets" formulated to contain adequate, balanced levels of digestible nutrients and amino acids, along with appropriate levels of spray-dried plasma, help to overcome dietary limitations associated with "least cost diets". Best cost diets get weaned pigs off to a great start and strong finish.

In short, multiple titration studies* demonstrate that spray-dried plasma should be fed at the recommended rate of 5% for 14 days in nursery diets to obtain an economically optimal effect. Using a lower inclusion level may result in diminished results with only short-term benefits that are not maintained long-term. When fed at the appropriate level, spray-dried plasma will more than pay for itself in performance.



For optimal performance and payback, feed 5% plasma for 14 days in nursery diets

Bottom Line:

AVERAGE DAILY GAIN	AVERAGE DAILY FEED INTAKE	FEED CONVERSION RATIO	MORTALITY
 31%	 25%	 4%	 50%

*Summary Effects of Experiments

Coffey and Cromwell, 2001. *Pig News and Information* 22(2):39N-48N.

Van Dijk, 2001. *Livestock Production Science* 68:263-274.

Torrallardona, 2010, *Asian-Australian J. Anim. Sci.* 23:131-148