

Effect of dietary vitamin E and C supplementation on performance of sows and piglets

Summary

The study was carried out on 139 multiparous sows, divided into 3 groups which received the following addition to their diet: control group – vitamin E (60 mg/kg of diet), experimental group – vitamin E (200 mg/kg), experimental group – vitamin E (200 mg/kg) + vitamin C (500 mg/kg). In spite of an increased concentration of these vitamins in the serum of piglets, no clear advantageous effect on the rearing results was found. However, the advantageous post-effect of the vitamins fed to sows was shown. An addition of vitamin E fed together with vitamin C had a significant influence on a decreased body temperature of sows after farrowing and reduced the number of sows culled after the rearing of litter. Sows from this group delivered a larger the number of piglets born in the subsequent litter compared to the sows that were given only an increased dose of vitamin E and sows from the control group.

KEY WORDS: high-pregnant and suckled sows, nutrition, vitamin E, vitamin C, rearing of piglets