Triticale-Based Diets for Market Pigs in Deep-Bedded Hoop Barns: A Progress Report

Mark Honeyman, professor
Zebblin Sullivan, research assistant
Department of Animal Science
Wayne Roush, superintendent

Introduction

Triticale (trit-ah-kay-lee) is a relatively new, synthetic small-grain crop produced by crossing Durum wheat with rye. Triticale was developed to combine the high crude protein and digestible energy of wheat with the high yields and protein quality of rye. Triticale has the ability to grow in acidic soils and extreme climates, and has larger yields than rye, making it a practical and economical feedstuff. Triticale is not a major crop in the United States; therefore, it has not been widely fed to livestock.

Small grains such as triticale may provide an excellent addition to Iowa's swine industry. There may be advantages to adding these cereal grains to swine production. Generally, pigs fed small grains perform as well as those fed corn-based diets. Other attributes make utilization of these grains attractive as well. Producers are able to add a third crop to a typical corn-soybean rotation. This may prove beneficial, because producers are able to reduce costs, improve distribution of labor and equipment, improve yields of corn and soybeans, provide better cash flows, alleviate crop pest problems, and reduce weather risks. Small cereal grains may provide environmental benefits such as erosion control and improved nutrient recycling.

Different cultivars of triticale may have differences in nutrient composition. When using triticale in swine diets, it is important to know the variety and its nutrient composition. Overall, compared with corn, triticale has a higher crude protein content, lower ether extract content (fat), and a higher crude fiber content; therefore, it provides a lower level of energy than corn. In addition to having greater lysine content than corn, triticale also has a more balanced amino acid profile. Only 14% of the phosphorus in corn is available to pigs, but 46% of the phosphorus in triticale is available. In triticale-based diets, less inorganic phosphorus needs to be added and less phosphorus will be excreted. Also, the additional cost of inorganic phosphorus may be reduced.

Materials and Methods

A total of 24 pens of ten pigs (five barrows and five gilts) were fed three diets. The three diets were control (corn and soybean meal), 40% triticale, and 80% triticale (by weight). The diets were isolysinic, based on calculated analysis. Table 1 shows the composition of the diets used for the study. Prior to allotment, pigs were fed together in a separate, large deep-bedded hoop structure and transferred to the test pens in bedded hoops for the trial. Each test pen had one water space and two feeder spaces. Pigs were given a two-week adjustment period to adapt to the new diets and smaller pens. The pigs were started on experiment at approximately 160 lbs. The pigs were weighed at the beginning and end of the trial and marketed at Farmland, Denison, IA. Pigs were scanned using ultrasound at the end of the trial to measure backfat and loin eye area.

Results and Discussion

Performance of the pigs fed experimental diets is shown in Table 2. The pigs were started on test at approximately 160 lbs and fed for 49 days. Average daily gain was 2.1 lb/d for pigs fed the corn-soybean meal diet, 1.9 lb/d for pigs fed the 40% triticale diet, and 1.5 lb/d for pigs fed the 80% triticale diet. However, there was no difference in average daily feed intake for the three diets. As a result, feed efficiency was

much poorer for pigs fed triticale-based diets. Pigs fed the control corn-soybean diet required 4.1 lb feed/lb gain. Pigs fed the 40% triticale diet required 4.5 lb feed/lb gain. And, pigs fed the 80% triticale diet required 5.4 lb feed/lb gain. Pigs fed the 40% triticale diet had the same backfat thickness as the control diet, whereas pigs fed the 80% triticale diet had slightly less backfat thickness. Pigs fed triticale diets had smaller loins than pigs fed the corn-soybean meal diet (7.53 in^2, 7.15 in^2, and 6.12 in^2, for the control, 40% triticale, and 80% triticale diets, respectively).

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Table 1. Composition of diets fed to pigs in deep-bedded hoop barns, %.

Ingredient	Corn-SBM	40% triticale	80% triticale
Corn	85.00	46.50	8.50
Triticale	0.00	40.00	80.00
SBM	12.91	11.53	9.64
Dicalcium phosphate	0.60	0.33	0.07
Limestone	0.90	1.05	1.20
Salt	0.34	0.34	0.34
Vit Premix	0.20	0.20	0.20
Min Premix	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Calculated Analysis

	Corn-SBM	40% triticale	80% triticale
Crude protein, %	12.90	13.60	14.10
Lysine, %	0.61	0.62	0.61
Ca, %	0.53	0.54	0.55
Available P, %	0.17	0.17	0.18
ME, kcal/kg	3320.00	3240.00	3160.00

Table 2. Performance of pigs housed in deep-bedded hoops fed 0, 40, and 80% triticale diets.

Diet	Corn/soy	40% triticale	80% triticale
Pigs, no.	80	80	80
Start wt, lbs	160.4	159.5	156.1
End wt, lbs	260.6	251.6	230.6
Gain, lbs	100.2	92.1	74.5
Days on test, d	49	49	49
Avg. Daily Gain, lb/d	2.1	1.9	1.5
Avg. Daily Feed, lb/d	8.4	8.4	8.2
Feed/Gain, lb feed/ lb gain	4.1	4.5	5.4
Backfat, in.	0.82	0.81	0.76
Loin eye area, in^2.	7.53	7.15	6.12