

Influence of humic acids on the rearing performance and health of piglets

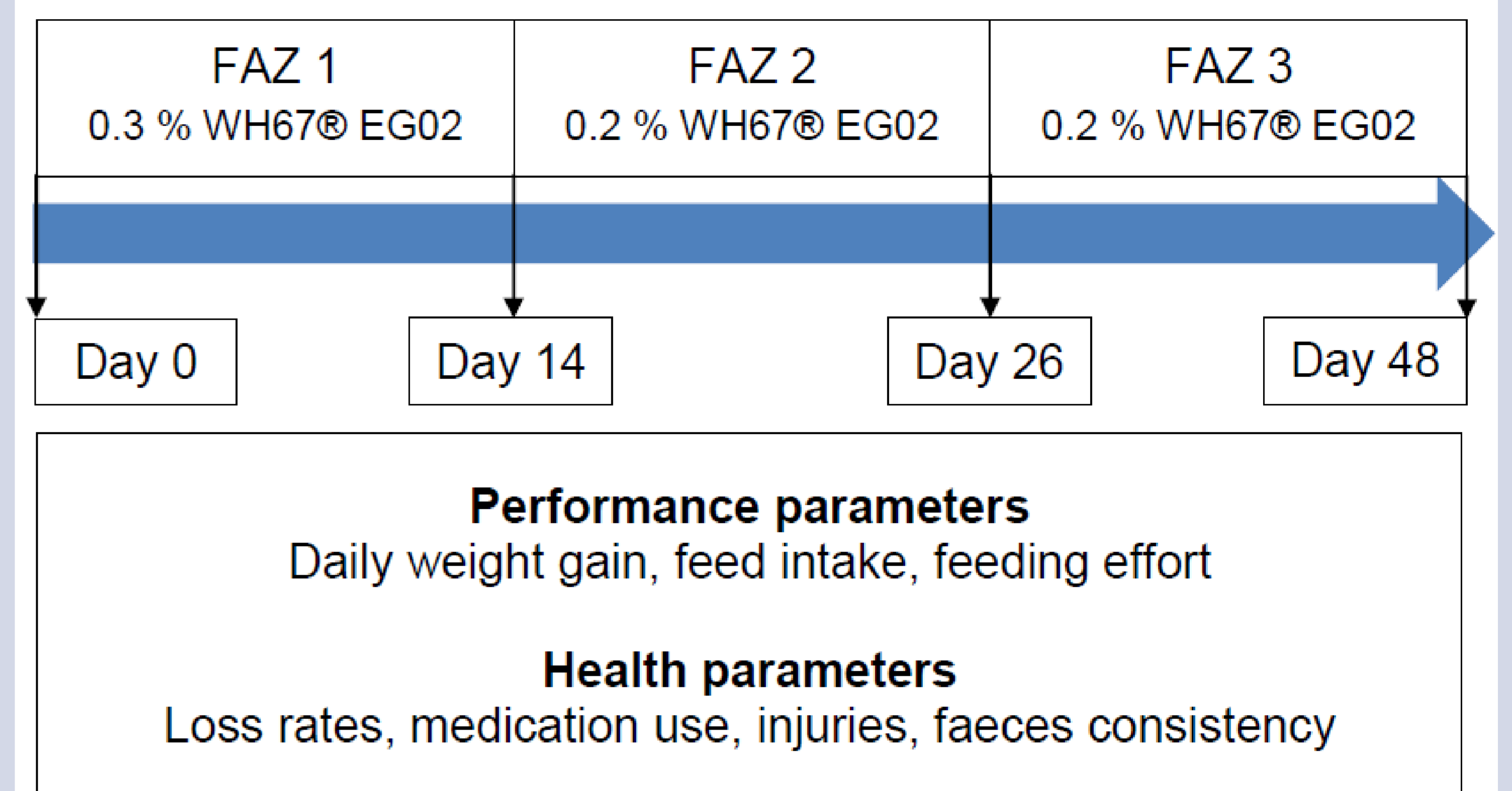
Lütke-Dörhoff, M.¹, Westendarp, H.¹, Reeken, J-B.²

Objective

- Investigation of the influence of humic acids on selected performance and health parameters of weaned piglets

Materials and methods

- 336 weaned piglets, trial and control (n=168 piglets)
- ∅ start weight: 7.38 kg
- ∅ age: 26 days
- Trial period: 48 days
- Two variants á 6 pens (28 animals per pen)
- Mixed-gender stabling (14 male and 14 female animals per pen)
- Trial variant: 3/2 kg WH67® EG02 per t feed
- Animal individual weighing and scoring
- ANOVA (SPSS)



Trial procedure

Results

Table 1: Summary of results

Parameter	Unit	Control (n = 168)	Trial WH67® EG02 (n = 167)	Difference	p
Daily weight gain					
Days 01-14	g/Day	196.93 ^a	230.31 ^b	33.38	<0.001
Days 15-26	g/Day	441.02	453.54	12.52	0.191
Days 27-48	g/Day	619.72	638.79	19.07	0.074
Total	g/Day	457.16^a	478.51^b	21.35	0.007
Daily feed intake					
Days 01-14	g/Day	274.73	299.53	24.80	0.065
Days 15-26	g/Day	576.64^a	611.24^b	34.60	0.041
Days 27-48	g/Day	1031.66	1072.23	40.57	0.121
Total	g/Day	706.12^a	740.87^b	34.75	0.045
Feeding effort					
Days 01-14	kg/kg	1.41	1.30	-0.11	0.192
Days 15-26	kg/kg	1.31	1.35	0.04	0.210
Days 27-48	kg/kg	1.66	1.68	0.02	0.561
Total	kg/kg	1.55	1.55	0.00	0.736

Significant differences are indicated by superscript letters (a, b) (p < 0.05)



Individual animal identification (practical farm)

Conclusion

- Significant higher daily weight gain in the piglets of the humic acid variant (+ 21.35 g/animal and Day; p = 0.007).
- Significant higher feed intake in the piglets of the humic acid variant (+ 34.75 g/animal and Day; p = 0.045).
- No significant differences between the variants could be determined for the parameters feeding effort, injuries, faeces consistency, medication use and loss rates.