

# NATURAL FARMA

---

## German Feed Company Leading with Science-Led Nutrition

Here are two short cases studies which coincided with my visit to see the Gites factory where the WH67 Humic acid is manufactured. The WH67 complementary feed developed for pigs, poultry, ruminants, equine and pets has a considerable following in the German pig industry after Gites started to supply commercial livestock nearly ten years ago. Their parent company, Pharmawerk also has registered veterinary pharmaceuticals and human medical products based on Humic acids for Crohn's and chronic gut inflammation so there was a natural progression to the feed industry once Leonardite was approved as a feed material in 2013. I have it on good authority from nutritionists and farmers here in the UK that animals were regularly fed peat and coal many years ago for beneficial health reasons and it has since become apparent that the Humic acids contained in both were the active components.

## Feed Mill Visit Near Leipzig



-The company has six mills which includes one organic mill all based in Germany manufacturing just over 1.5 million tonnes of feed a year.

-The older mill I visited manufactures just over 100,000 tonnes a year and is running at full capacity. 50% of the total feed goes into the pig industry (Approx. 20 customers and the largest being 10,000 sows) and the remainder goes into the layer/ruminant industries. They

don't supply feed for broilers or turkeys due to potential contamination from coccidiostats with not having separate manufacturing lines.

-Their ethos is to keep it simple and concentrate on high digestibility from high quality ingredients especially ones as low as possible in mycotoxins.

-The company don't claim to be the lowest cost compounder so concentrate more on quality and often find previous customers often return to them for feed after trying alternative suppliers at a lower cost.

-They are currently looking to make their own supplementary premixes for specialist feeds where they feel this could be highly beneficial.

-They have been using WH67 Humic acid in pig diets with great success and are looking to put it in more layer/ruminant diets due to the results they have seen in pig health.

-They use WH67 in **100% of their creep feeds** where this then drops down to 30% in the weaner feed. Approximately 20% of all sow diets have WH67 included as they have noticed the pregnant sows are much calmer especially during farrowing. They particularly like the WH67 usage in sows as they have observed it has led to better piglet health. Dosages: creep feed 2.5kg/t, 1.5kg/t in the weaner feed, 1kg/t in lactating sows.

-In piglet diets they work with the enzyme ability of the animal so don't over spec the protein which they find can cause gastric upsets. The WH67 greatly helps with early intakes, behaviour, of course reduces cases of scouring and since using WH67 they use significantly less calcium butyrate in diets.

-The best farm weans 38 piglets and the FCR can be 1.5 or even less by the end of the gilt rearing period. They mentioned that breeders were too focused on piglet numbers but has now changed to a more health-based focus.

### **Visit to 1,300 Sow Breeding Unit**



-The farm visited houses 1,300 sows and is part of 6,000-acre farming cooperative which also includes 1,500 dairy cows.

-They average 13.8 piglets per weaning and are typically of 6.5-7.0 Kg of weight.

They have been using WH67 Humic acid since 2018 and have observed the following benefits:

- Far less ear necrosis (Approx. 90% reduction)
- One more piglet weaned per year since started WH67 in the feed
- Milk yield/availability has noticeably improved
- Far better piglet health & vastly reduced scouring incidents
- Less antibiotics used throughout the farm
- Visitors have noted far less odour/ammonia emitted from the farm (this is a noticeable side effect of feeding Humic acids to all livestock species).

-The farm manager commented that don't just concentrate on the piglet with WH67 Humic acid so start with the sow as a step before to get the most out of the benefits. The Humic acids fed to the sow help to neutralise excessive bacterial endotoxins so far less are passed onto the piglet in the milk which can help prevent numerous health problems.

-They top dress the creep feed with WH67 themselves at this farm but couldn't give an exact dosage as they just wanted to ensure there was plenty available due to the positive effects seen.

-Due to the pigs not being downgraded due to ear health, they can command another **10 Euros for a 28 Kg pig** which has been a big financial gain to the business. The buyer is now recommending the WH67 Humic acid to all the farms that supply the company as they believe they see far more consistency since feeding WH67.

There is now a new resources tab on the website with more information on the WH67 product along with some media/studies and more planned on the way.

For further information on the WH67 complementary feed please visit [www.naturalfarma.co.uk](http://www.naturalfarma.co.uk) or email [info@naturalfarma.co.uk](mailto:info@naturalfarma.co.uk)