THE CLINICAL EFFECTS OF AMPEROZIDE (HOGPA®) - A NOVEL ANTI-STRESS COMPOUND - IN PIG PRODUCTION.

II. THE EFFECTS OF AMPEROZIDE ON PRODUCTION PARAMETERS IN FATTENING PIGS.

B.J. Björk, A. Christensson, E., and Olsson, O.-G., AB Ferrogen, P.O. Box 630, S-201 80 Malmö, Sweden.

Hartingsson, K., Swedish Pig Health Organization, KBS, P.O. Box 568, S-291 25 Kristianstad, Sweden; and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, S-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden.

The properties of amperozone in weaners and fatteners have shown that besides reducing fighting and biting and resulting in better hygiene conditions in the pen, an improved gain and feed conversion efficiency has been reached. Normally weight losses due to transportation into a fattening unit and adaptation to a new environment are between 7-10% of the live weight of the pigs. The regain of these losses is markedly increased when amperozone is used as a treatment against stress and aggressiveness (see Part I. The antiaggressive properties of amperozone in weaners and fatteners).

In order to find a fast and simple method of treating the pigs when entering the fattening barn, a formulation for oral administration has been developed. The first feed ration (0.2 kg dry feed/pig) containing amperozone was rationed out before the pigs entered the pen.

In 1981-1982, a large series of trials with per os administration was undertaken at farms specializing in fattening production. At each farm the control and amperozone trial groups consisted of 100-200 pigs respectively. The same recording system as for the series of trials with injection was used. The results show even better figures than for injection. The weight gain during the first five weeks of feeding was about 3 kg higher for treated pigs. This difference remained throughout the fattening period.

This is not a short-term effect where untreated pigs show compensatory growth at a later phase of the fattening period as showed in a series of trials where a single dose of amperozone was given by injection to growing pigs immediately after transportation into the fattening unit.

For the whole fattening period amperozone-treated groups showed significantly better daily weight gain and feed conversion efficiency compared to control groups of pigs. In addition, a better grading result was observed. It was concluded from this series of trials, that a single treatment with amperozone by injection to growing pigs when entering a fattening unit has positive effects on such production parameters as growth and feed efficiency, and that these effects remain throughout the fattening period.