

THE CLINICAL EFFECTS OF AMPEROZIDE (HOGPAX®) - A NOVEL ANTISTRESS COMPOUND - IN PIG PRODUCTION.

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

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THE PROPERTIES OF AMPEROZIDE IN WEANERS AND FATTENERS HAVE SHOWN THAT BESIDES REDUCING FIGHTING AND BITING AND RESULTING IN BETTER HYGIENIC 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 AMPEROZIDE IS USED AS A TREATMENT AGAINST STRESS AND AGGRESSIVENESS (SEE PART I. THE ANTIAGGRESSIVE PROPERTIES OF AMPEROZIDE IN WEANERS AND FATTENERS).

THIS IS NOT A SHORT-TERM EFFECT WHERE UNTREATED PIGS SHOW COMPENSATORY GROWTH AT A LATER PHASE OF THE FATTENING PERIOD AS SHOWN IN A SERIES OF TRIALS WHERE A SINGLE DOSE OF AMPEROZIDE WAS GIVEN BY INJECTION TO GROWING PIGS IMMEDIATELY AFTER TRANSPORTATION INTO THE FATTENING UNIT.

FOR THE WHOLE FATTENING PERIOD AMPEROZIDE-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 AMPEROZIDE 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.

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 AMPEROZIDE 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 AMPEROZIDE 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 FIVE FIRST WEEKS OF FEEDING WAS ABOUT 3 KG HIGHER FOR TREATED PIGS. THIS DIFFERENCE REMAINED THROUGHOUT THE FATTENING PERIOD.