
Three studies were conducted to evaluate the effects of dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS) on palatability and feed intake of growing pigs. In Exp.1, 90 gilts (initially 26.4 kg) were used to evaluate a corn-soybean meal-based diet with or without 30% DDGS from two different sources on feed preference. Source 1 was obtained from an ethanol plant built before 1990 and source 2 was obtained from a plant built after 1990. Each pen had two feeders, one with the corn-soybean meal diet and the other with one of the DDGS sources. There were 10 pens with six pigs per pen and 10 pens with three pigs per pen. Feeder locations were switched twice daily. From d 0 to 7, there were no differences in ADFI among the dietary treatments. However, from d 7 to 13 and overall, feed intake was lower (P < 0.01) for both DDGS diets when compared to the corn-soybean control. For Exp. 2 and 3, there were four feeders in each pen, each containing a different diet. Feeder locations were switched twice daily. In Exp. 2, 187 barrows and gilts (initially 23.6 kg) were used to examine the effects of increasing DDGS (source 2) in a 21 d preference study. Treatments consisted of a control (corn-soybean meal) diet, or the control diet with 10, 20, or 30% DDGS. There were 17 pigs per pen and 11 pens. Increasing DDGS decreased (linear; P < 0.01) ADFI (776, 524, 331, and 153 g/d) for the overall trial. In Exp. 3, 120 barrows and gilts (initially 18.9 kg) were used to examine the effects of adding Sucram, a feed flavor additive, in 21 d preference study. Treatments were arranged as a 2 x 2 factorial with 0 or 30% DDGS and either 0 or 0.02% Sucram. There were 15 pigs per pen and 8 pens. For the entire trial, adding DDGS to diets decreased (P < 0.01) ADFI. Adding Sucram had no effect (P > 0.71) on feed intake in either the corn-soybean meal or DDGS diets. These studies demonstrate that pigs prefer corn-soybean diets compared with diets containing DDGS and the source of DDGS or addition of a feed flavor did not influence palatability.

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