

IPPC Pigs – Dietary Guidance Notes for Protein & Phosphorus (NI)

Rearing and finishing pigs shall be fed a minimum of two diets between 30 kg and slaughter at 105 kg (+/- 10 kg).

- Where pigs are routinely taken to weights over 105 kg, a third diet shall be fed with a still lower crude protein level.

Table 1: Recommended target levels of Crude Protein in diets for pigs

Species	Approximate Weight Range	Target Crude Protein content (% in feed)	Remark
Weaner	<10 kg	22	With adequately balanced and optimal digestible amino acid supply
Piglet	<25 kg	21	
Finishing pig	25-50 kg	19	
	50-105 ¹ kg	18	
Gestation ²		12-14	
Lactation		16-18	

Footnotes

- (1) The level of protein in late finishing diets will be dependent on slaughter weight, with heavier slaughter weights necessitating the use of diets with lower protein levels, i.e. pigs routinely slaughtered at 100 kg should be offered a lower protein late finishing diet than pigs routinely slaughtered at 90 kg.
- (2) Breeding herds with young breeding animals may need to use diets with higher levels of protein during gestation.
- (3) If transfer weight into finishing accommodation is consistently at light weights (e.g. <40Kg) producers should carry out an economic appraisal comparing loss of performance up to 60Kg with installing a second auger in the finishing house.
- (4) It is impossible to present a digestible protein level related to the crude protein level as the former will be determined by the raw materials used and by the range and level of synthetic amino acids added.

Knowledge of actual feed intake is prerequisite for the formulation of diets. The levels presented are based on standardized feed intakes. Where the feed intake of pigs is known, and different from the presumed intake, then appropriate adjustments should be made to diet nutrient concentration to satisfy the daily nutrient requirements.

These crude protein levels can be used without adversely affecting performance when diets are correctly balanced with essential amino acids.

As technologies improve and a wider range of amino acids become commercially and economically available these crude protein levels can be reduced further.

These are only guidelines and nutritional advice should be sought at individual herd level to ensure optimum herd performance (this will allow for the influence of genetics, housing and health status). Any deviation from these guidelines will require justification.

Table 2: Recommended target phosphorus levels of in diets for pigs

Species	Approximate weight range	Total Phosphorus concentration (%)
Weaner	<10 kg	0.6
Piglet	<25 kg	0.6
Finishing pig	25-50 kg	0.5
	50-105 ¹ kg	0.45
Gestation ²		0.5
Lactation		0.5

These figures are based on the Nutrient Requirement Standards for Pigs (BSAS).

The phosphorus concentrations presented relate to total phosphorus. Values for the determined digestibility of phosphorus in feed ingredients are available.

Total plant phosphorus may have its digestibility enhanced by phytase enzyme.