

THE EFFECT OF REARING SYSTEM AND FEEDING WITH OR WITHOUT ALFALFA FORAGE ADDITION ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF GROWING-FINISHING PIGS

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Abstract. The experiment was performed on a total of 90 crossbred pigs [$\text{♀}(\text{♀PL} \times \text{♂ PLW}) \times \text{♂}(\text{♀ P} \times \text{♂ D})$] divided into experimental groups based on the analogue method, i.e. on the origin of litter, sex and initial body weight. The pigs were assigned to six experimental groups (15 animals per group – 7 barrows and 8 gilts): group 1 – animals fed a complete diet and kept indoors with access to outdoor runs, group 2 – animals fed a complete diet and kept indoors in pens with straw bedding, group 3 - animals fed a complete diet and kept indoors in pens without straw bedding, group 4 - animals fed a complete diet and alfalfa forage, kept indoor with access to outdoor runs, group 5 - animals fed a complete diet and alfalfa forage, kept indoors in pens with straw bedding, group 6 - animals fed a complete diet and alfalfa forage, kept indoors in pens without straw bedding. The following six behaviour patterns were recorded twice at each stage of fattening, i.e. at approximately 50 kg and 100 kg BW: - resting, - moving activity, - feeding – voluntary ingestion of a complete diet, - feeding – voluntary ingestion of alfalfa forage, staying outside in the run, other activities.

All management systems were animal welfare-friendly. Both at the first and second stages of fattening (approx. 50 kg and 100 kg BW, respectively), the experimental factors had a significant effect on the majority of behaviour patterns in pigs - moving activity ($\alpha=0.05$ in a first stage of fattening and $\alpha=0.01$ in the second stage of fattening), rest ($\alpha = 0.01$ in both stages of experiment), and the time spending on outdoor runs. The results of this study confirmed the thesis that rearing with free access to outdoor runs, feeding with addition of bulk feed, i.e. alfalfa forage, or rearing in pens with straw bedding are methods of improving of fatteners welfare.

Keywords: growing-finishing pigs, indoor system, outdoor system with access to runs, straw bedding, alfalfa forage, behaviour.