

# Guidelines for Feeding Fat to Grow-Finish Swine

## **Hot Weather Feeding:**

In warm weather adding fat to swine diets will improve feed efficiency and increase daily gain (ADG). The size of the ADG response may vary, and the value of the increased ADG depends on how pressured the pig flow system is to achieve optimum market weights.

*Summer is the period when added fat is most likely to be economical because:*

- ADG is seasonally lower, and systems are less likely to reach optimum market weight. Thus the ADG response to fat in summer usually means heavier sale weights, rather than just fewer days on feed.
- Market hog prices are seasonally higher, on average, in the summer. The value of feeding extra grain from feeding fat is higher.

*The economics of feeding added fat in the summer depend on:*

- How pressured the system is to reach optimum market weight.
- Market hog price
- Ingredient Prices-especially corn price.

## **Cool Weather Feeding**

Feeding added fat in cool weather will improve feed efficiency, but has little effect on ADG. Fat breakeven value depends on ingredient price, mainly corn price. See page 4 for fat breakeven values in cool weather.

## **Other Considerations:**

- Added fat has little effect on carcass backfat and % lean in modern high lean genetics swine. The performance assumptions for fat breakeven values assume no change in carcass quality.
- High levels of added fat may contribute to feed flow problems. The severity of this problem depends on ration particle size, other ingredients used (i.e. DDGS) and bulk bin and auger design. Added fat levels may have to be reduced if feed flow is a problem.
- If an unsaturated fat like soy oil is used, it may result in soft carcass fat that is unacceptable to the packer. Withdrawing unsaturated fat for 30-45 days prior to market will usually solve this problem.

**If you would like a customized breakeven, please contact our Swine Nutritionist  
Dave Hagemeyer at (507) 385-7239.**