

# FEEDING STUDY WITH EUCARVET IN BROOD SOWS

by

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## STRUCTURE of study

### STUDY LOCATION:

The field study was conducted at the pig-breeding operation owned by Leopold GRIESSLER in Christenberg 8, 3233 KILB in Lower Austria. The agricultural operation covers approx. 60 ha of land including forest. The farm has approx. 150 brood sows with their offspring and 80 to 150 porkers. The piglets are usually sold to the same fattening operation directly from the farm. The animals are kept in modern purpose-built and in some cases converted pens.

### AIM OF STUDY::

The aim of the study was to test the feed supplement "EUCARVET", manufactured by the pharmaceutical company F.TRENKA Chem. pharm. Fabrik Ges.m.b.H. Goldeggasse 5 A 1040 Vienna, in brood sows.

**EUCARVET** is a biological product made of plant ingredients, which has been developed from EUCARBON, in use for more than 100 years for digestive problems.

The supplement contains the plant-based medical charcoal, senna leaves, rhubarb roots, mint oil, fennel oil and organic sulphur. EUCARVET supports the production of digestive juices and reduces the formation of fermentation gases in the digestive tract, and also removes them from the digestive tract in combination with harmful substances. It improves the health of the animals and supports the natural and healthy digestive process.

### DURATION OF STUDY:

The study was conducted over the period from 22.01.2007 to 28.02.2007.

## MATERIAL and METHOD

### ANIMALS and STUDY DESIGN

Nineteen brood sows (10 + 9 ) divided into two groups in one pen each were included in the test (left and right in farrowing pens). The 10th animal in the test group unfortunately had a false pregnancy and therefore the test had to be conducted with 19 instead of 20 animals.

The sows were crosses of the German Edelschwein X Landschwein and were mated to Durocebers. All animals were stud beasts and they could be precisely identified by the ear marks and the signs on the pens, which were updated every day.

### FEED

The feed was mixed at the farm. The composition of the feed was as follows:

corn grist, barley grist, triticale grist, wheat grist, rapeseed cake, soy extract grist 49 rapeseed oil, mineral and active ingredient mixture of biomine and mycofix. Pregnant and lactating sows received different concentrations of the feed supplement and a different mixture of minerals and active ingredients (see Appendix: Feed recipes.).

The feed was automatically dispensed at feeding times and in some cases fed manually. The quantity of feed before farrowing was 2 kg dry food for pregnant sows and 2 kg corn silage CCM

per animal and day. After farrowing the same quantity of feed was given for some days and then changed to dry feed for lactating sows. Ten days after farrowing they received at least 3 kg per day.

The piglets received a standard piglet starter. The EUCARVET was scattered over the feed for the animals in the test group once a day. 1000 g EUCARVET was mixed into 10 kg prepared feed and a sow received 60 g per day depending on the feed amount (with 3 kg dry feed) or 10 g (with 5 kg dry feed) per day. This corresponds to a dose of 2 kg EUCARVET to one tonne of dry sow feed.

## HEALTH AND CARE

The animals were treated in close consultation with the farm's veterinarian, who was also primarily responsible for feeding recommendations.

Medications administered to the sows included the following:

*Depomycin* to prevent various infections of the respiratory tract (influenza) and intestines,

*Vetalgin* for various infections, pain relief, anti-spasmodic (intestinal colic)

*Marbocyl* for the MMA complex (metritis, mastitis and agalactosis)

*Genabil cholericum* for activation of the digestive function

*Vanasulf* bacterial infections (for streptococcus without fever e.g.)

*Cobactan*, a bactericide

*Betamox*, moxycillin antibiotic

Medications administered to the piglets in the first days included the following:

Naxcel (streptococci)

Baycox 2.5% p.o. (coccidia)

All treatments were followed exactly, and also deviations in health and the occurrence of losses were also recorded. The milk yield of the animals and the farrowing behaviour were also recorded.

The characteristics of the excrement is also a parameter for the use of EUCARVET.

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\*) Leopold GRIESSLER, owner, Mariane GRIESSLER, animal care,  
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# CONCLUSION

For overview a summary of the study with the concluding evaluation are given below:

CONTROL GROUP										TEST GROUP									
Sow no.	No. In litter	Live born	Stillborn	Loss	added	offset	weaned	Piglet age at weaning		Sow no.	No. In litter	EUCARVET days before farrowing	Live born	Stillborn	Loss	Add ed	offset	weaned	Piglet age on weaning
399	2	14	1			2	12	24 days		334	4	9	7			3		10	29
234	9	14	2	7			7	26		410	2	9	12					12	29
393	2	15	1	2			12	26		314	5	9	13				2	11	29
423	2	14	2	2			12	26		396	2	11	12		1	1		12	26
378	2	14		1		2	11	34		361	3	9	11	1	1	2		12	27
267	8	11		1	1		11	26		265	8	10	11		1	2		12	26
435	2	14	2			1	13	26		347	4	9	14	2	2			12	27
368	3	10			2		12	29		452*	1*	10*	9*	2*			9*	0*	
359	3	11	1	3	2		10	26		453	1	0	11		4	5		12	28
340	4	15				2	13	26											
<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>221</b>
	<b>3.7</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>3.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>27.6</b>

452\*) This sow was not included in the evaluation, because she died on the 3rd day after farrowing.

Cause of death not known exactly - strongly emaciated because she did not eat. Pale appearance and body. Did not respond to treatment for infection.

The study lasted from enclosure in pens about 9 days before farrowing until 28 days after farrowing, a total of 37 days from 22.01.2007 to 28.02.2007. Unfortunately the test was accidentally interrupted from the 7th day to the 12th day after farrowing. The percentage evaluation gave the following result:

The litter numbers of the sows in the study and thus the age of the animals were virtually identical on average. In the control group there were 3.7 litters and 3.6 in the test group.

The **live-born piglets** were 1.8 piglets fewer in the test group = **- 15.19%**

The **stillborn piglets** in the EUCARVET group were **fewer** = **21.05%**

The **rearing losses** in the EUCARVET group were also **fewer** = **31.25%**

The **number of piglets weaned** in the EUCARVET group was also **better** = **2.60%**

Even though 15.2% more piglets were born in the control group, in the **EUCARVET group 2.6% more piglets were weaned** and sold.

**The consistency of the faeces** was significantly better in the EUCARVET group. The manure was not too firm and not too soft and generally of an even consistency. Out of all animals scouring only occurred in one pen in the control group. Otherwise scouring only occurred in isolated cases with significantly fewer in the EUCARVET group.

The **piglets** were generally **treated** with *Naxcel* to prevent streptococci on the first day and they received *Baycox 2.5%* against coccidia on the third day. Some of the animals were **castrated** on the third and some on the fourth day.

**The feed rations**, as shown in the appendix, were checked and suggestions for improvement were made.