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Effects of applying *Bacillus coagulans* and Napier grass powder on the growth performances of weaned piglets (1)

Chin-Meng Wang (2) Fang-Chieh Liu (2) Bing-Sian Lin (3) and You-Jun Lin (4) (5)

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of *Bacillus coagulans* products and Napier grass meal on growth performance of weaned piglets. A total of 48 four-week-old (Landrace × Duroc) weaned piglets were used. Pigs were randomly divided into 3 groups and provided with control diet (A), control diet added 2×10^5 CFU/kg *Bacillus coagulans* products (B), and B diet added with Napier grass Taishigrass No.2 meal 3.2 g/kg (C). During the 4 weeks experiment, feed intake, body weight and hematology of the piglets were measured. The result showed that the daily feed intake of pigs at A, B, and C groups were 0.47, 0.57 and 0.51 kg, respectively. Pigs at B group had significantly ($P < 0.05$) larger feed intake than the control group. The body weight gain of pigs in B group was also significantly ($P < 0.05$) larger than those in the control group. There were no differences on the feed efficiency among groups. In hematological profile, no significant differences were observed among groups. In conclusion, the dietary application of *Bacillus coagulans* products significantly increased feed intake and body weight gain of the weaned piglets.

Key words: Weaned piglet, *Bacillus coagulans*, Napier grass powder, Growth performance.

(1) Contribution No. 2669 from Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.
(2) Animal Industry Division, COA-LRI, Tainan 71246, Taiwan, R. O. C.
(3) Animal technology research center, Agricultural Technology Research Institute. Hsinchu 300100, Taiwan, R. O. C.
(4) Nutrition Division, COA-LRI, Tainan 71246, Taiwan, R. O. C.
(5) Corresponding author, E-mail: hiujj@mail.tlri.gov.tw.