

Effect of dietary crude fiber content in late - gestating period on the reproductive and lactating performance of first parity sows ⁽¹⁾

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of dietary crude fiber levels for the late stage of gestation on reproductive performance of first parity sows. Diets were formulated to contain 3, 6 and 9% crude fiber (cfi3, cfi6 and cfi9) respectively by adjusting alfalfa meal amount used in diet. After farrowing, all gilts were fed *ad libitum* with the same lactating diet. Pregnant gilts were daily provided with 2 kg of diets for 4 wks prefarrowing. The body weight, backfat thickness and duration of farrowing for gilts were measured. Results indicated that there was no difference on daily feed intake for gilts during last 4 wks of pregnancy. The body weight gain of gilts in cfi9 group was significantly larger than those gilts in cfi3 and cfi6 groups. The duration of farrowing for gilts in cfi9 groups were shorter than those in cfi3 and cfi6 groups. Feed intake for lactating sows in cfi9 group tend to be larger than cfi3 and cfi6 groups. The body weight gain of piglets from sows fed cfi9 during pregnancy were reduced ($P < 0.05$) when compared to cfi3 and cfi6 groups, possibly due to larger number of sucking piglets and limited net energy intake. There was no difference on interval between weaning and estrus postweaning. Lower survival rate of piglets from sows fed cfi9 was found when compared to cfi3. In conclusion, provision of diet with 6% crude fiber benefit the farrowing performance of gilts and lactating performance of sows.

Key words: First parity gilt, Reproductive performance, Dietary crude fiber.

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