

Keep piglets contented

Getting nutrition exactly right is very important with young piglets, especially in that time when they are being weaned off their mother's milk. Just as with any baby, this is an important step in their development and their nutrition must be exactly right to make sure they stay healthy and can thrive, without upsets to their digestion. Plasma protein ingredients have proved to be better at smoothing the way through this transition than alternatives such as milk, fishmeal, whey and vegetable proteins.

Plasma proteins are nutritious, they are tasty and they boost the piglets' health by stimulating natural defence systems. They are rich with quality proteins, 70–80 percent protein, and they provide vitamins, minerals and sugars.

The amino acid profile of plasma proteins is very close to that of milk protein, which is considered to be the nutritional model. Plasma proteins also carry valuable immunoglobulins that help stimulate the piglets natural defence system. The combination of these benefits with the excellent nutrition means the piglets are healthy, contented and they grow well. Add to that the outstanding palatability of plasma proteins, and it is clear, this is a winning, natural ingredient for piglet feeds.

Animal proteins

Improve health and welfare piglets

For further information on the benefits of natural plasma proteins in piglet feeds, please contact EAPA.

EAPA represents all European producers, specialised in the production and supply of high quality natural animal proteins.

EAPA

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Natural ingredients

Plasma proteins are safe, natural ingredients that can be used in animal feeds and petfoods as a rich source of essential nutrients such as proteins, vitamins and minerals. Plasma proteins are also used in food products such as hams and sausages and by the pharmaceuticals industry.

Producing these ingredients is an excellent way of retaining the value from by-products of the meat processing industry that otherwise would be treated as less valuable applications.

Excellent nutrition and welfare

Plasma proteins bring significant benefits for piglets, including improved welfare. Twenty years of experience show that piglets have fewer digestive upsets and are more contented when their feed contains plasma proteins, and they grow faster.

Piglets fed with plasma proteins don't need antibiotics to digest their feed. That's good news, especially in the European Union and other regions where antibiotic growth promoters are no longer permitted.

Producing plasma proteins

Plasma proteins are extracted from fresh blood collected at certified slaughterhouses from animals approved for human consumption. The production process is similar to that of fresh milk and dairy products. Valuable components are separated using ultra-hygienic techniques in super-sterile processing plants to produce high quality, safe, nutritious ingredients that are ideal for animal feeds, food processing and for use by the pharmaceuticals industry.

Spray drying, for example, involves spraying the ingredient as very fine droplets into a sterile chamber at 200 °C. The droplets dry instantly, without denaturing their nutritional value. The elevated temperatures eliminate any risk of microbial contamination. The dried particles are bagged and sealed under ultra-hygienic conditions.

All producers of animal proteins in Europe are members of the European Animal Protein Association (EAPA). All EAPA members produce these high quality ingredients in strictly controlled processes, such as spray drying, that capture the full nutritional value while ensuring complete safety for end users.

Feed and food safety approved

Animal proteins are produced in strictly controlled and hygienic processes that meet food grade specifications to ensure they are pure and safe. EAPA members are certified by external auditors to meet the highest ISO, HACCP and other feed quality control standards. Animal proteins, such as non-ruminant haemoglobin and related products, are permitted food and feed ingredients in the European Union, in North America and South America and throughout most of the Asia Pacific region. They are approved by all major food safety authorities, including the European Food Safety Authority and the US Food and Drugs Administration and meet the specifications of bodies such as the World Health Organization. Plasma proteins are also specifically approved for use in piglet feeds in the EU.

Research confirms benefits

Research at many centres in Europe and North America clearly identifies the nutritional value of animal proteins and identifies them as important and readily available natural ingredients that are rich with valuable proteins. The benefits they bring in piglets feeds is especially clear from these research results. In many different feeding trials conducted in several countries, piglets eating feed with plasma proteins did far better than those fed diets without them.