

# Improving Feed Efficiency

In these times where profit margins are slim to none, every possible method of improving profitability and/or decreasing expenses is a must. No stone should be left unturned in the effort to improve the bottom line. Here at New Vision Co-op and New Vision Feed LLC, we are making the extra effort to ensure that every possible “profit maker” is in place. Things like diet energy density, proper feeder adjustment and corn grind particle size are necessary strategies to discuss with your New Vision field man. Grinding the corn finer creates more surface area and increases digestibility. Pelleting feed is another option that can have a dramatic effect on feed efficiency. Pelleting improves feed digestibility and reduces feed waste. Feeder adjustment is also critical because you want to reduce wasting of feed without inhibiting feeding time for the pigs.

Here’s an example of the impact feed efficiency can have on your profitability. Let’s look at a feeder to finish program where the pigs come into your barn at 50 pounds and you market them at 275 lbs. That amounts to 225 lbs. of gain that you put on those animals. A 2.8 feed efficiency (FE) would mean that it would take 630 lbs. of feed ( $2.8 \times 225 \text{ lbs.} = 630.$ ) to get that hog to market. A 2.7 FE would require only 608 lbs. of feed ( $2.7 \times 225 \text{ lbs.} = 608$ ). Thusly, the difference in feed usage from a 2.8 FE to a 2.7 FE is 22 lbs. ( $630 - 608 = 22$ ). So, 22 lbs. of feed is saved by improving feed efficiency by .1 lb. of feed per pound of gain. If current feed costs average \$.16/lb. then 22 lbs. of feed  $\times$  \$.16/lb. = \$3.52/pig costs savings due to that level of improvement in feed efficiency.

New Vision monitors each mill’s particle size with on-site testing equipment to ensure that we are doing our part in the feed efficiency equation. You always need to know how your pigs are converting. Be sure to do closeout summaries for every group of pigs you feed. Consult your New Vision fieldman to determine what dietary formulation and feeder adjustment best suits your operation’s needs.

## **New Vision Swine Sales Team**

If you have any questions regarding this article please call New Vision Coop  
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