

**NEW VISION CO-OP
"PIG'S EAR"**

"SKYCIS and VITAMIN E"

The debate continues on the use of antibiotics in swine production because of the emergence of antibiotic resistant pathogens in humans. However, there is one class of drugs that has never been approved for use in humans. They are called ionophores. The ionophore for swine is called Skycis.

Another area of recent interest is supplementing Vitamin E, via water, for the first 2-weeks post weaning to improve health status.

Both Skycis and Vitamin E for nursery pigs are reviewed in this newsletter.

SKYCIS

Skycis is a new swine product from Elanco. The active ingredient is NARASIN, which is classified as an ionophore. Ionophores are a class of anti-microbials used exclusively in food animal production. (i.e. Rumensin for cattle, Coban for poultry, Skycis for swine). NARASIN is already used in broiler chicken diets for control of coccidiosis and is approved for improved feed efficiency in swine in many other countries.

Skycis highlights:

- For increased weight gain in growing-finishing swine
- For improved feed efficiency in growing-finishing swine
- No VFD (Veterinary Feed Directive) required
- Zero-day withdrawal before marketing

How does Skycis work?

- Reduces the number of gram positive bacteria in G.I. tract. Increases the number of gram negative bacteria in the hindgut resulting in increased propionic acid concentration which increases energy available to the pig.
- Improves efficiency of foregut digestion and hindgut fermentation.
- Improves feed utilization and increases energy availability for growth.

Skycis performance results:

- Research results to date in the U.S. and Canada indicates the following performance improvements.

Average daily gain = + 5.0%

Feed efficiency = + 2% (U.S.); 4% (Canada) ¹⁾

¹⁾ Higher fiber diets

Skycis usage levels:

- For average daily gain = 13.6 to 27.2 gm/ton
- For feed efficiency = 18.1 to 27.2 gm/ton
- Suggested feeding level = 18.1 gm/ton

Skycis economics:

- Estimated cost per pound = \$8.00
Product potency is 45.4 gm/lb
- Cost per ton of feed when added at 0.4 lb (18.1 gm) per ton. = \$3.20
- Cost per pig if 625 lb of feed is consumed per pig during the growing-finishing period = \$1.00/pig
- A 2% improvement in feed efficiency equals 12.5 lb of feed saved.
If average feed cost is \$0.15/lb the savings in feed cost. = [\$1.88/pig]
- The 5% improvement in average daily gain has value if short on space. = [+]

Skycis cautions:

- Do not feed Skycis and Denagard together because adverse reactions may occur.
- Do not feed to turkeys or equine.

VITAMIN E – NURSERY PIGS

Recently there is considerable interest in supplementing Vitamin E in the water of post-weaning piglets. The Vitamin E being used is a natural Vitamin E (d-alpha-tocopherol) that has been micellized, which enhances the ability of the pig to utilize Vitamin E.

Research has shown that when this form of Vitamin E was administered via water post-weaning the resultant piglet serum alpha-tocopherol levels were several times higher than in piglets not receiving the supplemental Vitamin E. Does this increased level of serum alpha-tocopherol increase immunity of the piglet resulting in improved health status? Observations reported by swine producers would suggest that it is, even though supplemental Vitamin E levels (dl-alpha-tocopherol acetate) are being supplemented at more than adequate levels in sow and nursery diets.

There are several research projects being conducted to determine the relationship between higher serum and alpha-tocopherol levels and improve health status and performance of nursery pigs. We will report results later.

For additional information on the **Co-op Swine Nutrition Program** contact your local **Co-op** feed department or the swine nutritionist.

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