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Iodinated Casein for Lactating Sows

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Iodinated casein is a thyroactive compound that contains about 1 percent Thyroxine activity. Thyroxine is a hormone secreted by the thyroid gland. This product has been used to stimulate milk production in sows. Decreased mortality and increased weaning weight of pigs have been reported by some workers. Also, an increase in weight loss of the sow has generally been noted.

Experimental

Sixteen sows were divided into two groups of 8 sows each. A complete mixed ration was self-fed to both groups from 3 days prior to farrowing until the pigs were weaned at seven weeks of age. Iodinated casein (200 grams per ton) was added to the feed of one group of sows and the other group served as a control. The sows farrowed in concrete floored pens and were moved to alfalfa pasture when the pigs were one week of age. Two sows and litters were housed together in each pen.

Summary of Results

Table 1. The Effect of Iodinated Casein In Sow Rations

	Basal Ration	200 gm. Iodinated Casein per ton
No. of litters	8	8
No. of live pigs farrowed/litter	8.1	8.6
No. of pigs weaned/litter	7.0	6.6
No. of pigs lost/litter	1.1 (13.6%)	2.0 (23.2%)
Av. birth weight, lbs.	3.0	2.9
Av. 49-day weight, lbs	27.2	26.6
Av. total gain, lbs.	24.2	23.7
Av initial weight of sows, lbs.	435	455
Av. final weight of sows, lbs.	390	361
Av. weight loss per sow, lbs.	45	94

The results of this trial are shown in Table 1. There was no advantage in feeding iodinated casein to the lactating sows. Pigs from these sows had a higher mortality and slightly lighter weaning weights than the pigs in the control group. The sows that were fed iodinated casein lost an average of 49 pounds more than those sows fed only the basal ration. This increased weight loss was probably due to an increased metabolism brought about by the added thyroxine.