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1 **Replacement of soya bean meal with peas and faba beans in growing / finishing pig**
2 **diets: effect on performance, carcass composition and nutrient excretion.**

3

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Abbreviations: CAM, coefficient of apparent metabolisability; CTTAD, coefficient of total tract apparent digestibility; DLWG, daily live weight gain; FCR, feed conversion ratio; SBM, soya bean meal

20 **Abstract**

21 There is now an increasing debate about the viability of using temperate-grown
22 legumes in pig diets as a potential replacement for imported soya bean meal (SBM): this is
23 due to food security, sustainability and environmental concerns. Two trials were designed
24 to examine nitrogen (N) retention, growth performance and carcass quality of grower and
25 finisher pigs when fed nutritionally-balanced SBM-free diets formulated to contain peas or
26 faba beans at 300g/kg, compared to an SBM-containing, pulse-free control diet. Trial 1
27 evaluated N digestibility/retention in four iso-energetic diets, comparing the SBM control
28 with one diet formulated with peas and two with faba bean cultivars; a tannin-containing
29 and a tannin-free variety. This trial employed a four by four Latin Square Design with four
30 male pigs housed in metabolism crates, fed twice daily at 0.9 of assumed *ad-libitum* intake
31 over four time periods during grower (30-55kg) and finisher (55-95kg) phases.
32 Quantitative faecal and urine collection allowed determination of N coefficient of total tract
33 apparent digestibility, coefficient of apparent metabolisability, and N balance. Results
34 revealed that dietary treatment did not affect these N parameters ($P>0.05$) during either
35 the grower or finisher phase. Trial 2 evaluated growth performance (feed intake, daily live
36 weight gain and feed conversion ratio) and carcass quality parameters. Five diets (based
37 on SBM, peas and one of three faba bean cultivars) balanced for standard ileal digestible
38 amino acids and net energy were each fed to eight replicates of individually-housed entire
39 male pigs over the same growth phases as Trial 1. The inclusion of three faba bean
40 varieties allowed comparison of animal responses between tannin/tannin-free and spring
41 vs. winter bean cultivars. At ~95kg, pigs were slaughtered and a comprehensive range of
42 carcass measurements undertaken. Samples of shoulder backfat were also taken at
43 slaughter to determine skatole and indole concentrations. As with N balance, feeding
44 treatment did not affect performance data. Carcass parameters revealed pigs fed the pea-
45 based diet had a greater dressing percentage than those animals on faba bean-based

46 diets. Pigs fed the SBM or pea-based diets also had greater lean meat percentages than
47 those on faba-bean diets. Mean skatole concentrations for all pigs were below the
48 accepted maximum threshold level of 0.2µg/g. In conclusion, it is suggested that peas and
49 faba beans can be successfully fed in balanced pig diets throughout the grower/finisher
50 periods as alternatives to SBM.

51

52 **Keywords**

53 Pigs, legumes, carcass, nitrogen balance, performance, soya bean meal

54

55 **1. Introduction**

56 In order to remain competitive in the global market, the pig sector must seek
57 sustainable and viable solutions to the sourcing and level of dietary energy and nutrient
58 inputs, whilst maintaining an acceptable level of output and animal performance. In
59 temperate environments, there are increasing concerns surrounding the reliance by the pig
60 industry on the importation of significant tonnages of soya bean meal (SBM). These
61 concerns reflect wider debates surrounding resource use and sustainability in agricultural
62 production (Leinonen et al., 2012; Leinonen et al., 2013). The implementation of
63 regulations surrounding the development of 'Nitrate Vulnerable Zones' (NVZs) and their
64 recent revision (DEFRA, 2013) provide clear evidence of how environmental legislation is
65 impacting upon temperate pig production systems. In addition to the environmental
66 aspects, debates about sustainability and higher feed prices mean that the pig feed
67 industry is beginning to question its reliance on imported SBM.

68

69 Whilst SBM is a reliable source of high quality protein (Jezierny et al., 2010), the
70 environmental impact of its sourcing, along with future price uncertainty, has led to
71 increasing discussion about the use of protein alternatives in pig diets. Of particular

72 interest are peas (*Pisum sativum*) and faba beans (*Vicia faba*) owing to the considerably
73 reduced environmental concerns of growing these in temperate environments, due to their
74 nitrogen-fixing ability (Crépon, 2006), compared to other protein crops such as rapeseed.
75 The cultivation of these legumes in rotation systems reduces the reliance and energy
76 expenditure associated with the use of substantial inputs of nitrogenous fertiliser.
77 Additionally, when used to replace SBM in pig and poultry diets, peas and beans have
78 been shown to have further environmental benefits including reduced acidification potential
79 of pig and poultry production (Topp et al., 2012; Leinonen et al., 2013). Literature
80 examining the nutritional value of peas and faba beans in pig diets have frequently
81 reported equivocal conclusions (Fowler and Livingstone, 1977; Mateos and Puchal, 1980;
82 Gatel, 1994; Castell et al., 1996) . Given the improvement in modern pig genotypes and
83 the current environmental concerns highlighted above, it would seem particularly timely to
84 revisit this issue, particularly in view of the recent move to use standardised ileal amino
85 acid digestibility as the basis for diet formulation.

86

87 If there is to be an increased use of temperate-grown legumes, then the pig industry
88 needs to be convinced that there will be no detrimental impacts on growth performance or
89 carcass / meat quality arising from the inclusion of these raw materials in pig diets, when
90 compared with more conventional diets based on imported SBM. Confidence in the use of
91 peas and faba beans in non-ruminant diets has not been strong, partly due to concerns
92 surrounding the number of different cultivars available, irregularity of supply, high costs
93 and the presence of anti-nutritional factors; trypsin inhibitor activity in peas and condensed
94 tannin content in faba beans (Jezierny et al., 2010; Masey O'Neill et al., 2012).

95

96 Recent dose-response studies have shown that peas and faba beans can completely
97 replace SBM without penalizing growth performance and commercially obtained carcass

98 characteristics, when separately tested in growing and finishing pigs (Smith et al., 2013).
99 The aim of the current study was to extend this work by investigating the potential of using
100 a greater range of faba bean cultivars as viable and sustainable alternatives to SBM in
101 grower/finisher pig diets. In addition, a more comprehensive range of slaughter/carcass
102 parameters were undertaken to further examine the effect of these legumes on carcass
103 quality. The hypothesis tested was that these legumes could be included in balanced
104 grower and finisher pig diets to replace completely SBM, with no detrimental effects on
105 animal performance, nitrogen digestibility or carcass / meat quality parameters. The
106 inclusion of peas and different faba bean varieties allowed a range of factors to be
107 evaluated within the bounds of this hypothesis, including legume type (pea vs. faba bean),
108 bean tannin content (tannin-containing vs. tannin-free) and season (spring-sown vs.
109 winter-sown beans).

110

111 **2. Materials and Methods**

112 *2.1. Diets*

113 All animal protocols and procedures were conducted under both National and
114 Institutional guidelines as approved in advance by the Ethical Review Committee of the
115 School of Biosciences of the University of Nottingham, UK. Two trials were conducted;
116 Trial 1 assessed nitrogen (N) digestibility/retention and Trial 2 evaluated growth
117 performance and carcass quality in growing / finishing pigs when fed peas or faba beans
118 as an alternative protein source to SBM in nutritionally balanced pelleted diets. Five dietary
119 treatments were formulated for the grower phase; one control diet containing 140g SBM
120 /kg of and four test diets each containing 300g home-grown legumes/kg with the legumes
121 being white-flowered peas; cultivar 'Prophet', spring coloured-flowered faba beans 'Fuego',
122 spring white-flowered faba beans 'Tattoo' or winter coloured-flowered faba beans 'Wizard'.
123 The different varieties of faba beans were expected to have different effects, especially in

124 relation to their anti-nutritional properties. Laboratory analyses of the specific varieties of
125 legumes used in the trials (including trypsin inhibitor activity and tannin content), have
126 been reported elsewhere (Masey O'Neill et al., 2012). The white flowered faba bean
127 cultivar 'Tattoo' was virtually tannin free. A second set of five diets were formulated
128 containing either 120g Hipro SBM/kg or 300g of the four other legumes/kg for the finisher
129 phase. The diet formulations were based on BSAS (2003) recommendations for nutrient
130 and energy requirements, in the same way as used in the preceding dose-response
131 studies (Smith et al. (2013). All dietary treatments were iso-energetic and were
132 nutritionally balanced for standardised ileal digestible lysine, methionine, threonine and
133 tryptophan through the use of pure amino acids. Dietary formulations and nutritional
134 specification of the grower and finisher diets are shown in Table 1.

135

136 2.2. Trial 1

137 A four by four Latin Square design was employed using four entire male pigs
138 (commercial white hybrid) over four collection periods to evaluate dietary treatments during
139 the grower phase (from 30 - 55kg), and a second Latin Square with a new batch of pigs
140 employed to evaluate dietary treatments over the finisher phase (55 - 95kg). Resource
141 availability (number of metabolism crates) and experimental design (four by four Latin
142 Square) meant that evaluation in the balance study was restricted to four diets; SBM,
143 Prophet (peas), Fuego and Tattoo (faba beans) in each of the growth phases. The contrast
144 between the latter two cultivars allowed for the comparison between a white and a
145 coloured faba bean variety respectively. Each collection period consisted of an initial
146 acclimatisation period of six days on the experimental diets, with pigs housed individually
147 in holding pens. Animals were fed twice daily at 0.9 assumed *ad-libitum* intake, and the
148 diets were mixed with water in the ratio 1:2. Fresh water was available *ad-libitum*. Pigs
149 were then transferred to metabolism crates and the dye indigo carmine added (5g/kg diet)

150 to the evening meal on the day following transfer. Quantitative faecal collection
151 commenced on appearance of the dye in the faeces the following day, bulked for each pig
152 over the collection period and was stored at -20°C pending laboratory analysis. At 0830 h
153 that same day, quantitative urine collection commenced into vessels containing 25ml of
154 50% sulphuric acid to avoid evaporative losses. Daily urine output was assessed for pH,
155 weighed and a sub-sample (1% by weight) collected and stored at -20°C pending nitrogen
156 analysis. Indigo carmine was again added to the evening meal of the sixth day, with
157 collection of urine finishing the following morning at 0830 h and quantitative faecal
158 collection ceasing on reappearance of the dye on the following day. The use of a marker
159 dye allowed variable rates of passage of digesta between individual animals to be
160 accounted for. As such, by using this approach, faecal collection was related directly to 10
161 meals and urine collection related to five days. At the end of each collection period,
162 animals were weighed, allocated to a new experimental diet with the amounts offered
163 based on live weight and placed back in holding pens. Thus, over the duration of the
164 study, each pig was fed each of the four diets and was transferred between holding pen
165 and metabolism crate a total of four times.

166

167 Following completion of the metabolism study, faecal samples were thawed,
168 homogenised and a sub-sample was frozen and dried to a constant weight to allow faecal
169 dry matter (DM) to be determined. Diet, urine and faecal samples were analysed for
170 nitrogen content, using the Dumas method. Urine samples were thawed, mixed and a
171 100µl sample pipetted into N-free potato starch before being analysed in triplicate for
172 nitrogen. Subsequently, calculations of Coefficient of Total Tract Apparent Nitrogen
173 Digestibility (CTTAD), Coefficient of Apparent Nitrogen Metabolisability (CAM) values and
174 absolute N retention (g/day) were undertaken.

175

176 2.3. Trial 2

177 An additional dietary treatment (faba beans, var. 'Wizard', a winter-grown variety) was
178 incorporated into Trial 2. Accordingly, five grower and five finisher dietary treatments were
179 evaluated; SBM, Prophet, Fuego, Tattoo and Wizard. Each grower treatment was fed to
180 eight replicates of individually housed commercial hybrid entire male pigs (initial weight
181 ~30kg). Animals were transferred onto finisher treatments at 55kg and the trial continued
182 until animals weighed ~95kg. Grower pigs were transferred onto the same legume-based
183 diets for the finisher period (thus for example pigs fed the SBM diet during the grower
184 phase were transferred to the SBM diet for the finisher phase). Diets were available on an
185 *ad-libitum* basis, from a weighed amount of feed so that any spillages or feed refused
186 could be weighed and feed intake (FI) for each animal calculated. Fresh water was
187 available *ad-libitum*. Pigs were weighed on a weekly basis and weekly feed intake data
188 were obtained throughout the period of the study. Performance calculations were
189 conducted for grower (30-55kg) and finisher (55-95kg) phases of the study.

190

191 At approximately 95kg live weight, animals were transferred to the University of
192 Nottingham experimental EU-licensed abattoir without a pre-slaughter starvation period
193 and were slaughtered by electrical stunning followed by exsanguination. The use of an on-
194 site abattoir allowed for more detailed and comprehensive assessment of carcass
195 parameters than would be the case in a commercial abattoir. The whole carcass was
196 scalded and dehaired. Both small and large intestines were carefully excised immediately
197 following slaughter and weighed both with and without digesta contents. Carcass
198 measurements of pH (to assess any evidence of Pale Soft Exudative (PSE) meat),
199 temperature of *L. dorsi* and backfat depth at P2 site 'hot P2' (Introscope Optical Probe;
200 SFK, Kolding, Denmark) were conducted on the left side at 45 minutes post slaughter.
201 Carcasses were then split and stored at 4°C for 24hrs. A number of detailed carcass

202 measurements were subsequently undertaken using a steel ruler and digimatic caliper 500
203 series (Mitutoyo, Japan). These measurements included loin muscle area and backfat
204 thickness values, measured at a position level with the head of the last rib at 45mm (P1),
205 65mm (P2) and 80mm (P3) from the dorsal mid-line respectively, and subcutaneous fat
206 depth at a position level with the top of the maximum height of *L. dorsi* (termed 'K'). Lean
207 meat percentage was calculated from the industry-accepted equation based on P2 and
208 cold carcass weight values (equation given in Table 4). A sample of shoulder backfat
209 (~100mm x 50mm) was also taken from each animal at slaughter for indole and skatole
210 analyses using the Likens-Nickersin method (Annor-Frempong et al., 1997) to assess the
211 possible effect of legumes on concentrations of these metabolites in pig meat, which
212 contribute to 'boar taint'. Finally muscle pH was determined.

213

214 *2.4. Statistical analysis*

215 Daily live weight gain (DLWG) was calculated as the linear slope of the response of live
216 weight gain against time, in accordance with Van Lunen and Cole (1998). Solving the
217 linear regression allowed an estimate of the actual day an animal weighed 30kg and
218 reached 55kg (for the grower phase) which allowed a measurement of the precise amount
219 of feed to grow over this live weight range and hence feed conversion ratio (FCR) to be
220 determined. Data were subjected to analyses of variance (ANOVA) using a fully
221 randomised design Genstat v13 (VSN International Ltd, Hemel Hempstead, UK) with
222 dietary legume as the main factor. The effect of period was included as a factor in the
223 analysis of trial 1, to account for the experimental model (Latin Square Design).
224 Performance and carcass data in trial 2 were analysed with a set of orthogonal contrast
225 statements to find effects of SBM vs. pulse, legume type (pea vs. faba bean), bean tannin
226 content (high vs. low) and season (spring sown vs. winter sown beans). For the carcass
227 measurements, cold carcass weight was initially employed as a covariate in the model but,

228 as it was not significant, it was excluded from the final model used. Similarly, indole and
229 skatole data were originally analysed with maximum shoulder fat depth as a covariate but,
230 again as this variable was not significant, it was excluded from the model. Furthermore,
231 indole and skatole data were log transformed before analysis in view of the non-normal
232 distribution of the raw dataset. Both log transformed data and back-transformed means
233 are reported.

234

235 **3. Results**

236 *3.1. Trial 1*

237 Dietary effects on mean CTTAD and CAM nitrogen values for the grower and finisher
238 phases are shown in Table 2, along with N balance data over the two growth phases.
239 There was no significant dietary effect on CTTAD or CAM of dietary N for either the grower
240 or finisher phases ($P > 0.05$). Regarding N retention; a significant period effect was evident
241 with retention generally increasing over time ($P < 0.001$), but there was no effect of diet (P
242 > 0.05). Urine pH values are also shown in Table 2; mean values were all below pH 4.0,
243 indicating evaporative N losses during collection were unlikely. There was no treatment
244 effect on urine pH during the grower phase although there was a significant effect of
245 dietary treatment during the finisher phase, with pigs on the SBM diet exhibiting the least
246 acidic urine. No effect of diet was found for total volume of urine produced in either phase.

247

248 *3.2. Trial 2*

249 Mean performance data (FI, DLWG and FCR) over the grower and finisher periods are
250 shown in Table 3. Grower pigs fed 'Wizard' exhibited the greatest DLWG and animals on
251 the SBM diet the smallest ($P = 0.065$). Pigs fed the four pulse-based diets had significantly
252 greater DLWG than pigs on the SBM diet ($P = 0.027$). There were no effects of dietary
253 treatment on FI and FCR

254

255 Results of intestinal and carcass measurements are shown in Table 4. There was no
256 significant effect of diet on digesta mass or empty intestinal weight in either the small or
257 large intestine although there was a trend ($P = 0.059$) for pigs fed high tannin faba beans
258 to have a greater empty large intestine weight than pigs fed the low tannin faba bean diet.
259 As it was not possible to slaughter all animals exactly at 95kg, mean live weights at
260 slaughter ranged from 94kg to 100kg and associated cold carcass weights (CCW) from
261 ~68kg to 72kg. No significant treatment effects were found for hot P2 depth, carcass
262 length, carcass temperatures (at 45min and 24hr post-slaughter) or carcass pH values at
263 24hr post-slaughter. An SBM vs. pulse effect was observed for carcass pH at 45 min post-
264 slaughter with SBM pigs having a lower (more acidic) pH. There was no overall effect of
265 diet on dressing percentage but pigs fed peas had a greater dressing percentage than pigs
266 fed faba beans ($P = 0.044$). An overall dietary effect was observed for lean meat
267 percentage ($P = 0.036$) with a significant SBM vs. pulse effect ($P = 0.030$). A significant
268 effect of diet was also observed for a specific non-commercial fat depth measure 'K'
269 (representing subcutaneous fat depth at a position level with the top of the maximum
270 height of *L. dorsi*). Log-transformed indole and skatole data showed no significant dietary
271 treatment effects. Back-transformed mean data are also included in Table 4, with overall
272 back-transformed mean values for indole and skatole concentrations of $0.023\mu\text{g/g}$ and
273 $0.055\mu\text{g/g}$, respectively.

274

275 Mean faecal DM values from grower and finisher periods for both trials are shown in
276 Table 5. Although animals in trial 1 exhibited greater absolute DM values across all
277 dietary treatments than those in trial 2, no significant dietary effect was observed in either
278 trial over the grower or finisher periods.

279

280 4. Discussion

281

282 The objective of the current study was to evaluate the potential of using peas and faba
283 beans as a replacement for SBM in grower/finisher pig diets. The lack of significant
284 differences observed between the SBM diet and experimental legume diets in terms of
285 CTTAD and CAM nitrogen values were expected, as diets were balanced for net energy
286 and, perhaps more importantly, for lysine, methionine, threonine and tryptophan. The urine
287 of pigs fed the SBM diet was generally less acidic than that of their pea and faba bean-fed
288 counterparts. For the finisher phase, urine pH was significantly less acidic which indicates
289 that water intake was greater in these animals (although water intake was not measured in
290 the current study), leading to an increased volume of urine produced. Although the basis
291 of this effect on final urinary pH remains unclear, this is supported by the fact that finisher
292 pigs fed the SBM diet voided a greater amount of urine over the collection periods than
293 pigs on the other dietary treatments (Table 2). The lack of differences in faecal dry matter
294 content is a useful observation, given the suggestion that diets high in legumes can result
295 in diarrhoea/loose faeces in pigs (Jezierny et al., 2010) . The fact that for both trials, and
296 over both the grower and finisher phases, faecal DM values were not significantly different
297 between treatments, supports the view that accurately formulated diets based on peas and
298 faba beans do not result in looser faeces (Smith et al., 2013). Although faecal DM values
299 were greater across all treatments in Trial 1, compared with Trial 2, this is probably due to
300 differences in feeding levels between the two studies (Trial 1; restricted vs. Trial 2; *ad-*
301 *libitum* feeding).

302

303 The N balance data revealed an increase in daily N retention over time for both growth
304 phases. This period effect would be expected, due to increased deposition of lean tissue,
305 with a greater N requirement, reflected in higher retention values over time. The lack of

306 any dietary effect on N retention indicates that using peas and faba beans to completely
307 replace SBM in nutritionally balanced grower/finisher pig diets does not negatively
308 influence N balance. The current study values are generally in agreement with reported
309 balance values elsewhere (Reynolds and O'Doherty, 2006) and provide important
310 information with regard to N retention in grower/finisher pigs when fed balanced diets
311 containing significant proportions of legumes. The data indicate that feeding treatments did
312 not affect the route and amount of N excretion as there were no dietary effects observed
313 for either faecal or urinary N output or content (Table 2). This supports the view that using
314 peas and faba beans to replace SBM in nutritionally balanced diets does not affect the
315 contribution of manure to pig production eutrophication potential.

316

317 The performance data indicate that grower and finisher pigs are able to tolerate peas
318 and faba beans in balanced diets at an inclusion rate of 300g/kg. These findings are in
319 agreement with other studies evaluating legume inclusion in pig diets (Pearson and Smith,
320 1989; Stein et al., 2004; Smith et al., 2013). In the current study, grower pigs fed the
321 experimental legumes had significantly greater weight gain than those fed SBM. In
322 general, there appears to be some uncertainty with regards to a recommended upper limit
323 for dietary inclusion of peas and faba beans in pig diets. Previous industry advice has
324 suggested a maximum inclusion rate of 150g (grower) and 200g (finisher) faba beans/kg in
325 balanced pig diets (Mavromichalis, 2012). Based on the results reported here and
326 elsewhere (Smith et al., 2013), those inclusion levels could be increased, as the evidence
327 from the current studies indicate that grower and finisher pigs are able to tolerate a greater
328 rate of inclusion of peas or faba beans (300g/kg), provided that diets are nutritionally
329 balanced. Indeed, peas have been incorporated in grower pig diets at up to 660g/kg with
330 no negative affect on performance (Stein et al., 2006), suggesting that maximum dietary

331 inclusion level should be based around economic evaluations, rather than any biological
332 restrictions.

333

334 The experimental design for the growth study allowed animal performance to be
335 directly compared when pigs were fed tannin-containing faba bean varieties 'Fuego' and
336 'Wizard' against a tannin-free cultivar 'Tattoo'. Although there have been a number of
337 nutritional studies with pigs examining the use of faba beans (with a low or high tannin
338 content), it is acknowledged that trying to quantify the precise tannin effect from these is
339 somewhat difficult (Crépon et al., 2010). The results of the current study revealed no
340 association between animal performance and tannin content in the faba beans evaluated.
341 This agrees with recent observations that faba bean tannins may not affect standardized
342 ileal amino acid digestibility in broilers (Masey-O'Neill et al., 2012). Thus, (tannin-
343 containing) faba beans could be successfully incorporated at 300g/kg in grower/finisher pig
344 diets. This finding alone should be encouraging to end users, particularly when
345 considering the perceived negative effects of tannins when formulating legumes in pig
346 diets. Although only single batches of both SBM and pulses were evaluated in the current
347 study, the similar performance between pigs fed the peas and faba bean diets strongly
348 indicate that end users could consider using these temperate-grown pulses as potential
349 alternatives to SBM, irrespective of legume type, tannin content and sowing season.

350 The carcass data revealed there was no evidence to indicate that digesta mass was
351 influenced by dietary treatment, in either the small or large intestines although pigs fed
352 pulses generally exhibited heavier empty large intestinal weights, suggesting an increased
353 capacity for hindgut fermentation. Measurements of carcass pH at 45 min and at 24hr
354 post slaughter allowed for the assessment of possible evidence of PSE meat. The lack of
355 any visual evidence of PSE in any of the carcasses was not unexpected, given that all

356 carcass pH values at 45 min were above 6, a lower threshold for increased PSE risk
357 (Garrido et al., 1994).

358

359 There was a general lack of a dietary effect of the experimental legumes on the range
360 of slaughter/carcass parameters assessed in the current studies. No overall difference
361 was observed in terms of dressing percentage comparing SBM with the experimental
362 pulse diets but dressing percentage was significantly greater for pigs on the pea diet,
363 compared to faba beans. In the current studies, a dietary effect on lean meat percentage
364 was found, although values for the pea diet were equivalent to that observed in pigs fed
365 the SBM diet, and the overall coefficient of variation across all groups was only 0.5%. The
366 general lack of effect on carcass parameters is in agreement with similar work comparing
367 SBM with peas/faba beans (at ~300g/kg) in similar weight pigs (Stein et al., 2006; Smith et
368 al., 2013), but also heavier pigs, slaughtered at 127kg (Prandini et al., 2011). At even
369 heavier live weights (~158kg), the latter authors reported that pigs fed faba beans actually
370 exhibited better carcass characteristics (greater carcass weight and increased loin
371 thickness) than control pigs fed an SBM diet. The only significant effect of diet on carcass
372 fat depth was for the non-commercial fat measurement 'K'. Although this measurement is
373 not used in assessing calculated total lean, it may support the view that total fat levels are
374 reduced.

375

376 The issue of 'boar taint' in meat from entire male pigs is believed to be caused primarily
377 by levels of skatole and androstenone, with contributions from other compounds including
378 indole (Zamaratskaia and Squires, 2009). The production of skatole arises from the
379 microbial degradation of tryptophan within the hind gut of the pig. Although there have
380 been suggestions that feeding peas to pigs can result in increased backfat skatole
381 deposition (Madsen et al., 1990; Lundström et al., 1994), more recent knowledge

382 suggests that skatole levels are determined by a range of genetic, hormonal,
383 environmental and nutritional factors (Zamaratskaia and Squires, 2009). Trial values for
384 skatole in the current study were well below the currently agreed threshold level of 0.20-
385 0.25µg/g where risks of boar taint are increased (Lundstrom et al., 2009), and the
386 absence of a dietary treatment effect is consistent with other studies (O'Doherty and
387 Keady, 2000; Smith et al., 2013).

388

389 **5. Conclusion**

390 The current trials revealed no difference in terms of growth performance, N balance
391 and carcass quality results for pigs fed SBM or peas/faba bean diets. The lack of negative
392 effects on animal performance and on carcass lean and fat measurements reported in the
393 current study indicate that these legumes can be considered as viable alternative protein
394 sources to SBM in nutritionally balanced grower and finisher pig diets.

395

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397

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506 **Table 1** *Composition and nutritional specification of experimental diets (g/kg as-fed)*

Item	Grower Phase Diets					Finisher Phase Diets				
	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	Wizard	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	Wizard
Ingredients										
Hipro Soya bean meal	140					120				
Peas (var. Prophet)		300					300			
Faba beans (var. Fuego)			300					300		
Faba beans (var. Tattoo)				300					300	
Faba beans (var. Wizard)					300					300
Wheat	446	283	293	280	293	264	83	91	79	91
Barley	128	128	128	128	128	284	284	284	284	284
Molasses	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Rapeseed meal	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Wheat feed	150	150	150	150	150	200	200	200	200	200
Soya bean oil	11	11	3	16	3	10	10	3	15	3
Lysine	1.50	2.10	1.66	1.70	1.80	0.60	0.60	0.14	0.11	0.23
Methionine	0.06	0.65	0.70	0.80	0.72	-	0.40	0.37	0.42	0.38
Threonine	0.05	1.10	0.75	0.70	0.80	-	0.30	-	-	0.02
Tryptophan	-	0.20	0.14	0.05	0.14	-	-	-	-	-
Dicalcium phosphate	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Limestone	11.6	12.2	11.7	11.9	11.7	11.3	11.5	11.1	11.1	11.1
Salt	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Vitamin/Mineral Premix ¹	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nutritional Value										
Dietary Nitrogen (g/kg)	29.6	26.5	27.2	28.3	28.7	26.9	25.3	27.0	26.8	28.9
Energy values										
DE (MJ/kg)	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2
NE (MJ/kg)	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Ca	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
digP	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4
NDF	135	147	154	152	154	160	172	179	177	179

Amino acids

SID Lys	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Total Lys	9.4	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.6	8.5	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.7
Met	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
M+C	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4
Thr	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6
Try	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4
Iso	5.9	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.0	5.6	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.0
Leu	10.6	8.5	9.6	9.9	9.4	10.1	8.5	9.6	9.9	9.4
His	3.9	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.6
Val	6.9	5.6	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.6	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.1

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¹Provides the following quantities per kilogram of complete diet: retinol, 10,000 IU; cholecalciferol, 2000 IU; tocopherol, 50 mg; thiamine, 2 mg; riboflavin, 3 mg; pyridoxine, 2 mg;

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cyanocobalamin, 30 mg; menadione, 1 mg; nicotinic acid, 20 mg; pantothenic acid, 10 mg; Fe (as FeSO₄H₂O), 100 mg; Mn (as MnO), 50 mg; Cu (as CuSO₄), 20 mg; Zn (as ZnO),

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100.6 mg; I [as Ca(IO₃)₂], 1 mg; Se (as NaSeO₄), 0.3mg.

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519 **Table 2** Effect of soya bean meal (SBM), pea (Prophet) or faba bean (Fuego and Tattoo)-based diets on urine pH and volume, nitrogen
 520 balance, digestibility and retention in grower and finisher pigs¹ (Trial 1).

Item	Grower phase (35-55kg)						Finisher phase (55-95kg)					
	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	sed	<i>P</i>	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	sed	<i>P</i>
Urine pH	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.7	0.18	0.104	3.4 ^{ab}	2.8 ^c	2.9 ^c	3.1 ^{ac}	0.20	0.013
Urine total volume (L)	14	11	15	14	3.9	0.785	15	12	14	14	3.5	0.734
Nitrogen balance												
N intake (g)	315	282	289	308	41.2	0.831	362	340	363	360	34.2	0.889
Faecal N output (g)	53	54	61	62	6.8	0.392	74	78	85	75	5.4	0.211
Urinary N output (g)	93	76	74	90	17.3	0.605	103	92	105	100	16.7	0.847
Faecal N content (g/kg)	10	11	11	12	0.9	0.393	10	11	11	11	1.3	0.914
Urinary N content (g/kg)	7	7	5	7	1.5	0.586	7	8	8	7	0.6	0.946
Nitrogen digestibility												
CTTAD ²	0.83	0.81	0.79	0.79	0.025	0.264	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.79	0.021	0.416
CAM ³	0.53	0.54	0.54	0.50	0.054	0.905	0.51	0.50	0.47	0.51	0.039	0.704
Nitrogen retained ⁴ (g/day)	34	31	31	31	5.7	0.923	37	34	35	37	5.0	0.897

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 522 ¹ Experimental design was a four by four Latin Square (n = 4 pigs per growth phase)

523 ² Coefficient of Total Tract Apparent Digestibility ((N intake – faecal N output) / N intake)

524 ³ Coefficient of Apparent Metabolisability ((N intake – faecal N output - urinary N output) / N intake)

525 ⁴ Based on quantitative faecal and urine collection over four time periods; each period involved collection over 10 meals (5 days)

526 ^{a-c} Values within a row with different superscripts differ significantly at P<0.05

527 **Table 3** Effect of soya bean meal (SBM), pea (Prophet) or faba bean (Fuego, Tattoo and Wizard)-based diets on performance
 528 parameters¹ of grower and finisher pigs (Trial 2).

Item	Dietary treatment					sed	P					
	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	Wizard		Diet	SBM vs. pulse	Pea vs. faba bean ²	High vs. low tannin ³	Spring vs. winter sown ⁴	
Grower Phase (30-55kg)												
Feed Intake	48	48	46	46	47	1.8	0.838	0.482	0.371	0.825	0.824	
Daily Live Weight Gain (kg/day)	0.92	0.95	0.99	0.96	1.02	0.035	0.065	0.027	0.190	0.156	0.464	
Feed Conversion Ratio	1.92	1.91	1.86	1.85	1.87	0.074	0.834	0.481	0.367	0.821	0.827	
Finisher Phase (55-95kg)												
Feed Intake	122	119	118	116	122	5.6	0.810	0.429	0.997	0.455	0.547	
Daily Live Weight Gain (kg/day)	1.13	1.19	1.17	1.10	1.14	0.049	0.482	0.561	0.226	0.256	0.558	
Feed Conversion Ratio	3.05	2.97	2.95	2.90	3.04	0.140	0.811	0.430	0.997	0.454	0.546	

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530 n = 8 pigs per dietary treatment in each growth phase

531 ¹ Calculated by regression analysis over the specific growth period

532 ² Prophet (Pea) vs. Fuego, Tattoo and Wizard (Faba beans)

533 ³ Fuego & Wizard (High tannin) vs. Tattoo (Low tannin)

534 ⁴ Fuego (Spring sown) vs. Wizard (Winter Sown)

535 **Table 4** Effect of soya bean meal (SBM), pea (Prophet) or faba bean (Fuego, Tattoo and Wizard)-based diets on slaughter parameters of
 536 finisher pigs (Trial 2).

Item	Dietary treatment					sed	Diet	P				
	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	Wizard			SBM vs. pulse	Pea vs. faba bean ¹	High vs. low tannin ²	Spring vs. winter sown ³	
Parameter at slaughter												
Live weight (kg)	94	98	98	100	98 ^b	1.6	0.047	0.005	0.622	0.211	0.940	
Intestinal weight (kg)												
S.I. – empty	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0	0.13	0.300	0.320	0.102	0.276	0.895	
L.I. – empty	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9	0.13	0.122	0.277	0.145	0.059	0.452	
S.I. digesta	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	0.29	0.931	0.474	0.916	0.677	0.720	
L.I. digesta	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.2	2.6	0.44	0.372	0.385	0.123	0.295	0.951	
Carcass parameters												
Temp (°C) at 45 min	40	38	39	39	39	1.0	0.218	0.088	0.103	0.664	0.933	
pH at 45min	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.4	0.14	0.081	0.030	0.286	0.159	0.396	
Hot P2 (mm) by probe	11	11	10	10	11	0.8	0.285	0.369	0.397	0.675	0.070	
Shoulder backfat ⁴												
Indole; µg/kg fat	1.3 (0.02)	1.3 (0.02)	1.4 (0.04)	1.2 (0.02)	1.5 (0.03)	0.11	0.524	0.729	0.475	0.122	0.777	
Skatole; µg/kg fat	1.7 (0.07)	1.6 (0.04)	1.7 (0.06)	1.8 (0.06)	1.7 (0.06)	0.13	0.494	0.664	0.085	0.779	0.891	
Parameter at 24hr post-slaughter												
Carcass parameters												
Carcass weight (kg)	68	72	71	72	71	1.2	0.018	0.003	0.352	0.141	0.842	
Carcass length (mm)	813	814	831	823	819	8.0	0.186	0.182	0.117	0.727	0.165	
Carcass temp (°C)	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.8	0.21	0.439	0.412	0.699	0.517	0.116	
Carcass pH	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	0.06	0.405	0.684	0.269	0.113	0.825	
Dressing %	72.3	73.8	72.0	72.5	72.4	0.86	0.296	0.535	0.044	0.665	0.686	
Lean meat % ⁵	62.8	62.8	62.4	62.6	62.5	0.16	0.036	0.030	0.058	0.221	0.315	
<i>L. dorsi</i> (mm)												
Maximum height	89	92	92	93	92	2.3	0.561	0.104	0.917	0.637	0.996	
Maximum width	55	60	59	57	56	2.3	0.278	0.153	0.193	0.932	0.241	
Subcutaneous fat depth(mm)												
P1	8.8	8.5	8.1	8.3	8.6	0.64	0.782	0.340	0.770	0.902	0.407	
P2	9.1	8.3	7.8	8.7	8.6	0.66	0.402	0.147	0.957	0.408	0.274	

537	P3	10	9	8	8	9	0.66	0.212	0.064	0.402	0.440	0.285
	K ⁶	15.3	14.4	12.8	11.6	13.4	0.96	0.005	0.005	0.024	0.086	0.527

538 S.I. = small intestine, L.I. = large intestine.

539 ¹ Prophet (*Pea*) vs. Fuego, Tattoo and Wizard (*Faba beans*)

540 ² Fuego & Wizard (*High tannin*) vs. Tattoo (*Low tannin*)

541 ³ Fuego (*Spring sown*) vs. Wizard (*Winter sown*)

542 ⁴ Back-transformed mean values are shown in parentheses (ug/g fat)

543 ⁵ LM % = 66.5 - (0.95*P2) + (0.068*cold carcass weight) (Warriss, 2010)

544 ⁶ Subcutaneous fat depth at a position level with the top of the maximum height of *L. dorsi* (carcass suspended)

545 **Table 5** *Effect of soya bean meal (SBM), pea (Prophet) or faba bean (Fuego, Tattoo and*
 546 *Wizard)-based diets on mean faecal dry matter (g/kg) of grower and finisher pigs (Trials 1*
 547 *and 2)*

	Dietary treatment					sed	P
	SBM	Prophet	Fuego	Tattoo	Wizard		
Trial 1							
Grower phase (35-55kg)	312	332	324	332	-	21.4	0.769
Finisher phase (55-95kg)	299	317	317	315	-	19.6	0.756
Trial 2							
Grower phase (35-55kg)	264	259	262	263	265	12.3	0.990
Finisher phase (55-95kg)	261	278	270	272	279	7.6	0.179

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