FIBRE IN FEED FOR SOWS

*SEGES* (the Danish knowledge-centre for pig production) has recently lectured on fibre in feed for sows, which clearly showed that fibre have a positive effect in herds.

**Benefits of adding fibre in your feed for sows**

It is widely known that fibre helps to increase the gastrointestinal health of the pigs. Besides this, there are also a number of other benefits of using fibre in the diet. In the highly productive sow herds there is pressure on the sows to perform as good as possible. There are requirements for both high milk production, many live born piglets and a high weight gain for piglets. It is therefore important to eliminate all the factors that can contribute negatively to productivity.

One of these factors can be constipation. Constipation in sows at farrowing-time can cause a longer farrowing and thus increase the number of stillborn piglets. It is important that the piglets get as quickly as possible to the udder and get colostrum. Where farrowing takes too long time, the last born piglets will not necessarily receive the same volume of colostrum as it is falling from the sow starts to farrow. If you therefore experience long farrowing, you should have focus on constipation in sows.

Trials has also shown that feeding can contribute positively to a higher milk production in the lactating sow. Here again, adding fibre in the feed has a positive effect. You will be able to achieve a higher milk production using beet pulp in feed for gestating sows. Trial showed the highest growth in piglets when using beet pulp over other fibre such as potato pulp. The fibre source is important if milk production should be improved. However, it is not essential how much fibre to be used in the individual herd.

Vilomix recommend 2-3% fibre (beet pulp) for lactating sows and 5-8% for pregnant sows. If you have further questions relating to fibre in sow feed, please feel free to contact our Vilomix technical team.