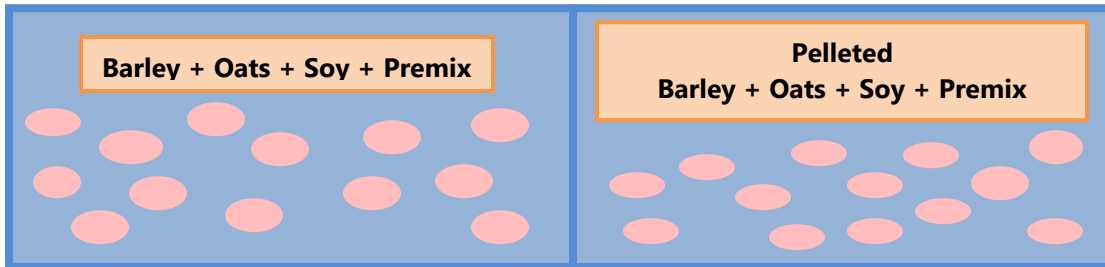


Pelleted Small Grains Fed to Pigs

Objective: To measure if feed efficiency of a small gain (high-fiber) based diet increases when pelleted.

Project Period

April – August 2017; from weaning to finish.



Farmer-cooperator will:

- Split litters into two groups of 16, randomly. Try to keep each group as even as possible.
- Measure initial weight and sex of each piglet or group of piglets. Note any health concerns or veterinary treatments.
- Feed one group a ground or mashed barley/oats/soy ration (developed by Fertrell) and one group the same ration, but pelleted. Keep records of ration composition, nutritional analysis, and particle size of the feedstuffs. Be sure to transition one group onto the pelleted feed.
- Note the date of each grinding and mixing, and feed ration within 14 days of mixing. Keep records of the costs of grinding, mixing and pelleting.
- Record when animals were fed and how much was supplied to each group, in order to calculate amount consumed, rate of gain and feed efficiency. Weight feed in and feed not consumed.
- Weight pigs individually, once per month.
- Collect carcass information at time of processing.
- Send samples for meat flavor and quality testing at ISU food science laboratories (optional).
- Track all costs and profits, in order to calculate economics.

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Analyze the data and write a report.
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website and potentially other outlets.
- Pay the Farmer Cooperator a fee of \$550 at the conclusion of the project in 2017.

Contact: Meghan Filbert, (515) 232-5661, meghan@practicalfarmers.org