

A COMPARISON OF COORONG TRITICALE WITH KITE WHEAT AS A FEEDSTUFF  
FOR PIGS

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The efficiency with which energy and amino acids are utilised determines the usefulness of a cereal as a feedstuff for growing pigs. The cereal must also be free from deleterious levels of antinutritional factors (Radcliffe 1980; Radcliffe et al. 1981)

Four groups of 12 pigs (6 males and 6 females) were fed from 14 to 50 kg liveweight on diets based on Coorong, a recently released triticale variety, or on Kite wheat. The diets were formulated to provide equal digestible energy (MJ/kg) to total lysine (%) ratios of 18.0, and to contain adequate levels of crude protein, essential amino acids other than lysine, minerals and vitamins. Soyabean meal was the sole supplementary protein.

Pigs were penned in groups of eight and fed individually at a level estimated to provide an energy intake of 3 times maintenance. The pigs were weighed weekly and feed allocations for the next week adjusted accordingly. Carcass weights and back-fat thicknesses were obtained after slaughter at 50 kg liveweight. Pancreases were removed at slaughter for weighing and determination of trypsin content (Nitsan and Liener 1976).

The following results were obtained.

|  | Kite  | Coorong | LSD<br>( $p < 0.01$ ) |
|--|-------|---------|-----------------------|
| Mean daily energy intake<br>(multiple of maintenance<br>requirement) | 2.96  | 2.96    | NS                    |
| Average daily gain (g/day)   |       |         |                       |
| Liveweight   | 513.0 | 492.7   | 20.0                  |
| Carcass weight   | 388.3 | 364.4   | 17.6                  |
| Energy utilisation (MJ/kg gain)                                      |       |         |                       |
| Liveweight   | 31.72 | 32.90   | 1.27                  |
| Carcass weight   | 41.89 | 44.51   | 1.72                  |
| Lysine conversion (g/kg gain)  |       |         |                       |
| Liveweight   | 16.96 | 17.73   | 0.68                  |
| Carcass weight   | 22.40 | 23.98   | 0.91                  |

The results showed significant differences which, if attributed to the grain, suggest that utilisation of both digestible energy and lysine for pig growth was about 10 per cent less efficient from Coorong than from Kite. No significant differences were found in pancreas weights, pancreas trypsin contents, or back-fat thicknesses at slaughter.

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