Curcumin in feed : sows eat better durring lactation

With curcumin in their feed, sows ate 23 kg more during lactation.



The problem

Farrowing is painful and stressful. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are used to help sows, but they can have side effects.

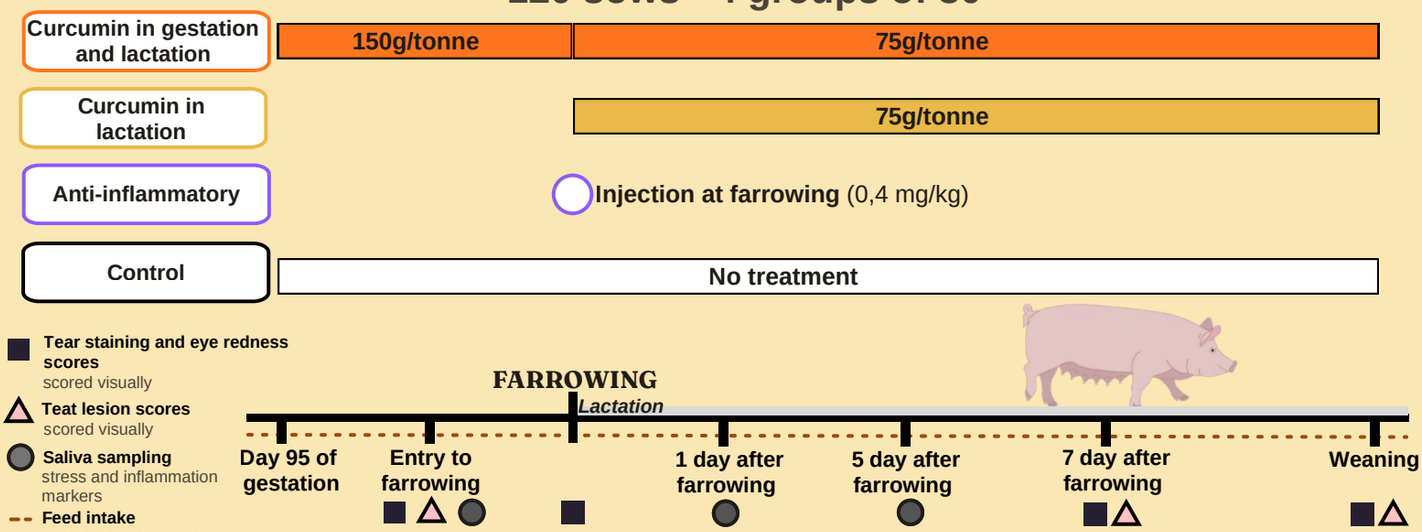


The idea

Find alternatives to NSAIDs. We added a natural compound known for its **anti-inflammatory** and **antioxidant** properties to the feed: curcumin.

The trial: from late gestation to weaning

120 sows · 4 groups of 30

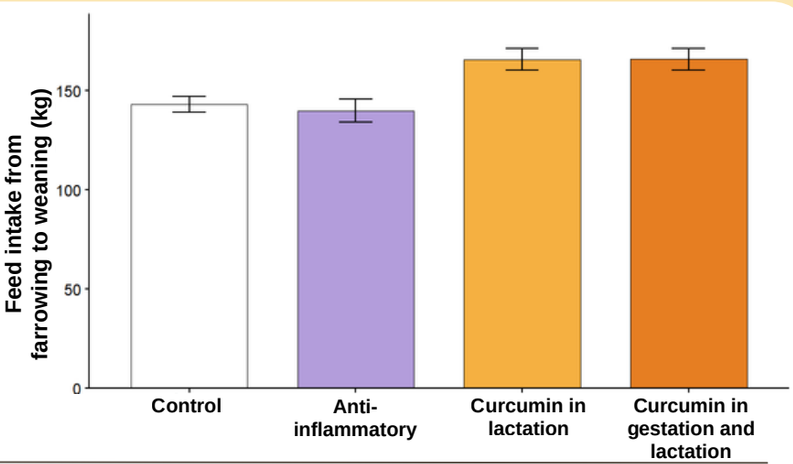


What we found : Sows fed curcumin eat more during lactation

+16 %
more feed than the other groups

Could support milk production

Could help sows preserve their body reserves



Stress and inflammation: peak the day after farrowing, in all groups.

Eyes and teats: no clear effect of curcumin.

For producers :

A natural option



Easy to add to feed



Cost to be determined ?



Next steps

Video: observe pain-related behaviours (posture changes, restlessness, lying time)

Accelerometers: measure each sow's activity

Maradiya Samare, Jamie Ahloy Dallaire, Luca Lo Verso, Frédéric Guay
Université Laval · Trial conducted at CDPQ