



Uniferon Best Practice Recommendation

Vitamin E

There are many important aspects of anaemia to keep in mind. One of them is to adapt your anaemia protocol to known health issues within the herd.

Keep Vitamin E in check

Vitamin E is important for the animals' antioxidant status and thereby essential to the level of free radicals after parenteral administration of iron. As the sow is determinant for the piglets' vitamin E level, the sows' vitamin E status is also of importance for optimal anaemia care. A sow's ability to absorb and transfer vitamin E to the milk varies greatly from sow to sow. Variation in vitamin E uptake is also seen among piglets, and may even vary within the same litter.

Synthetic or natural vitamin E

Vitamin E occurs as synthetic vitamin E (acetate bound) or as natural vitamin E (alcohol form).

The binding of acetate takes place in order to stabilise vitamin E in food production and storage of feed. If vitamin E is added to feed in the form of alcohol, it will immediately act as an antioxidant in the feed and may be dissolved before it reaches the pig. In order for synthetic vitamin E to be absorbed by the pig there has to be an enzymatic cleavage of the acetate in the intestine. This is not a problem for the sow, however, piglets' enzyme production and fat digestion is reduced in comparison and they may therefore have difficulties taking full advantage of the large amounts of vitamin E added to today's feed.

The alcohol form of vitamin E shows better "efficacy" in piglets than the acetate bound due to the formulation's immediate bioavailability and the fact that piglets are better able to

absorb the product, as they do not need enzymatic cleavage of acetate in the intestine.

Vitamin E and Iron

Any vitamin E deficiency in the herd (sows or piglets) needs to be corrected for optimal anaemia care.

1. If the sows are vitamin E deficient this approach is recommended:

- Analyse/control feed's content of vitamin E
- Make sure that gestation mixture contains min. 80 mg vitamin E / Fes and lactation diet min. 92 mg vitamin E / Fes
- Synthetic vitamin E (acetate bound) may be added with up to 250 mg/sow

2. If the piglets are vitamin E deficient this approach is recommended:

- Provide natural vitamin E (peroral administration) to each piglet. It is recommended to use natural vitamin E for improved bioavailability

Sincerely
The Uniferon Team

