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Effect of Inclusion of Citrus Pulp in the Diet of Finishing Swines

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this work was to study the effect of inclusion of citrus pulp in the diet of finishing pigs. In the first trial, 16 Topigs barrows with 80.5±4.7 kg of initial BW were used to evaluate the digestibility of citrus pulp. Having 18.85% of neutral detergent fiber and 41.18% of neutral detergent soluble fiber, citrus pulp showed as a feasible alternative ingredient to be added in the diets of feed restricted finishing pigs. Second trial tested the use of 0, 10, 20, 30% of citrus pulp in the diets of 36-feed-restricted barrows with initial BW of 83.7±5.1 kg. A quadratic trend (P<0.05) as function of citrus pulp levels was observed for daily weight gain and number of experimental days to reach 130kg BW, being the best estimated inclusion levels of citrus pulp 10.79 and 10.97%, respectively. For urea and triacylglycerol serological parameters, no effects of citrus pulp were observed (P>0.05), but a quadratic trend existed on cholesterol serological content.

Key words: Alternative feedstuffs, Digestibility, Energetic restrictions, Heavy swine, Soluble fiber

INTRODUCTION

With the improvement of methods for the determination of dietary fibers and the possibility of classification and measurement of the effects of their fractions, fibrous feedstuffs have been reevaluated for feeding swine. An example of this is the inclusion of a source of fiber for feeding breeders to control the excess body weight, to decrease the stress due to confinement, and to be used in the qualitative feed restriction program as well (Gomes et al., 1999). Also, fibrous ingredients have shown good feasibility as source of energy for feeding the finishing swine. In this

manner, it is possible to slaughter them with more than 100 kg BW but with lower fat deposition, important characteristic taken in system of carcass typification.

The use of fibrous ingredients in the qualitative feed restriction program depends mainly on the cost and availability, conditions present in Brazil. In the world, Brazil is the largest producer of oranges and about 71% of this is used by the industry (ABECitrus, 2006). Orange processing generates 50 to 70% of residues (Bampidis and Robinson, 2006), which after drying are called citrus pulp. Although regularly employed as energetic ingredient in the diet of ruminants,

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utilization of citrus pulp in swine rations has got little attention. Being a residue easily obtained and having high fiber content, citrus pulp could be an excellent ingredient for feeding the finishing swine, subject to a qualitative feed restriction program.

Thus, with the objective of knowing the nutritional value of citrus pulp and its possible use as energetic diluent in pig diet, two trials were conducted. First trial studied the nutrient and energy digestibility of citrus pulp; second one evaluated the effects of inclusion of different citrus levels on performance, number of days to reach 130 kg BW, and serological parameters of finishing swine subjected to qualitative feed restriction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two trials were conducted, the first during November through December of 2005, and the second from March to May of 2006.

Trial 1

In this, sixteen Topigs barrows with 80.5±4.7 kg of initial BW purchased from commercial operation were used. The animals were individually allotted in pens equipped with semi-automatic feeders and communicating vessel drinkers. The swine were initially weighed and then designed to two experimental diets:

- Standard ration: with 3400 kcal DE/kg as proposed by NRC (1998) to attend requirements for barrows with 80 kg of BW, high genetic potential for growth, and reared at a room temperature of 24° C (Table 1).
- Experimental ration: diet composed by 70% of standard ration plus 30% of citrus pulp.

Experimental period lasted 14 days, being eight days for adaptation of the animals to the diet, three days to set up the flux of the indicator in the digestive tract, and three days for the collection of faeces. During the eight adjusting days, average feed consumption of two daily meals was taken at 0800h and 1700h. The amount of individually weighed ration was blended with water in a 1:1 proportion and furnished to the animals. After 30 min of consumption, the rest of ration was collected and weighed for determination of feed intake. During the adjustment period, when the average daily feed intake was calculated, consumption of ration supplemented with 0.3% of

chromium oxide as indicator was controlled in a way to become its flux evenly distributed in the ingesta.

The amount of ration furnished to each animal in the last six experimental days was the result of the lower coefficient of mean feed intake of adjustment period divided by metabolic weight of the animals. In the last three experimental days, 400g of faeces were collected twice daily from rectum of animals after each meal. Faeces were put in blended plastic bags and frozen at -8°C until subsequent analyzes. Finishing collection period faeces were defrosted and then homogenized to compose the samples of each animal. About 200g of pooled sample was dried in steam oven at 65°C for 72h and milled in a knife-type mill to pass a 1-mm screen.

Processed samples of faeces and ration were analyzed for dry matter (DM), mineral matter (MM), acid detergent fiber (ADF), starch, crude protein (CP), calcium and phosphorus according to Silva and Queiroz (2002), as well as neutral detergent fiber (NDF) by Van Soest et al. (1991) method, neutral soluble detergent fiber (NSDF) according to Hall et al. (1998), chromium oxide level by Fenton and Fenton (1979) method, and crude energy in Parr-type calorimetric bomb.

From these results, apparent digestibility coefficients of DM, MM, starch, NDF, ADF, NSDF, CP, CE, calcium and phosphorus, and levels of nutrients and DE of citrus pulp were calculated according to equations described by Matterson et al. (1965).

Trial 2

In trial 2, 36 Topigs barrows of high capacity of lean deposition with 80.4±2.7 kg of initial BW were allotted in individual pigpens of 2.55 m², each one equipped with semi-automatic feeders and communicating vessel drinkers. Increasing levels of citrus pulp were added in the diets of animals distributed in four treatment groups during five days of adjustment before reaching the total amount of citrus pulp established in trial protocol. Afterward, the experimental period started with barrows weighing 83.7±5.1 kg on average. Diets (Table 2) were formulated to attend the requirements for barrows with 105 kg BW, high genetic potential for growth, and reared at room temperature of 24° C as proposed by NRC (1998). The values of ED and Ca of citrus pulp considered to formulate the diets were obtained in trial 1.

Table 1 – Proximal and calculated compositions of standard ration.

Feedstuffs, %	Standard ration	
Corn	73.94	
Soy meal	24.10	
Citrus pulp	-	
Limestone	0.80	
Dicalcium phosphate	0.46	
Salt	0.30	
Vitamin-mineral premix (1)	0.40	
Total	100.00	
Calculated composition ⁽²⁾		
Digestible Energy, kcal/kg	3411	
Crude Protein, %	17.65	
NDF - Neutral Detergent Fiber, % ⁽³⁾	9.46	
ADF – Acid Detergent Fiber, % ⁽³⁾	2.01	
NDSF – Neutral Detergent Fiber, % ⁽³⁾	7.84	
Starch, % ⁽³⁾	44.71	
Digestible Lys, %	0.78	
Digestible Met + Cys, %	0.53	
Calcium, %	0.52	
Non-phytate phosphorus, %	0.17	

¹ Vitamin premix – amount per kg of product: 2,500,000 UI vitamin A, 500,000 UI vitamin D3, 50 mg biotin, 50 mg choline, 10000 mg niacin, 3000 mg calcium pantotenate, 7 mg vitamin B12, 1800 mg vitamin B2, 7500 mg vitamin E, 1000 mg vitamin K3. Mineral premix – amount per kg of product: 40,000 mg Fe, 35,000 mg Cu, 20,000 mg Mn, 40,000 mg Zn, 360 mg Co, 840 mg I, 120 mg Se.

Table 2 - Proximal and calculated compositions of experimental diets.

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Feedstuffs, %	Control	Cp10 (1)	Cp20 (1)	Cp30 (1)
Corn	81.78	71.01	60.24	49.43
Soy meal	16.40	17.17	17.94	18.75
Citrus pulp	0.00	10.00	20.00	30.00
Limestone	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57
Dicalcium phosphate	0.64	0.64	0.65	0.65
Salt	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Vitamin-mineral premix (2)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Calculated composition ⁽³⁾				
Digestible energy, kcal/kg	3391	3294	3197	3100
Crude protein, %	14.87	14.28	14.37	14.48
NDF, % ⁽⁴⁾	11.88	12.61	13.33	14.06
ADF, % ⁽⁴⁾	4.23	5.35	6.46	7.57
NDSF, % ⁽⁴⁾	7.41	10.95	14.63	18.04
Starch, % ⁽⁴⁾	54.91	48.34	41.76	35.17
Digestible Lys, %	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58
Digestible Met + Cys, %	0.46	0.43	0.41	0.38
Calcium, %	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
Non-phytate phosphorus., %	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17

¹ Citrus pulp at 10, 20, and 30% of inclusion.

² Nutritional compositions according to Rostagno et al (2005).

³ Analyzed values.

² Vitamin premix – amount per kg of product: 2,500,000 UI vitamin A, 500,000 UI vitamin D3, 50 mg biotin, 50 mg choline, 10000 mg niacin, 3000 mg calcium pantotenate, 7 mg vitamin B12, 1800 mg vitamin B2, 7500 mg vitamin E, 1000 mg vitamin K3. Mineral premix – amount per kg of product: 40,000 mg Fe, 35,000 mg Cu, 20,000 mg Mn, 40,000 mg Zn, 360 mg Co, 840 mg I, 120 mg Se.

³ Nutritional compositions according to Rostagno et al (2005).

⁴ NDF = Neutral Detergent Fiber; ADF = Acid Detergent Fiber; NDSF = Neutral Detergent-Soluble Fiber. Analyzed values.

Experimental treatments were:

- Control diet corn-soy diet without citrus pulp;
- Cp10 diet formulated to have the same level of digestible Lys, Ca and non-phitate P of control diet, and 10% of citrus pulp;
- Cp20 diet formulated to have the same level of digestible Lys, Ca and non-phytate P control diet, and 20% of citrus pulp;
- Cp30 diet- formulated to have the same level of digestible Lys, Ca and non-phytate P levels of control diet, and 30% of citrus pulp.

Animals had free access to water and feed along all experimental period. Rest of ration and BW of animals were weighed on daily and weekly bases, respectively. Daily feed intake (DFI), daily weight gain (DWG), and feed:gain ratio (FGR) were calculated along all experimental period. Final 130 kg BW was the target weight to remove the animals from the trial and slaughter them.

Total feed intake was obtained by the sum of weekly consumptions measured during the entire experimental period. The number of estimated experimental days to reach 130 kg of BW (D130) was based on initial weight and calculated as following:

 $D130 = (130 - initial weight) / DWG_{total period}$

Where:

 $DWG_{total\ period} = (final\ weight\ -\ initial\ weight)\ /$ number of experimental days

The animals were slaughtered day-after the last weighing (final weight) and after 15h of solid fasting period. Before slaughtering the animals, they were re-weighed for the determination of postfast weight. Losses of fast weights (FWL), as percent, were calculated by the following formula:

 $FWL = [(final\ weight - postfast\ weight) / final\ weight] \times 100$

Serological parameters

Two samples of the blood of each experimental unit were taken, one in starting period and the other a day before slaughtering and fasting period. Blood was taken by cranial vein puncture, and immediately collected in a tube without anticoagulant. The blood was centrifuged at 3500 rpm for 15 min and the serum destined to dose urea, triacylglycerol and total cholesterol contents, using commercial reagent kits.

Statistical analyses

A randomized block design was used in the both trials to control the differences in initial weight. Two treatments (standard and test diets) with eight replicates of one animal each were evaluated in trial 1. Trial 2 tested four treatments with nine replicates of one animal each. For urea, tryacylglicerol and total cholesterol evaluations, initial measurement of each respective parameter served as covariate in the statistical model. Data obtained were tested for homogeneities of variances among treatments before ANOVA using SAS statistical software (SAS, 1998).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Trial 1

Table 3 presents the coefficients of digestibility of dry matter (DCDM), mineral matter (DCMM), neutral detergent fiber (DCNDF), acid detergent fiber (DFADF), neutral soluble detergent fiber (DCNSDF), starch (DCstarch), crude protein crude energy (DCCE), calcium (DCCP), (DCcalcium), phosphorus (DCphosphorus), and contents of digestible protein (DP) and digestible energy (DE) of standard and experimental rations. Comparing the rations, it was observed that the inclusion of citrus pulp in the standard diet significantly altered the coefficients of digestibility of all the nutrients and energy, except mineral matter. In the program of qualitative feed restriction, inclusion of fibrous ingredients to diets should be first evaluated to check the possible negative effects upon the digestibilities of nutrients and energy. Nadai (2003), in an evaluation of the inclusion of 20% of rice hulls to diet of feed restricted swine, observed that noble feedstuffs as corn and sov meal were underutilized. In this study, diet with citrus pulp at 30% in substitution to same amount of standard ration promoted a reduction of 28.0 and 7.5% on digestibility of protein and energy, respectively.

Chemical composition of citrus pulp is shown in Table 4.

According to results, citrus pulp presented high coefficient of digestibility of the dry matter (72.6%), probably due to its high content of soluble fiber, passive of higher fermentation. Fiber

effects on feed digestibility were different and consistent with the solubility of their components. While Bach Knudsen et al. (1993) found inverse correlation between the proportion of crude fiber (insoluble) and the digestibility of the diet due to the higher digesta passage rate with consequent lower fermentation period, Dierick et al. (1989) observed that this relation was not applicable for ingredients rich on soluble fiber, as alfalfa, soy hulls, wheat meal, and beet pulp, probably as consequence of high fermentability of these sources.

The starch, a polysaccharide widely present in cereal grain, is the main source of energy for monogastric animals, providing glucose by hydrolyses. Citrus pulp has low level of starch (3.44%) as compared to corn (60.0%) according to Rostagno et al. (2005), but they both have high digestibility of nutrients. Coefficients of digestibility of NDF and ADF of citrus pulp here tested were low, 40.05 and 46.44%, respectively, but DCNSDF was high (85.93%).

Table 3 - Coefficients of digestibility (DC), and content of digestible protein (DP) and digestible energy (DE) of standard and experimental rations of heavy swine.

DC (%)	Standard ration	Experimental ration	CV%	P
DC DM	87.89	83.60	0.68	0.0001
DC MM	39.07	37.99	8.39	0.1807
DC NDF	61.36	66.25	2.83	0.0256
DC FDA	42.53	50.77	8.31	0.0186
DC NDSF	87.13	85.48	7.90	0.0322
DC starch	99.51	99.19	0.19	0.0001
DC CP	85.26	75.23	2.14	0.0004
DC CE	87.89	83.01	0.87	0.0002
DC Ca	37.60	34.23	6.80	0.0030
DC P	19.88	28.01	9.10	0.0032
DP (%)	14.17	10.18	-	-
DE (kcal/kg)	3335	3083	-	-

Table 4 - Chemical composition and content of digestible nutrient and digestible energy of citrus pulp.

Nutrient and energy	Chemical composition	Coefficient of digestibility, %	Digestible Nutrients and Digestible Energy	
DM (%)	89.10	72.60	64.69	
MM (%)	7.88	36.83	2.90	
NDF (%)	18.85	40.05	7.55	
ADF (%)	14.32	46.44	6.65	
NDSF (%)	41.18	85.93	35.39	
Starch (%)	3.44	89.49	3.07	
CP (%)	6.35	13.98	0.89	
DE (kcal/kg)	3528	70.75	2496	
Ca (%)	1.670	0.520	0.009	
P (%)	0.750	0.310	0.002	

Finishing swine have a fully developed digestive system, with potential to degrade the diverse fiber components, mainly in the cecum. Nevertheless, those components show different fermentability capacities by the microbiota of digestive tract. Thus, pectin, an important compound of citrus pulp fiber, is highly fermentable, and being soluble shows high coefficient of digestibility, this was confirmed by the high DCNSDF here observed (Table 4). On the other hand, insoluble fractions,

measured by NDF and ADF analyses, and composed by insoluble hemi-cellulose; cellulose and lignin (Dierick et al., 1989) of low fermentation in the digestive tract of swine shown low digestibilities.

Citrus pulp presented a CP level of 6.35%, but its coefficient of digestibility was only 13.98%. These values differed from those presented at Rostagno et al. (2005), where correspondent values were 55.0% DCCP and 3.5% DP.

Protein bounded by insoluble fiber is hardly degraded in the digestive tract; as a consequence, its availability for the animal is very low. On the ohter hand, soluble fibers composed by the soluble portion of hemi-cellulose; gums and mucilage (Southgati and Englyst, 1985) determine an increase on viscosity of digesta, lowering the enzymatic action on dietetic protein. Besides, those compounds serve as substrate for microbial fermentation in the cecum (Johnston et al., 2003), increasing endogenous nitrogen losses, and lowering the protein digestibility (Etiene, 1987; Jansmann et al., 2002).

As citrus pulp has a fermentative potential, its energetic value for feeding the finishing swine should be considered. Brazilian Tables of Feedstuff Composition (Rostagno et al., 2005) register higher digestible energy content (2956 vs 2496 kcal/kg) than here observed. For the high-soluble-fiber evaluation of ingredient showing fermentative potential, results nutritional values bv ileal digestibility determination that exclude the process of cecal degradation should be the method of choice, as the products obtained from the microbial fermentation would have low rates of utilization for the swine (Batterham, 1991).

High calcium content of citrus pulp occurs in consequence of the limestone inclusion on its processing and dying. Total calcium levels of citrus pulp here observed (1.67%) was similar to those (1.57%) presented at Brazilian Tables of Feedstuff Compositions (Rostagno et al., 2005). However, as the use of limestone with high level of impurities from siderurgical industries is usual practice to dry citrus pulp (Polpa, 1998), this ingredient contains low level of available calcium (0.009%). Thus, for formulation of swine diets with inclusion of citrus pulp available calcium instead of total calcium should be considered in order to assure an adequate supply of minerals. The important functions of calcium on the maintenance of bone tissue, blood coagulation, and energy metabolism result in great requirement of this mineral for finishing swine. An inadequate level on diets can determine poor development and bone fracture due to the high weight of those animals (Penz Júnior and Viola, 1998). Low coefficient of digestibility was observed for phosphorus (0.31%), probably due to the complex formation between the mineral and fibrous components or phytic acid of the ingredient.

Trial 2

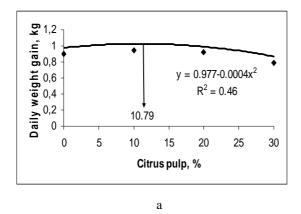
Table 5 and Figure 1 present the performance data (daily feed intake, daily weight gain, and feed:gain ratio), total feed intake, final weight, post-fast weight, fast weight loss and estimated days to reach 130 kg BW, as well as the prediction equations as function of citrus pulp levels in experimental diets. Dietary levels of citrus pulp did not affect the daily feed intake. In spite of its low palatability (Domínguez, 1995), swine adapted to the new ingredient of the diets even on the highest level of inclusion. It is known that swine increase daily feed intake when a progressive dilution of the ration with inert or indigestible material is done (Chadd, 1990; Lee et al., 2002), this was different the results observed here, where no intake counterbalance occurred. In spite of the presence of substances that decreased the palatability, the high water retention capacity of citrus pulp could maintain the physical satiate for longer time, lowering the stimulus to feed (Kyriazakis and Emmans, 1995). However, Chadd (1990), diluting a high digestible energy diet (3500 kcal/kg) with progressive addition of oat to reach 2300 kcal/kg for feeding 120-kg BW swine, observed an increase in feed intake as the level of energy decreased up to 2500 kcal/kg. He concluded that the lowest level of digestible energy promoted a decrease in feed intake without any compensation of this low digestible energy level provided by the bulky diet.

In the present trial, besides energetic dilution of the diet with the inclusion of citrus pulp a decrease on daily feed intake was expected for physical limitation of intestinal tract due to the high capacity of water retention and the characteristic of its soluble fractions, but this did not occur. Dietetic levels of citrus pulp did not affect (P>0.1) the feed:gain ratio, total feed intake, final weight, post-fast weight, and fast-loss weight.

A quadratic trend (P=0.0157) for daily weight gain was observed, being the highest gain obtained with the inclusion of citrus pulp at 10.79% (Fig. 1a). This level of inclusion was the same observed for the best D130, confirming the former result.

Table 5 - Mean values and coefficients of variation (CV) of performance data, feed consumption, estimated number of experimental days to reach 130 kg BW-body weight (D130), final and post fast BW, and loss of weight on fast period of pigs fed different levels of citrus pulp.

Characteristics	Level of citrus pulp, %				CV 0/	Doguagian	P
Characteristics	0	10	20	30	- CV, %	Regression	1
Daily feed consumption, kg	3.17	3.25	3.12	2.87	9.64	-	0.07
Daily weight gain, kg	0.90	0.94	0.92	0.79	11.27	Quadratic	0.0157
Feed:gain ratio	3.52	3.49	3.39	3.64	7.77	-	>0.1
Total feed consumption, kg	160.60	158.50	157.00	170.50	11.40	-	>0.1
Final weight, kg	129.60	129.40	130.50	129.60	1.53	-	>0.1
Post-fast weight, kg	128.80	128.50	129.10	128.50	1.74	-	>0.1
Weight loss on fast period, kg	0.85	1.03	1.06	1.03	37.40	-	>0.1
D130, days	51.50	49.40	49.70	60.50	11.60	Quadratic	0.0037



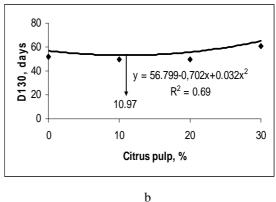


Figure 1 - Daily weight gain (a), and experimental days to reach 130 kg BW (b) as function of citrus pulp levels.

Serological parameters and prediction equations for cholesterol levels as functions of citrus pulp levels are indicated in Table 6 and Figure 2, respectively. Inclusion of citrus pulp to diets did not decrease the blood triacylglycerol content, as the highest reduction of energy was 8.5%, which was observed with the use of Cp30 diet. However, Fraga et al. (2008) observed a negative linear trend on triacylglycerol levels as the energy of diet drop up to 20% with the inclusion of rice hulls. For the total cholesterol content, a quadratic trend was observed, and the highest predicted level was reached at 22.63% of citrus pulp inclusion. (Fig. 2).

Many studies with monogastric animals, including humans, have demonstrated reduction in the levels of serum cholesterol and cholesterol-related composts with the use of fibrous diets (Ludwig et al., 1999), and the most efficient reducer was the soluble fibers (Delaney et al., 2003). One of the hypotheses for this effect is the capacity of some

fiber constituents for adsorbing the steroids and derived composts, including bile salts and cholesterol, which are excreted through faeces. For reposition of excreted bile, an increase in hepatic cholesterol synthesis may be necessary (Kreuzer et al., 2002).

Pectin is one of fiber compounds that potentially functions as cholesterolemic reducer (Stasse-Wolthuis et al., 1980). But a quadratic trend on serum cholesterol content as dietary citrus levels increased was observed in the present trial. Kreuzer et al. (2002), studing the effects of fermentable fibrous compounds (hemicellulose and pectin) on the levels of serum cholesterol, observed that pectin was the most efficient hypocholesterolemic fiber fraction. According to Kreuzer et al. (1991), the fiber effect in the intestine, lowering the absorptive process of cholesterol and bile salts, is not only mediated by pectin-adsorption capacity, but the action of microflora must be also considered. Since pectin is

soluble and rapidly digestible as compared to hemicelluloses, pectin-adsorbed-cholesterol and bile salts are discharged before the end of small intestine of swine where absorption could take place. Only when citrus pulp was added at a level where cholesterol adsorption capacity by its fibrous fraction was higher than the rate of degradation of the same fraction (Fig. 2), a decrease in total serum cholesterol level was observed.

Table 6 - Mean values and coefficients of variation (CV) of serological parameters of initial (IS) and final (FS) blood samples of pigs fed different levels of citrus pulp.

Serological]	FS		<u></u>		
e IS		Level of citrus pulp, %			CV, %	Regression	P	
parameters, mg/dL		0	10	20	30			
Triacylglycerol	37.86	45.74	52.01	60.97	56.29	31.54	-	>0.1
Total cholesterol	117.80	98.29	128.67	142.25	140.41	18.88	Quadratic	0.0001
Urea	27.89	27.72	29.66	23.98	32.54	35.33	-	>0.1

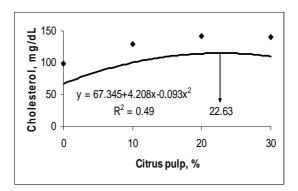


Figure 2 - Total cholesterol content of serum as function of citrus pulp levels.

As a consequence of the small reduction in energy intake, increase of amino acid catabolism did not occur, as indicated by the lack of effect of dietary citrus pulp level upon serum urea content.

The citrus pulp nutritional characteristics did not limit its use in finishing swine feeding and could be used in the rations at the level of 10.0%. Nevertheless, for the formulation of diets with this, available calcium content should be considered instead of total calcium level.

RESUMO

No primeiro ensaio foram utilizados 16 suínos machos castrados da linhagem Topigs, com peso inicial de 80,5±4,7 kg, para a avaliação biológica da polpa cítrica. Por apresentar 18,85% de fibra em detergente neutro e 41,18% de fibra solúvel em detergente neutro, a polpa cítrica mostrou-se como um ingrediente viável a ser utilizado em programas de restrição alimentar qualitativa. No segundo ensaio foram utilizados 36 suínos machos

castrados, com peso inicial de 83,7±5,1 kg, recebendo rações com níveis de 0, 10, 20 e 30% de polpa cítrica. Os animais foram abatidos com peso próximo de 130 kg, sendo avaliados quanto ao desempenho e parâmetros séricos. Houve resposta quadrática (P<0,05) para ganho diário de peso e número de dias para atingir o peso de 130 kg, em função dos níveis de polpa cítrica na dieta, sendo observados melhores resultados com níveis de inclusão de 10,79 e 10,97%, respectivamente. Para os parâmetros séricos avaliados, não foi observado efeito (P>0,05) dos níveis de polpa cítrica sobre a uréia e triacilgliceróis, porém houve resposta quadrática (P<0,05) para o colesterol em função dos níveis de polpa cítrica.

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