

Effect of dietary soyabean hulls and metal-amino acid chelated mineral supplementation on growth performance, nutrient digestibility and noxious gas emission in growing pigs*

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(Received 1 October 2007; revised version 28 January 2008; accepted 8 April 2008)

ABSTRACT

A 2×2 factorial design Experiment 1 was conducted in order to characterize the effects of soyabean hulls (control or soyabean hulls diet) and metal-amino acid chelated minerals (MAC) (sulphate or MAC) on growth performance and nutrient digestibility in growing pigs. Forty eight pigs with the initial body weight (BW) 18.0±1.1 kg were assigned on the basis of weight and sex to one of four treatments (2 pigs/pen, 6 replication pens/treatment, 6 barrows and 6 gilts/treatment). Throughout the experimental period, growth performance was not shown to be affected by dietary treatments. The coefficients of the total tract apparent digestibility of dry matter (DM) and nitrogen (N) remained unaffected by soyabean hulls diets or MAC supplementation. In Experiment 2, four barrows were used in a 4×4 Latin square design, to determine the effects of soyabean hulls and mineral types on emission of faeces and slurry noxious gas, including ammonia (NH₃), hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and mercaptans (R.SH), in growing pigs. Faeces and urine grab samples were collected, and the faeces (300 g) and slurry (faeces + urine = 150 + 150 g) were mixed, stored, and fermented for 5 d in order to evaluate noxious gas emission. Pigs fed diets with soyabean hulls tended to have lower NH₃ emission from faeces (P=0.09) than those fed the control diet, but NH₃ emission from the slurry was not affected by soyabean hulls diet (P=0.12). No significant effects on the faeces or slurry NH₃ emission were exerted in MAC supplementation treatment. A significant level of interaction between soyabean hulls and MAC was observed both in the faeces and slurry NH₃ emission (P=0.05, P=0.01). Pigs fed diets with soyabean hulls tend to exhibit lower H₂S emission from the slurry (P=0.07), but significantly lower levels of H₂S emission both from faeces and slurry (P=0.004, P=0.02) was observed when pigs were fed on MAC diets. The emission of R.SH from faeces significantly decreased (P=0.02) in MAC supplementation treatments, but not from slurry, and no soyabean hulls effects or interaction were observed in relation to R.SH emission.

* Supported by the Rural Development Administration of Korea

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We conclude that the interaction between dietary soyabean hulls and MAC may have an effect on noxious gas emission. The emission of NH_3 from pig faeces could be substantially reduced by diets enriched with soyabean hulls and emission of H_2S both from pig faeces and slurry could be reduced by MAC supplementation.

KEY WORDS: ammonia, digestibility, metal-amino acid chelated minerals, soyabean hulls, odorous, pig

INTRODUCTION

A great deal of concern in recent years has focused on potential environmental hazards and pollution. Emission of noxious gases from pig facilities is one of the principal sources of environmental pollution in pork production, and several kinds of odours have been implicated, including NH_3 , H_2S , R.SH, and volatile organic compounds (Schiffman, 1998). With increasing pressure to sustain and improve the environment, many producers and researchers are currently looking for methods to minimize the environmental impacts of meat production. In the past, a lot of researches have shown that the addition of non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) exerts a positive impact on slurry odour, particularly the production of NH_3 , without hindering growth performance (DeCam et al., 2001). Ferket et al. (2002) reviewed the nutritional strategies for the reduction of negative emission from nonruminants. They suggested that the noxious gas emission from animals is ultimately associated with nutrient utilization and the intestinal microbiota ecosystem. The addition of NSP source supplementation in the diet was proposed as a method to improve the intestinal microbiota ecosystem and to alter excreta pH, thereby reducing pollution.

Hydrogen sulphide and methyl mercaptan are frequently identified as pig waste constituents and are quantitatively the most important S-containing volatile constituents (Spoelstra, 1980). The reduction of inorganic sulphate to sulphide occurs to a limited extent in nonruminants (Kline et al., 1971). Therefore, it seems that the majority of the production of hydrogen sulphide and other volatile sulphur-containing gases occurs as the consequence of microbial fermentation during slurry storage. Replacement with non-sulphate minerals has been suggested as another feasible way by which the production of animal sulphur-based gases can be reduced. Therefore, we hypothesized that a high NSP content soyabean hulls diet coupled with non-sulphate minerals (metal-amino acid chelated mineral) could reduce both NH_3 and sulphur-based gas production from pig faeces and slurry.

The present study was conducted in order to assess the effects of soyabean hulls diet and MAC supplementation on growth performance, DM and N digestibility, and faecal and slurry noxious gas emission in growing pigs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental protocols were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Dankook University.

Experiment 1. Growth performance experiment

Experimental design, animals, housing and diets. A total of 48 pigs (initially 18.0 ± 1.1 kg of BW) were used in a 5-week experiment to evaluate the effect of feeding soyabean hulls and MAC on growth performance and nutrient digestibility in growing pigs. The pigs were allotted to treatments by weight with sex ratios equalized in accordance with a completely randomized design, with 2 pigs per pen and 6 replications per treatment. All pigs were housed in environmentally-controlled rooms with plastic, slatted floors. Each of the pens was equipped with a one-sided self-feeder and a nipple waterer to allow *ad libitum* access to feed and water throughout all the experimental periods. The target room temperature and humidity were maintained at 25°C and 60%, respectively. The dietary treatments included: 1. basal diet + sulphate minerals, 2. basal diet + metal-amino acid chelated minerals, 3. soyabean hulls diet + sulphate minerals and 4. soyabean hulls diet + metal-amino acid chelated minerals. All diets were formulated to meet or exceed the NRC (1998) recommendations for all nutrients (Table 1) and were fed in meal form.

Sampling and measurements. Individual pig weights were measured at the beginning and end (5 weeks) of the experimental period; feed consumption was also recorded in terms of gain/feed on a pen basis. Growth performance, including average daily gain (ADG), average daily feed intake (ADFI) and gain/feed, was determined at the conclusion of the feeding trial.

The coefficients of total tract apparent digestibility for DM and N were determined at the end of 5 weeks. Chromic oxide (Cr_2O_3) was used as an indigestible marker. Pigs were fed on 0.2% chromic oxide-containing diets for 7 days prior to the collection day, and fresh faecal grab samples were acquired from each pen at d 35. All of the faecal samples, as well as the feed samples, were stored in a refrigerator at -20°C until they could be further analysed. Prior to chemical analysis, the faecal samples were thawed and dried for 72 h at 70°C and subsequently ground in order to pass them through a 1-mm screen. All of the feed and faecal samples were analysed for DM and N according to AOAC procedures (1995). Chromium was analysed *via* UV absorption spectrophotometry (Shimadzu, UV-1201, Japan) according to the methods described by Williams et al. (1962). Nitrogen levels were assessed using a Kjeltac 2300 Analyzer (Foss Tecator AB, Hoeganaes, Sweden).

Table 1. Formular and chemical composition of diets

Item	Control diet	Soyabean hulls diet
<i>Ingredient, g/kg</i>		
maize	669.1	624.0
soyabean meal, dehulled	150.5	154.0
maize gluten	106.0	86.2
soyabean hulls	-	50.0
molasses	25.0	25.0
tallow	27.0	39.0
difluorinated phosphate	11.9	11.7
calcium carbonate	4.6	4.4
salt	1.5	1.5
L-lysine HCl, 78%	0.9	0.6
DL-methionine, 98%	-	0.1
vitamin premix ¹	1.0	1.0
mineral premix (sulphate or chelated) ²	2.5	2.5
<i>Calculated composition</i>		
digestible energy, MJ/kg	14.38	14.38
dry matter, g/kg	821.4	812.8
crude protein, g/kg	148.5	148.5
crude fibre, g/kg	28.5	43.3
crude fat, g/kg	30.1	29.1
ash, g/kg	26.5	27.4
starch, g/kg	447.8	415.3
sugar, g/kg	38.1	38.1
NSP ³ , g/kg	278.9	302.9
lysine, g/kg	7.3	7.3
methionine, g/kg	2.5	2.5
cystine, %	27.9	27.4
methionine + cystine, g/kg	52.6	51.7
Ca, g/kg	7.0	7.0
P, g/kg	5.2	5.2
<i>Analysed composition, g/kg</i>		
crude protein	149.2	147.8
dry matter	811.4	817.8
Ca	7.1	6.8
P	5.3	5.2

¹ provided per kg of complete diet, IU: vit. A 4.000, vit. D₃ 800, vit. E 171; mg: vit. K 2, vit. B₂ 4, vit. B₆ 1, pantothenic acid 11, niacin 20 and biotin 0.05; µg: vit. B₁₂ 16

² diets (control or soyabean hulls diet) were supplemented with: sulphates (10, 90, 100 and 12.5 mg/kg of supplemental Cu, Fe, Zn and Mn, respectively, from sulphate forms); or chelated (6, 25, 38 and 10 mg/kg of supplemental Cu, Fe, Zn and Mn, respectively, from metal-amino acid chelated forms); both in sulphate and chelate minerals 0.3 mg Se (as NaSeO₃) and 0.2 mg I (as KI) were provided per kg of complete diet

³ non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) was calculated as organic matter - (crude protein + crude fat + starch + sugar)

Experiment 2. Metabolism experiment

Experimental design, animals, housing and diets. Four barrows (initially 25.6 ± 0.1 kg of BW) were used in a 4×4 Latin square design experiment to assess the effects of soyabean hulls and MAC on noxious gas emission from faeces and slurry. The pigs were housed in individual elevated solid-sided stainless steel metabolism cages (1.6×0.8 m²) equipped with plastic slatted floors, stainless steel feeders, and low-pressure, automatic water nipple drinkers. Temperature was maintained at approximately 25°C with thermostatically controlled heaters and exhaust fans.

Sampling and measurements. During each experimental period, pigs were fed experimental diets for the first 7 d, thereafter the collection of urine and faeces was initiated at 08.00 on d 8. Urine and faeces samples were collected for 24 h and stored immediately after collection at -20°C. There is a 6-d (from d 9 to d 14) convalescent period before introducing new experimental diets to pigs. During this convalescent period, all the pigs were fed control diets. At the conclusion of the experiment, urine and faeces samples were thawed, pooled within pig and period, and well-mixed. According to the method of Cho et al. (2008), subsamples of faeces (300 g) and slurry (150 g faeces and 150 g of urine were mixed well, 1:1, wt/wt; wet weight basis) were taken and stored in 2.6 l plastic boxes in duplicate. Each box had a small hole in the middle of one side wall, which was sealed with adhesive plaster. The samples were permitted to ferment for 5 d at room temperature (25°C). After the fermentation period, a Gastec (model GV-100) gas sampling pump was utilized for gas detection (Gastec Corp., Gastec detector tube No. 3M and 3La for NH₃; No. 4LL and 4LK for H₂S; No. 70 and 70L for R.SH, Gastec Corp, detector tube, Japan). Prior to the measurements, slurry samples were shaken manually for approximately 30 s in order to disrupt any crust formation on the surface of the slurry sample and to homogenize them. The adhesive plasters were punctured, and 100 ml of headspace air was sampled approximately 2.0 cm above the faeces or slurry surface. The gas emission of the sample within pig and period was averaged by measurements of two duplicate boxes.

Statistical analyses

In Experiment 1, the data were analysed as a 2×2 factorial using the General Linear Model Procedure of the SAS (1996). The model utilized included the effects of soyabean hulls and metal-amino acid chelated mineral, as well as the associated two-way interaction. The individual pen served as the unit. In Experiment 2, the data were analysed as 4×4 Latin square design using the General Linear Model Procedure of the SAS (1996). The variability of all the data was expressed as the standard error (SE) and a probability level of $P < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant, whereas $P < 0.10$ was considered to represent a tendency.

RESULTS

Table 2 provides the results of supplemental soyabean hulls and MAC on growth performance in growing pigs. No soyabean hulls or MAC effects, as well as interaction between soyabean hulls and MAC were found on ADG, ADFI and gain/feed in our data.

Table 2. Effect of experimental treatments on growth performance in pigs¹

Diet	Control diet ¹		Soyabean hulls diet ¹		SE ²
	sulphates	chelated	sulphates	chelated	
Minerals					
ADG, kg	0.755	0.768	0.753	0.780	0.260
ADFI, kg	1.498	1.478	1.502	1.521	0.235
G/F, kg/kg	0.504	0.520	0.501	0.512	0.042

¹ control: basal diet; soyabean hulls diet: 50 g/kg soyabean hulls included diet; sulphates: supplement sulphate minerals; chelated: supplement metal-amino acid chelate minerals

² pooled standard error

Apparent digestibility coefficients of supplemented diets are given in Table 3. We noted no significant soyabean hulls or MAC effects, as well as their interaction on DM and N digestibilities.

Table 3. Effect of experimental treatments on total tract apparent digestibility of DM and N in growing pigs

Diet	Control diet ¹		Soyabean hulls diet ¹		SE ²
	sulphates	chelated	sulphates	chelated	
Minerals					
DM	0.788	0.798	0.794	0.790	0.008
N	0.814	0.809	0.815	0.814	0.012

^{1,2} see Table 2

The effects of dietary soyabean hulls and MAC supplementation on faecal and slurry noxious gas emission are shown in Table 4. Pigs fed on soyabean hulls diets tend to evidence lower faecal NH₃ emission (P=0.09) as compared to those fed on control diets, however, slurry NH₃ emission was unaffected by soyabean hulls diets (P=0.12). Metal-amino acid chelated mineral supplementation had no effect on NH₃ emission from faeces and slurry. A significant level of interaction between soyabean hulls and MAC was observed in the NH₃ emission from both the faeces and slurry (P=0.05, P=0.01). Pigs fed on soyabean hulls diets tend to exhibit lower levels of H₂S emission in slurry (P=0.07), but evidenced lower levels of H₂S emission from both faeces and slurry (P=0.004, P=0.02) when pigs were fed on a MAC-supplemented diet. The observed interaction between soyabean hulls and MAC was not observed in the H₂S emission. Metal-amino acid chelated mineral supplementation treatments resulted in a significant reduction

($P=0.02$) of mercaptans (R.SH) emission from faeces but did not from slurry, and no soyabean hulls effects as well as their interaction were observed in relation to R.SH emission.

Table 4. Effect of experimental treatments on noxious gas emission in pigs

Diet	Control diet ¹		Soyabean hulls diet ¹		SE ²
	sulphates	chelated	sulphates	chelated	
<i>NH₃, ppm</i>					
faeces ^{3,5,7}	22.15	20.20	19.90	20.38	0.57
slurry ^{4,7}	74.75	65.00	64.50	68.00	2.14
<i>H₂S, ppm</i>					
faeces ⁶	11.10	9.88	11.18	10.30	0.30
slurry ^{5,6}	6.30	5.73	5.85	5.40	0.20
<i>R.SH, ppm</i>					
faeces ⁶	6.35	4.95	6.28	5.05	0.49
slurry	11.80	11.00	11.08	11.00	0.99

^{1,2} see Table 2

³ faeces 300 g kept in sealed box fermented 5 d, using Gastec detector measure noxious gas emission

⁴ faeces 150 g and urine 150 g kept in sealed box fermented 5 d, using Gastec detector measure noxious gas emission

⁵ soyabean hulls effect, $P<0.10$

⁶ MAC effect, $P<0.05$

⁷ soyabean hulls \times MAC interaction, $P<0.05$

DISCUSSION

Previous reports regarding different NSP supplementation methods in pig diets have presented a variety of results. Radar matrix (1996) and Van Oeckel (1998) detected no effects on pig performance when 5 and 15% soyabean hulls as the primary NSP resource were added into the diets of growing and finishing pigs, respectively. Our results verified their findings. On the contrary, studies conducted by DeCamp et al. (2001) indicated that the addition of 10% soyabean hulls (the main NSP resource) with the addition of animal fat in the diets of finishing pigs could improve ADG and gain/feed characteristics. They explained that this might be attributable to the elevated fat in the soyabean hulls diet, thereby possibly augmenting growth for those pigs fed on diets containing soyabean hulls. Varel and Yen (1997) reviewed that the fermentation of NSP and dietary fibre take place in the caecum and colon of monogastric animals, and the produced VFA reduced the pH of the slurry. The effects of MAC on growth performance were assessed by a host of researchers. Creech et al. (2004) previously reported that

trace mineral sources exerted no effects on performance during the growing or gilt development phase. Coffey et al. (1994) and Zhou et al. (1994) previously reported that additions of Cu from copper-lysine complexes resulted in improved pig performance as compared with copper sulphate. Other researchers, however, have noted no differences in growth-promoting activity between the two Cu sources (van Heugten and Coffey, 1992).

Both DM and N digestibilities were not affected in soyabean hulls treatments as compared to control treatments in the current study. However, in a previous study conducted by O'Connell et al. (2005), it was reported that the DM and N digestibilities were apparently reduced in their soyabean hulls treatment as compared to the control treatment. Another study conducted by Dilger et al. (2004) also reported that the apparent ileal digestibility of DM decreased in a linear fashion with increasing levels of added soyabean hulls (3 to 9%), whereas N digestibility remained unaffected in 35-kg barrows. These different results might be attributable to two possible factors. Firstly, slowed gastrointestinal emptying may occur in response to dietary fibre content and types as well as viscous material (Guérin et al., 2001). Secondly, gastrointestinal pH may be increased as the result of the buffering capacity of NSP, with the indirect result of reduction in gastrin secretion in response to the more alkaline environment (Dilger et al., 2004). Metal-amino acid chelated mineral has been shown to evidence better absorption, which has been reported by many researchers to enhance the efficiency of its use (Yu et al., 2000; Guo et al., 2001). However, our data evidenced no improvements in the MAC treatments, the different supplemented level and mineral type from that utilized in other experiments may be a reasonable explanation for the differences observed in the current study.

Supplementing pig diets with high NSP sources coupled with the addition of amino acids has been suggested as a way to activate the intestinal microbiota ecosystem, and also alters excreta pH, thereby reducing the emission of NH_3 from the faeces. Our data indicated that NH_3 emission from both the faeces and slurry were reduced significantly as the result of the addition of soyabean hulls (primary NSP resources). This result is consistent with the findings of previous research. Mroz et al. (2000) determined that the addition of soyabean hulls (25%) and (or) sugar beet pulp (25%) reduced the ratio of urinary:faecal N, and thereby the emission of NH_3 from the slurry in finishing pigs. Hansen et al. (2007) observed 30% reduced NH_3 emission in 15% inulin (a known NSP resource) addition treatment in finishing pigs. The possible reasons for the reduction in NH_3 emission may be attributable to the beneficial effects of NSP on the bifidobacteria and lactobacilli populations present in the large intestine, as the inclusion of NSP in the diet promotes carbohydrate-fermenting bacteria (O'Connell et al., 2005). In the large intestine, these fibre-degrading bacteria utilize NH_3 as a substrate for microbial protein synthesis and are subsequently excreted in the faeces. Such

effects shift nitrogen excretion from volatile NH_3 in the urine to bacterial nitrogen in the faeces. This is desirable, as it limits the capacity for rapid NH_3 volatilization (Nahm, 2003). The interaction between soyabean hulls and MAC may be attributable to the fact that MAC exerts some additional effects on the activation of the intestinal bacteria ecosystem. Our current experiment was not designed to determine the changes of intestinal bacteria population. Further work should be conducted in order to investigate the clear relationship between soyabean hulls and dietary MAC supplementation.

Hydrogen sulphide and R.SH are crucial sulphur-containing volatile constituents (Spoelstra, 1980). Variations in sulphuric odorous compound concentrations in animal faeces are principally attributable to the differences in the sulphur composition of diets fed to pigs, and the metabolism of sulphur-containing amino acids (methionine, cystine and cysteine), which generate sulphuric odorous compounds including H_2S and R.SH (Reviere et al., 1974; Kiene and Hines, 1995). Our data indicated that faecal H_2S emission was increased as the result of soyabean hulls supplementation. Similarly, in our previous study, we detected a linear increase in H_2S emission when increasing the level of soyabean hulls addition in the diets of growing pigs (unpublished). High dietary NSP levels resulted in a reduction in CP levels and enhanced microbial activities within the gut of the animal and in the slurry stores, which might be responsible for the higher observed slurry VFA concentrations and lower pH. Low slurry pH can inhibit H_2S emission. Our data are inconsistent with the findings of DeCamp et al. (2001), who reported that H_2S emission in room air samples was decreased significantly when finishing pigs were fed on a diet containing 10% soyabean hulls as compared with those fed on a control diet. The difference between our results and those of others may be attributable to the different cysteine and cystine levels in the diets. Metal-amino acid chelate mineral treatments resulted in lower sulphur compositions than were observed with sulphate mineral diets, due to the lack of SO_4^{2-} . Again, sulphuric odorous compound concentrations in animal faeces were found to be due principally to the differences in the level of sulphuric compositions in the diets fed to the pigs. Therefore, lower H_2S emission in both faeces and slurry were obtained in the current experiment.

CONCLUSIONS

We conclude that the interaction between dietary soyabean hulls and MAC performs a function in noxious gas emission. Ammonia emission from pig faeces can be substantially reduced *via* the administration of a soyabean hulls to diet. Hydrogen sulphide emission from pig faeces and slurry could be reduced by MAC supplementation. The interaction observed in slurry NH_3 emission in the

current experiment may be attributed to some additional urinary H₂S emission lowering effects. The precise mechanisms underlying this interaction require further investigation.

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