Feeding pregnant sows
Svinevet's annual meeting 2026

SvineVet Årsmøde 2026

Professionel svinerådgivning

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Feeding the pregnant sows

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- Traditional or new feed curve
- Can we increase milk yield by feeding the pregnant sows?

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Gestation feed : 4.0 in lysine and 80 grams of digestible crude protein ?

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- For several years, we have changed the feeding of the pregnant sow because the breeding goal has changed
- They have bred to make the world's best slaughter pigs – which has probably succeeded
- But it have consequences for the sow.....
- The sow is breed to be lean and put meat on her body, if there is too much protein in the feed

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Gestation feed : 4.0 in lysine and 80 grams of digestible crude protein ?

- BUT the sow needs fat from the body for reproduction and for the milk production
- So, we have lowered and lowered the amount of protein in the feed mix, so that the sow does not have to put on a lot of muscle on her body, but instead she has to build up fat deposits.
- 4.0 in Lysine: Ok in relation to litter size, sow growth, birth weight.

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Protein builds muscle

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Starch builds fat deposits

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Can you see the difference?

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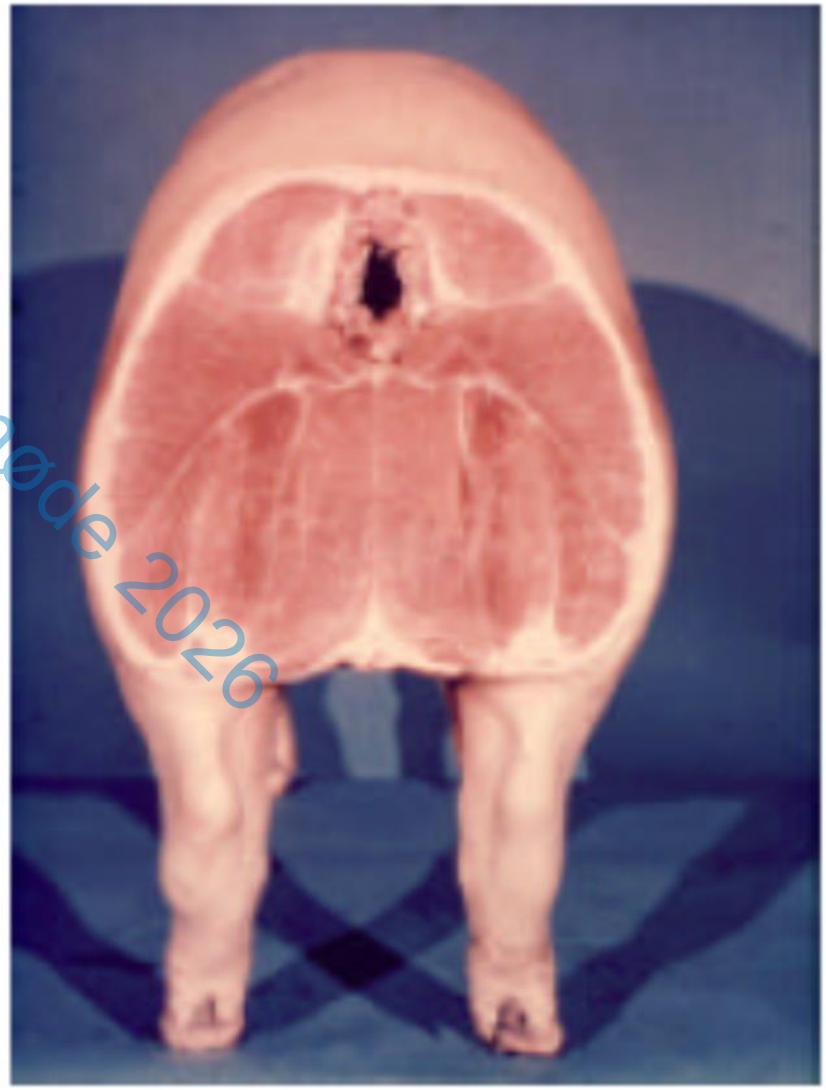

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Request for back fat 12-15 mm when inseminating gilts

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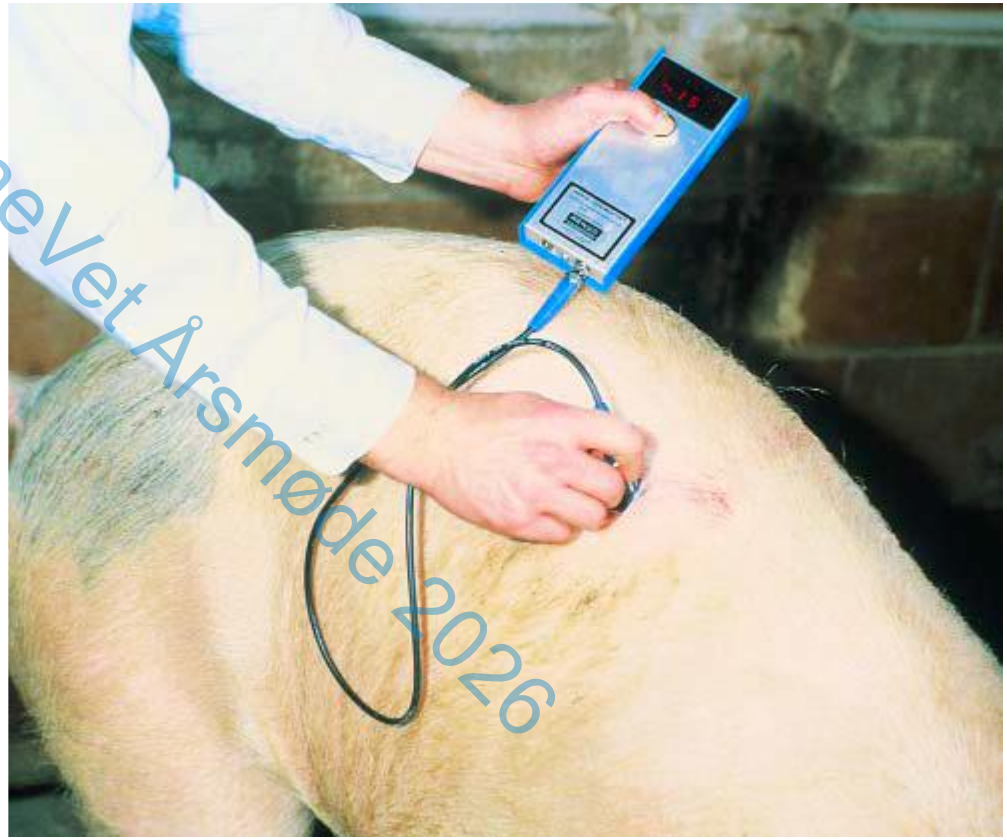

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Back fat at farrowing 14-17 mm

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Feeding during pregnancy

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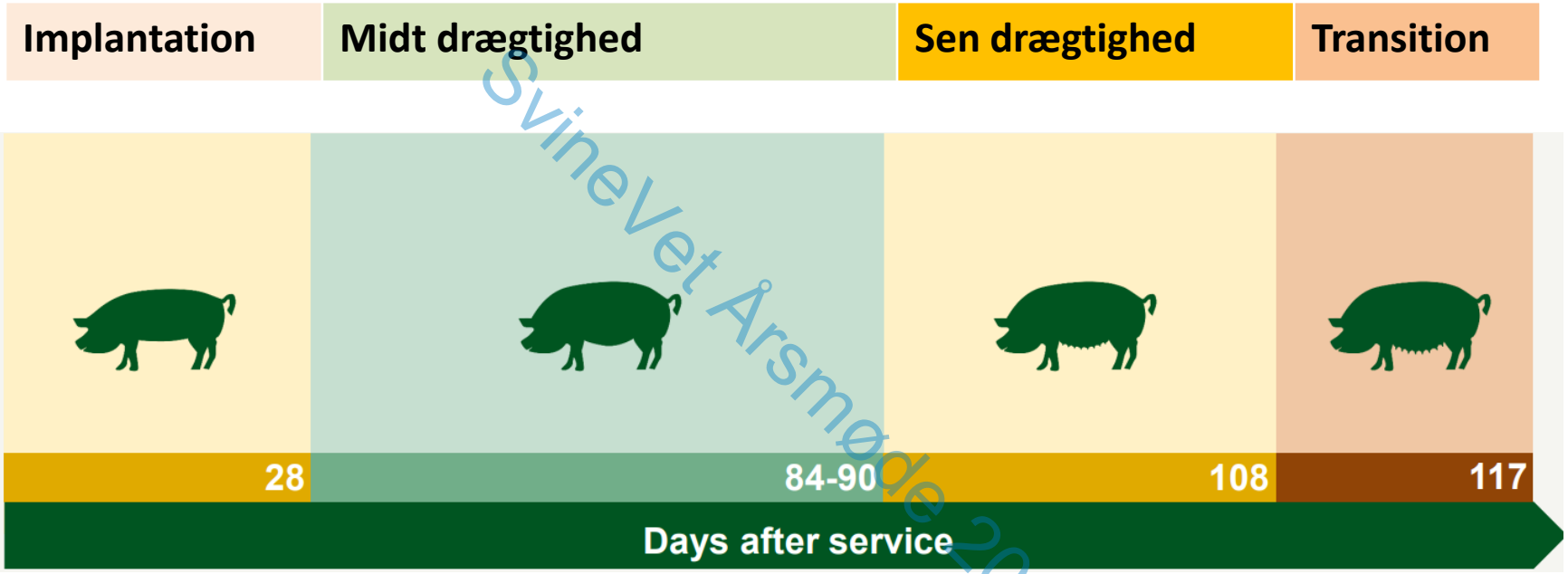

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2,8-3,0 FE	**2,2-2,4 FE**	**3,5 FE**	**3,5 FE**
2,8-3,0 FE	2,8 FE	2,8 FE	2,8 FE

Mid-gestation feeding

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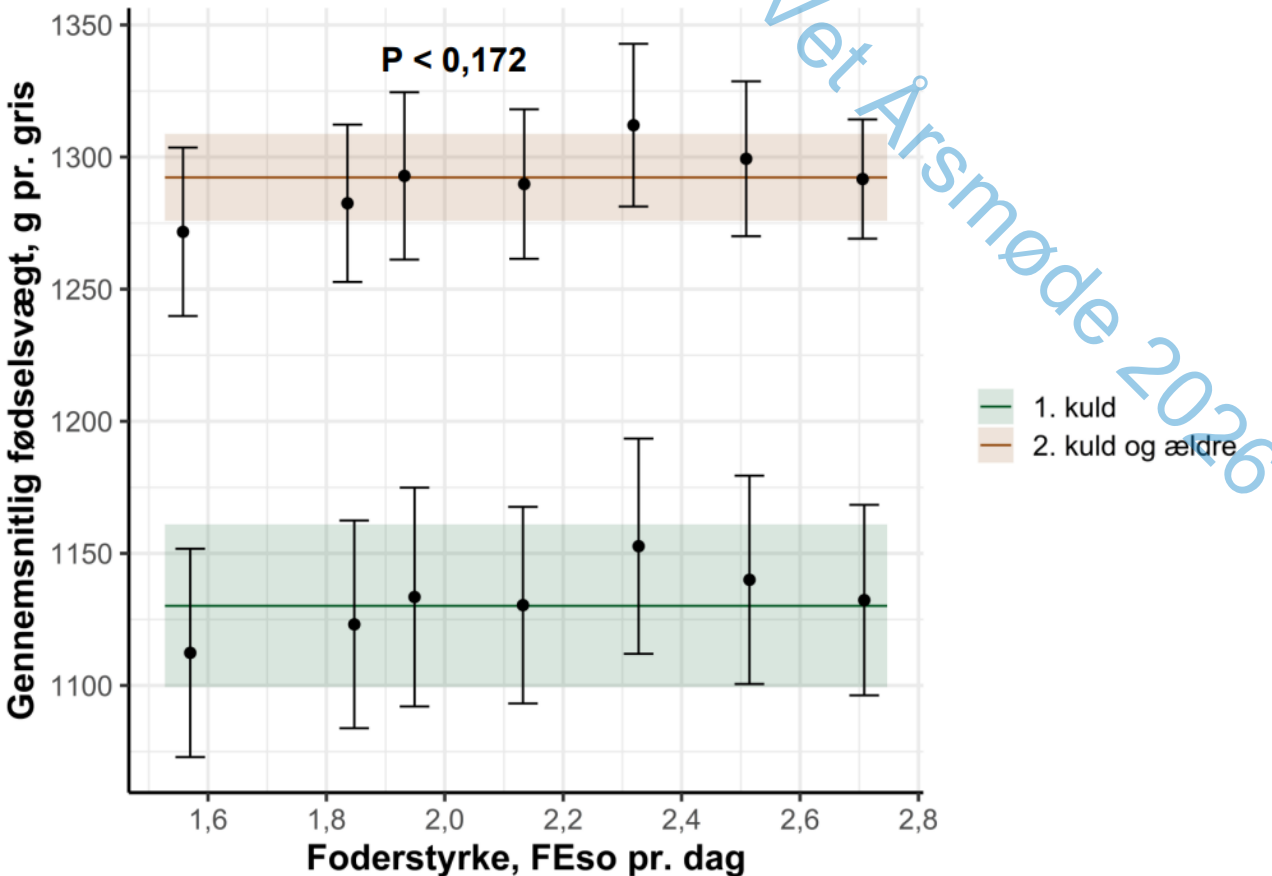
Feeding level in mid gestation

Effect on average piglet birthweight



Irrespective of parity average piglet birth weight is unafected by feeding level in mid gestation

Fetal growth seems to be of highest priority

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Sow weight and back fat

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Feeding level in late gestation

Effects on weight and backfat changes (P >1)

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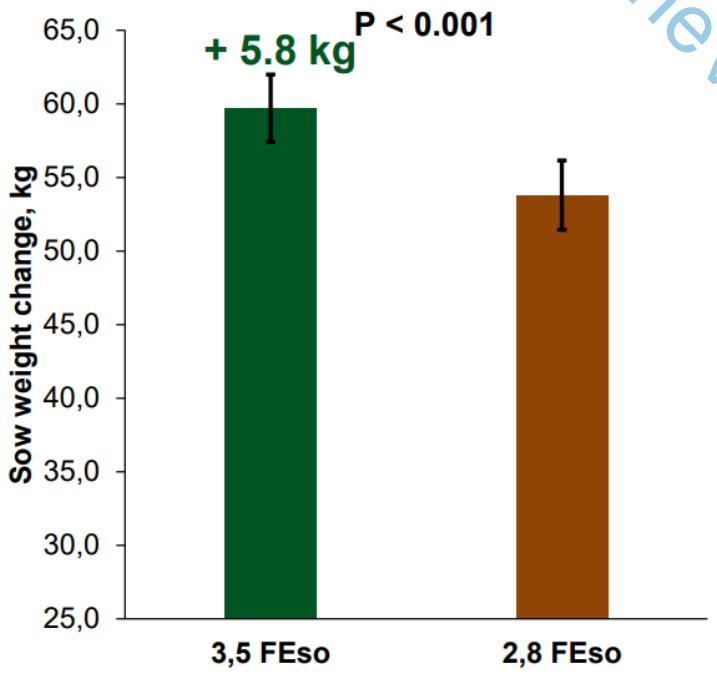

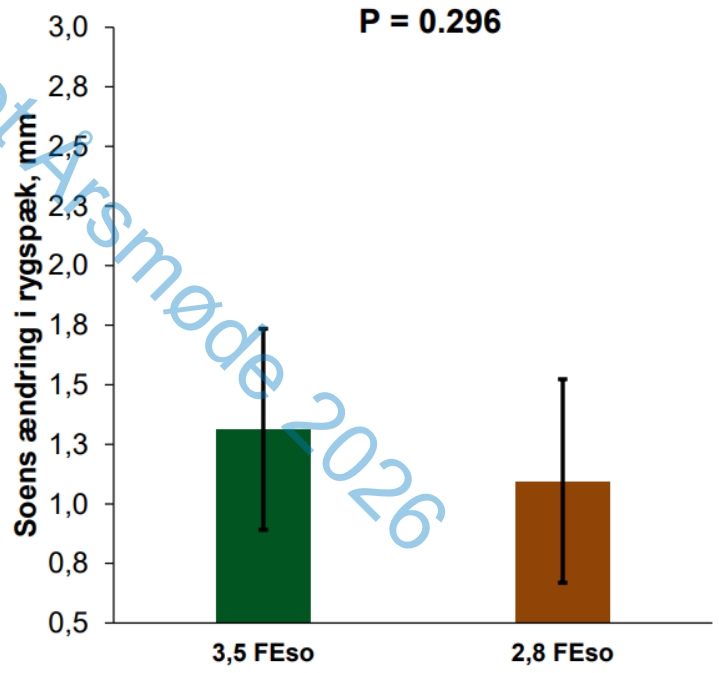

Flat feed curve increases pigs' birth weight

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Feeding level in late gestation

Effects on average piglet birth weight

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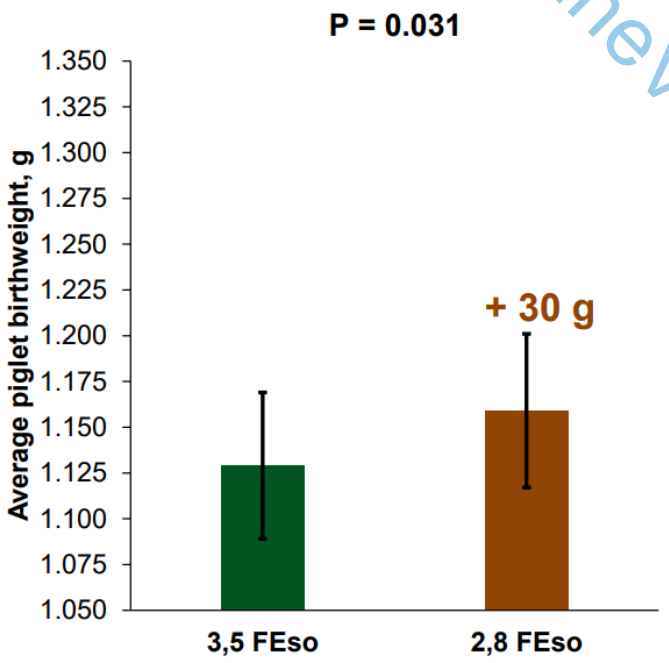

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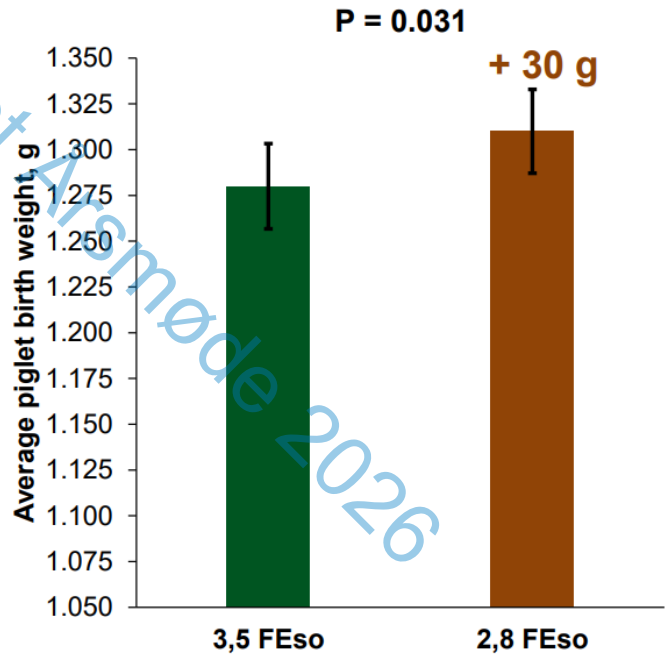

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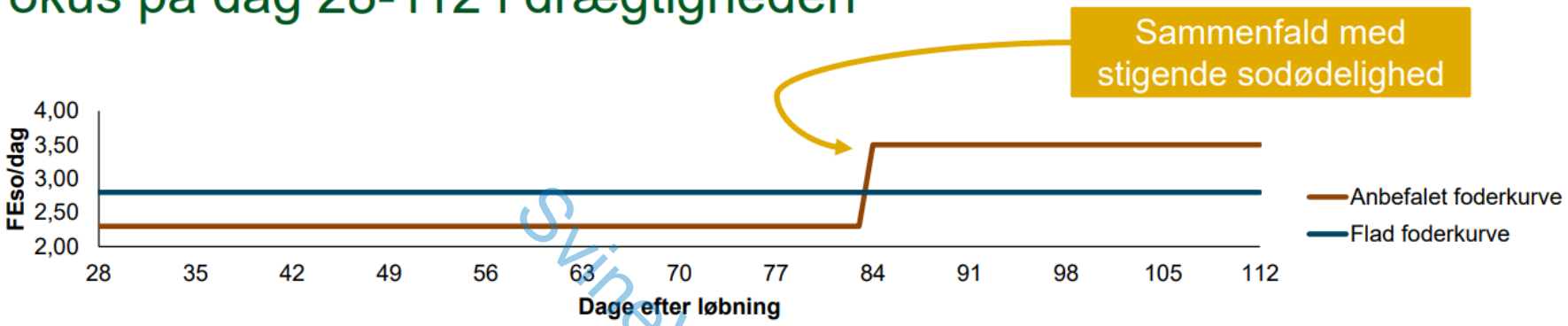
SEGES INNOVATION

Forskellen mellem en normal kurve og en flad kurve

Fokus på dag 28-112 i drægtigheden



	Anbefalet foderkurve		Flad foderkurve		Forskelle
Kuldnummer	1	≥2	1	≥2	
Forbrug fra dag 28-112, FEso	226,8[2]	226,8[2]	235,2	235,2	+8,4
Forventet ændring af rygspæk, mm	1,8	1,0	2,0	1,1	+0,1 til +0,2
Forventet tilvækst, kg	42,3	52,5	41,6	53,8	-0,7 til +1,3

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Can we increase milk yield?

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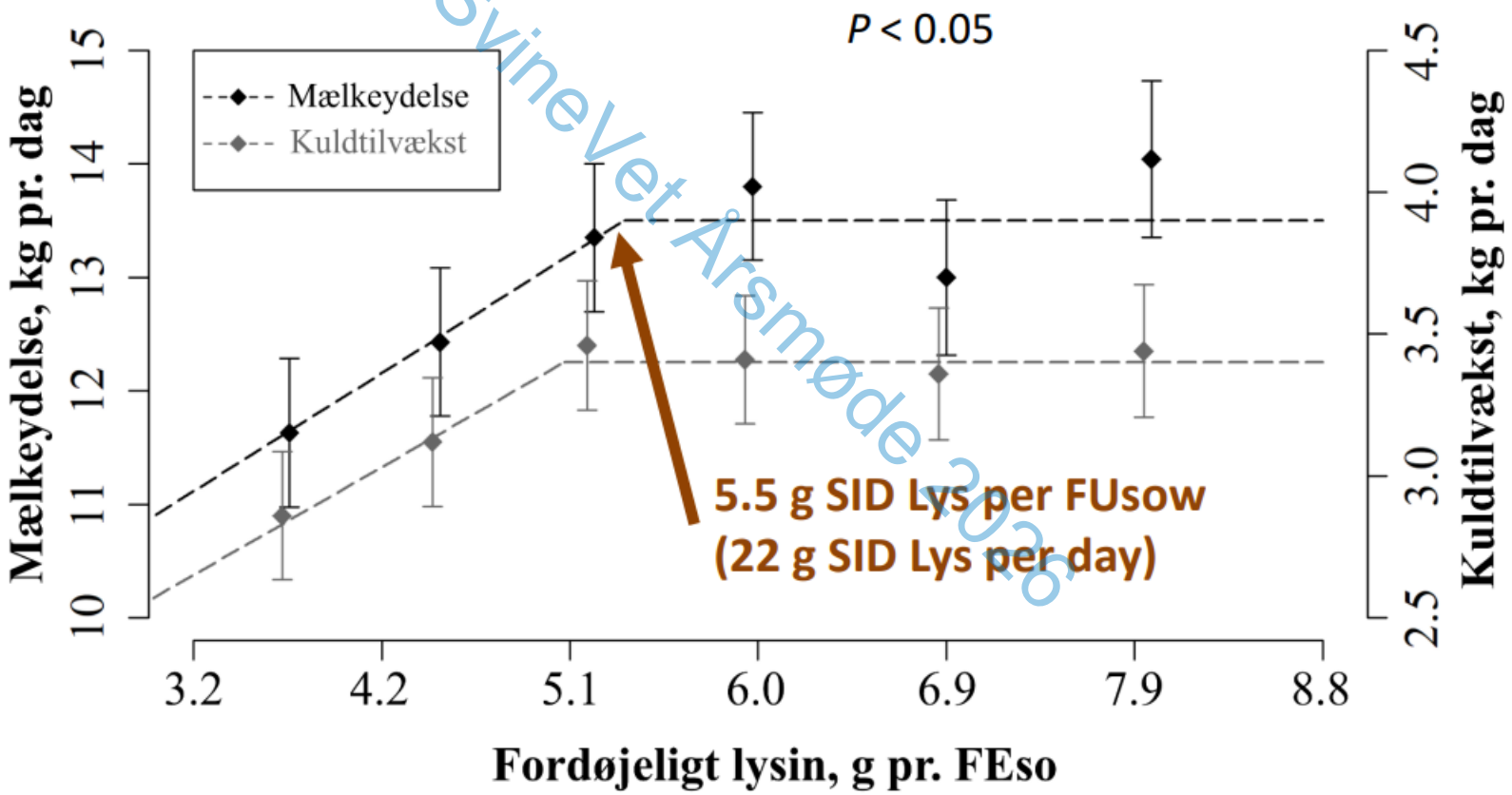
From day 108 – protein level requirements for optimal milk production



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Requirament: **22 gr**. dig. Lysine per day

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Pregnancy feed with 4.0 gr. dig. Lysine

3,5 FE * 4,0 gr. dig. Lysin = 14,0 !!

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Goal 22 grams dig. lysine

- At a traditional feed curve of 3.5 FE the last 4 weeks and 4.0 grams of ford. Crude protein in the gestation feed, you need to give 300 grams of soya per day from day 108, until the sow enters the farrowing unit and get lactation feed.

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Goal 22 grams ford. lysine

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- At a flat feed curve of 2.8 FE and 4.0 grams of digestible crude protein in the gestation feed, 400 grams of soy per day is allocated from day 108 of pregnancy until the sow enters the farrowing unit and get lactation feed
- Remember all amino acids must be included and matched with lysine

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Take home .....

- Flat feed curve :
- Sow do not fight so much in the middle of pregnancy, because the sows are not so hungry
- Hygiene on the floor are better in the last part of pregnancy
- The sows eat better when they are in the farrowing unit
- Easier farrowing
- Larger pigs

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Take home .....

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- Flat feed curve
- Not so big sows
- The advantages are particularly seen in ESF, floor feeding and long-trough feeding
- Obese sows are allowed to get less than 2.8 FE in the middle of pregnancy – all the way down to 2.3-2.4 FE if you have several groups per week team.
- We see less dead sows in late gestation

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Take home.....

- Optimal udder development requires 22 grams of digestible lysine from day 108.
- If the sow is not in the farrowing unit day 108 before farrowing, give extra supplements of protein = soya
- 300 grams of soya per day if you give 3.5 FE – 4.0 g ford. Lysine
- 400 grams of soy per day if you give 2.8 FE – 4.0 g ford. Lysine
- Gilts already from day 89 if possible

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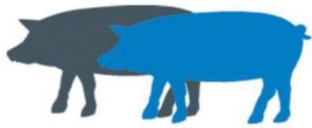

Questions ?

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