**Supplementary Materials**

**Insights into suckling rabbit feeding behaviour: acceptability of different creep feed presentations and attractiveness for sensory feed additives**

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***animal* journal**

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | P | cP | cBP | B | gB | RMSE | P-value |
| Live weight before weaning (g/rabbit) | | | | | | | |
| *n* (litters) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 |  |  |
| 3 d | 91 ± 11 | 92 ± 7 | 92 ± 8 | 90 ± 9 | 91 ± 9 | 9 | ns |
| 14 d | 269 ± 25 | 268 ± 19 | 262 ± 21 | 255 ± 37 | 252 ± 26 | 26 | ns |
| 21 d | 385 ± 32 | 373 ± 2 | 368 ± 31 | 366 ± 43 | 369 ± 39 | 26 | ns |
| 28 d | 644 ± 39 | 644 ± 46 | 638 ± 48 | 637 ±62 | 639 ± 51 | 26 | ns |
| Live weight after weaning (g/rabbit) | | | | | | | |
| *n* (rabbits) | 112 | 117 | 117 | 110 | 105 |  |  |
| 35 d | 945 ± 106 | 930 ± 100 | 916 ± 104 | 922 ± 96 | 921 ± 99 | 101 | ns |
| 50 d | 1630 ± 145 | 1607 ± 164 | 1596 ± 144 | 1611 ± 143 | 1577 ± 177 | 155 | ns |
| 64 d | 2224 ± 194 | 2243 ± 192 | 2189 ± 198 | 2186 ± 209 | 2166 ± 205 | 199 | ns |
| Average daily gain (g/d) | | | | | | | |
| 3 – 21 d | 16 ± 2 | 16 ± 1 | 15 ± 2 | 15 ± 2 | 15 ± 2 | 2 | ns |
| 21 – 28 d | 37 ± 3 | 39 ± 4 | 39 ± 3 | 39 ± 4 | 39 ± 3 | 3 | ns |
| 28 – 35 d | 43 ± 6 | 41 ± 4 | 40 ± 5 | 41 ± 4 | 40 ± 5 | 5 | ns |
| 35 – 50 d | 46 ± 7 | 45 ± 7 | 45 ± 8 | 46 ± 8 | 44 ± 9 | 11 | ns |
| 50 – 64 d | 42 ± 12 | 45 ± 9 | 42 ± 10 | 41 ± 10 | 41 ± 13 | 11 | ns |

**Supplementary Table S1:** *Growth performance of rabbits before and after weaning according to the type of creep feed provided in the nest from 3 to 17 d (Trial 1). Different feed presentations were tested: commercial pellets (P), crumbled pellets (cP), sugar beet pulp pellet crumbs (cBP), raw fodder beetroot (B), and agar gels containing the pulp and juice of fodder beetroot (gB). Data are presented as means ± standard deviation.*

ns P>0.05

**Supplementary Table S2:** *Growth performance of rabbits before and after weaning according to the flavoured starter feed provided in the nest from 3 to 17 d (Trial 2). The meals tested were in the form of feed gels and only differed by the flavoured additive added: control gel with no flavour (N), gel with banana flavour (B), gel with red berry flavour (R) and gel with vanilla flavour (V). Data is presented as means ± standard deviation.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | BN | BR | BV | NR | NV | RV | RMSE | P-value |
| Live weight before weaning (g/rabbit) | | | | | | | | |
| *n* (litters) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 12 |  |  |
| 3 d | 94 ± 11 | 92 ± 10 | 97 ± 10 | 96 ± 12 | 95 ± 12 | 95 ± 14 | 12 | ns |
| 14 d | 228 ± 32 | 242 ± 27 | 225 ± 32 | 242 ± 33 | 238 ± 41 | 227 ± 36 | 34 | ns |
| 21 d | 333 ± 43 | 350 ± 40 | 340 ± 51 | 352 ± 43 | 355 ± 47 | 335 ± 53 | 46 | ns |
| 28 d | 562 ± 60 | 599 ± 66 | 550 ± 84 | 592 ± 70 | 587 ± 79 | 567 ± 83 | 74 | ns |
| Live weight after weaning (g/rabbit) | | | | | | | | |
| n (rabbits) | 112 | 117 | 104 | 92 | 84 | 102 | 105 |  |
| 35 d | 820 ± 94 | 855 ± 106 | 817 ± 106 | 870 ± 118 | 852 ± 137 | 815 ± 118 | 113 | ns |
| 51 d | 1443 ± 201 | 1607 ± 164 | 1596 ± 144 | 1538 ± 164 | 1468 ± 220 | 1611 ± 143 | 204 | ns |
| 64 d | 2027 ± 288 | 2114 ± 277 | 2050 ± 245 | 2183 ± 221 | 2078 ± 280 | 2094 ± 255 | 263 | ns |
| Average daily gain (g/d) | | | | | | | | |
| 3 – 21 d | 13 ± 2 | 14 ± 2 | 14 ± 3 | 14 ± 2 | 14 ± 2 | 13 ± 3 | 2 | ns |
| 21 – 35 d | 35 ± 2 | 36 ± 3 | 33 ± 6 | 36 ± 4 | 34 ± 6 | 33 ± 5 | 5 | ns |
| 35 – 50 d | 40 ± 11 | 40 ± 11 | 39 ± 11 | 41± 8 | 38 ± 11 | 40 ± 9 | 10 | ns |
| 50 – 64 d | 45 ± 15 | 43 ± 9 | 45 ± 13 | 49 ± 10 | 46 ± 12 | 46 ± 12 | 13 | ns |

ns: P>0.05