

Herbal products for pig health

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An inventory identified over 70 herbal preparations available for pig health. Three products were selected for clinical experiments.

For each product approximately 64 organics pigs were fed herbal additives from weaning until slaughter.

Control groups received feed without these herbs.

Study-parameters were growth, feed conversion, mortality, veterinary treatment, meat percentage, back-fat, carcass- and organ-findings. Liver biopsies were evaluated for parameters relating to pig health.

Herbal products showed positive effects on growth and/or feed conversion of weaners as a trend ($p < 0,12$).

No negative side effects were seen. Slaughter data were promising but not always consistent. To demonstrate health improvement, molecular parameters such as CYP450 can be measured.

Tests with larger groups of animals are necessary to confirm the reported trends and to obtain significant treatment-effects.