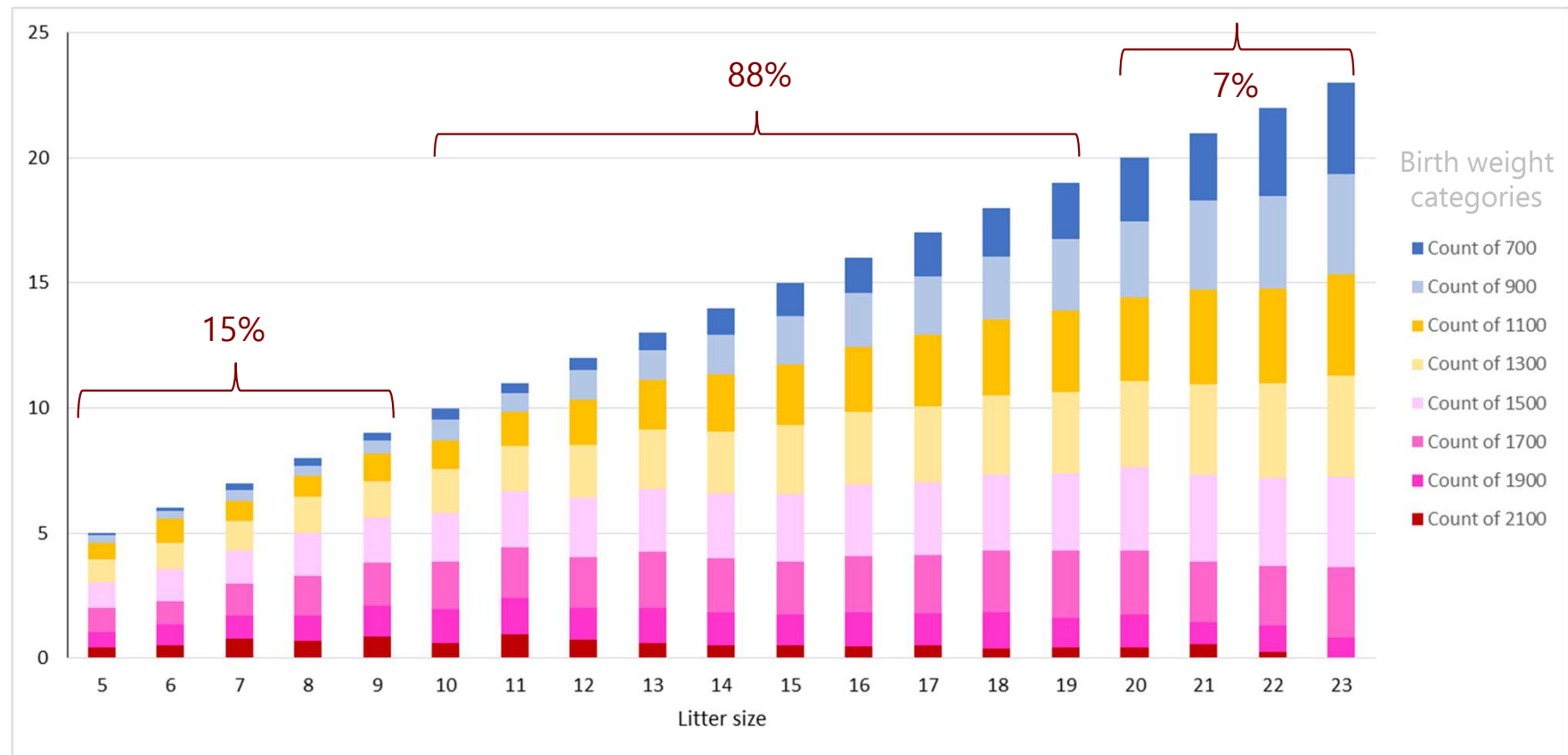


# How to remove Zn oxide in post-weaning piglet diets

Francesc Molist, PhD, DVM

# Smaller piglets and higher variation...

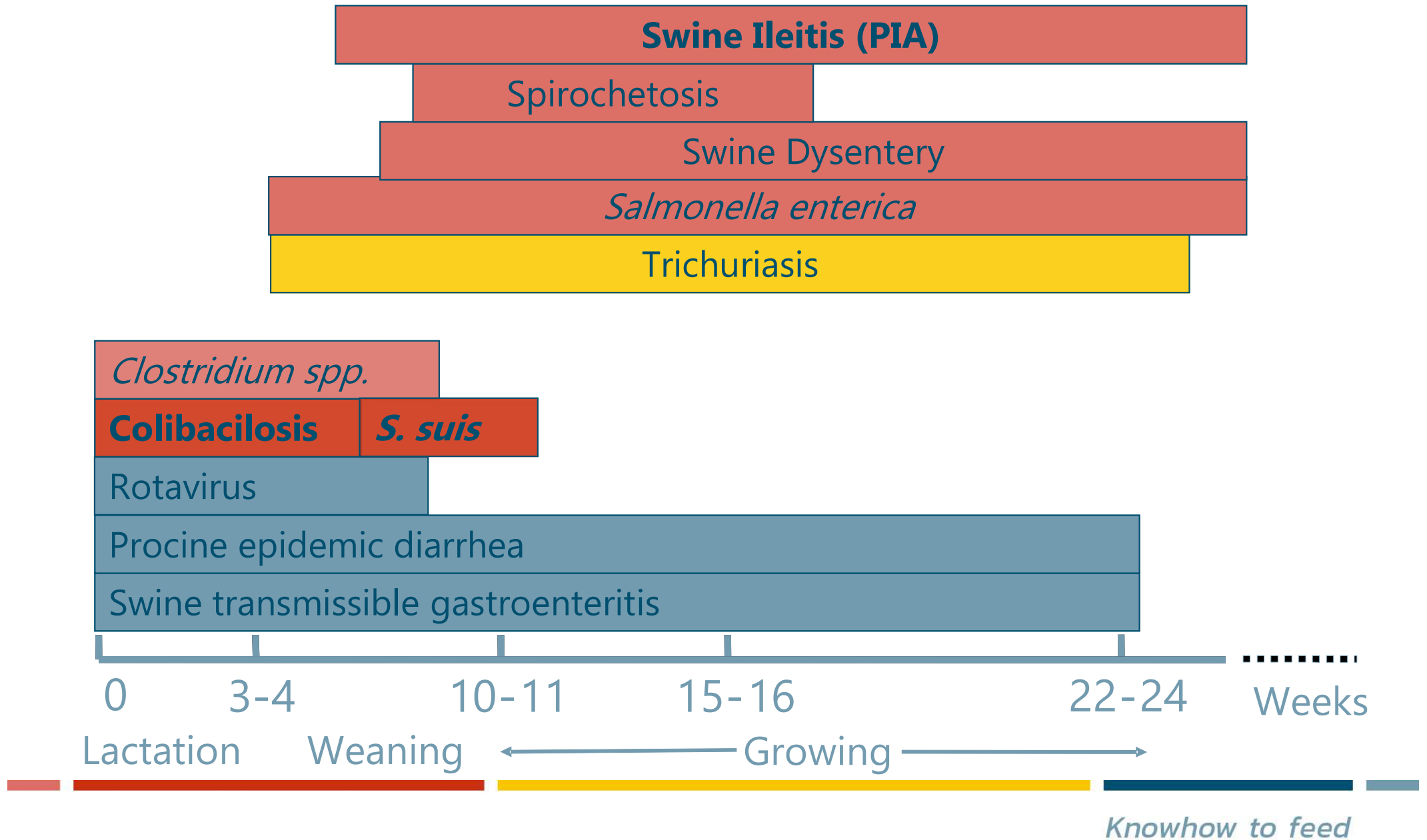
Heterogeneity of litter size between individual sows



SCHOTHORST's RESEARCH FARM / 3113 litters / 2011-2020

*unpublished*

# Current gut health challenges in the pig industry



# Types of feed piglets encounter in their life



Colostrum  
The first 24 hours



Milk replacer



Weaning



# Pre-weaning

- Important colostrum intake.
- Long-lasting effects are due to different programming of the gut immune system. What are the long lasting effect of modifying the gut microbiota?
- Creep feed supplementation as early as possible.
- Develop an stable microbiota and oral tolerance & a robust GIT.
- Minimize the negative effects associated with weaning.
- Role of complex diets vs. simple diets pre-weaning is poorly understood.

# Importance of colostrum (2)

|  | Piglets alive after<br>10 days | Piglets dead after<br>10 days |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Birth interval (min)                           | 20.0                           | 23.8                          |
| Duration farrowing (min)                       | 136.0 <sup>a</sup>             | 155.3 <sup>b</sup>            |
| Time to 1 <sup>st</sup> contact udder (min)    | 13.7 <sup>a</sup>              | 36.1 <sup>b</sup>             |
| Time to 1 <sup>st</sup> colostrum intake (min) | 26.9 <sup>a</sup>              | 54.7 <sup>b</sup>             |
| Body temperature at birth (°C)                 | 38.9                           | 39.0                          |
| Body temperature 1 hour after birth (°C)       | 38.4 <sup>a</sup>              | 37.5 <sup>b</sup>             |
| Birth weight (g)                               | 1368 <sup>a</sup>              | 1063 <sup>b</sup>             |
| Order birth                                    | 6.2 <sup>a</sup>               | 7.0 <sup>b</sup>              |

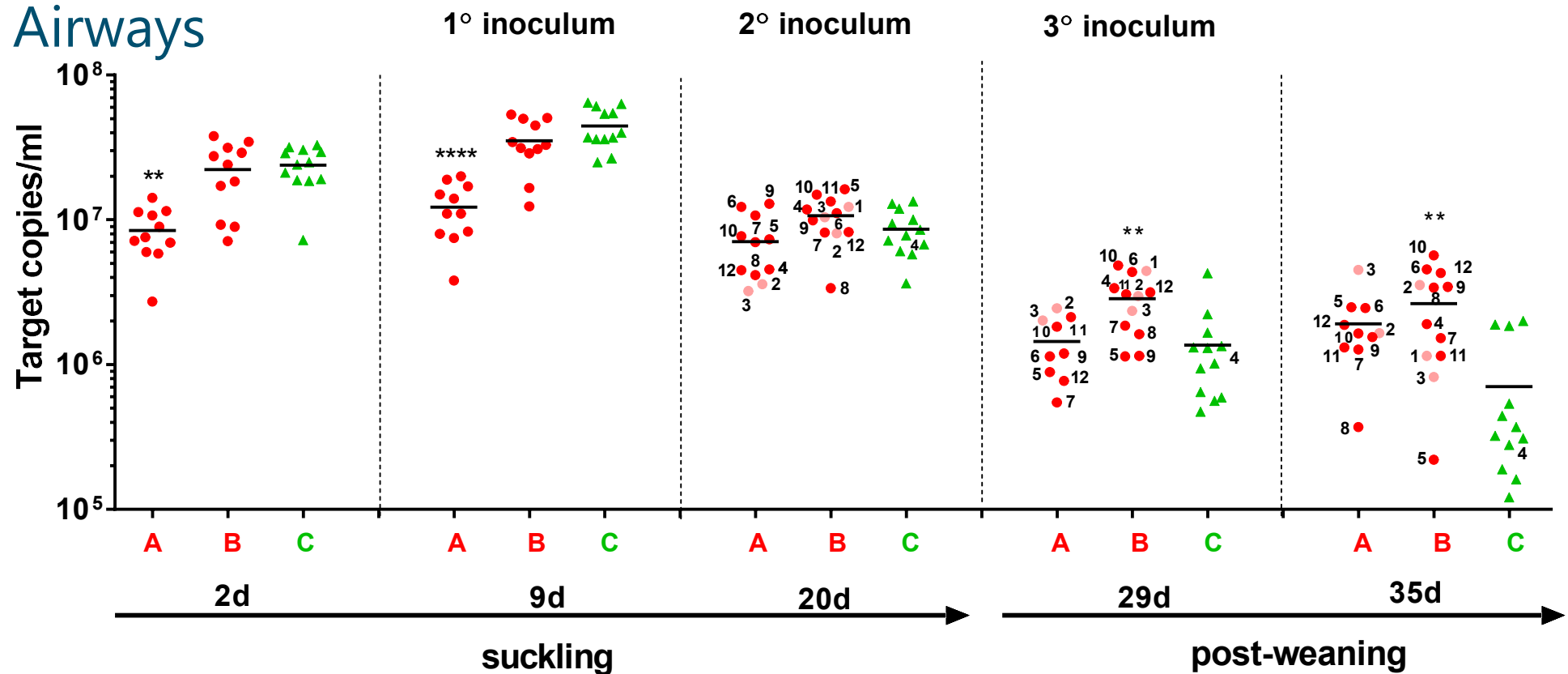
# All piglets 2 days of life are positive for *S. suis*

➤ Tonsils (a reservoir)

➤ Intestine

➤ Airways

## qPCR of *S. suis* in tonsil swab DNA (healthy piglets)

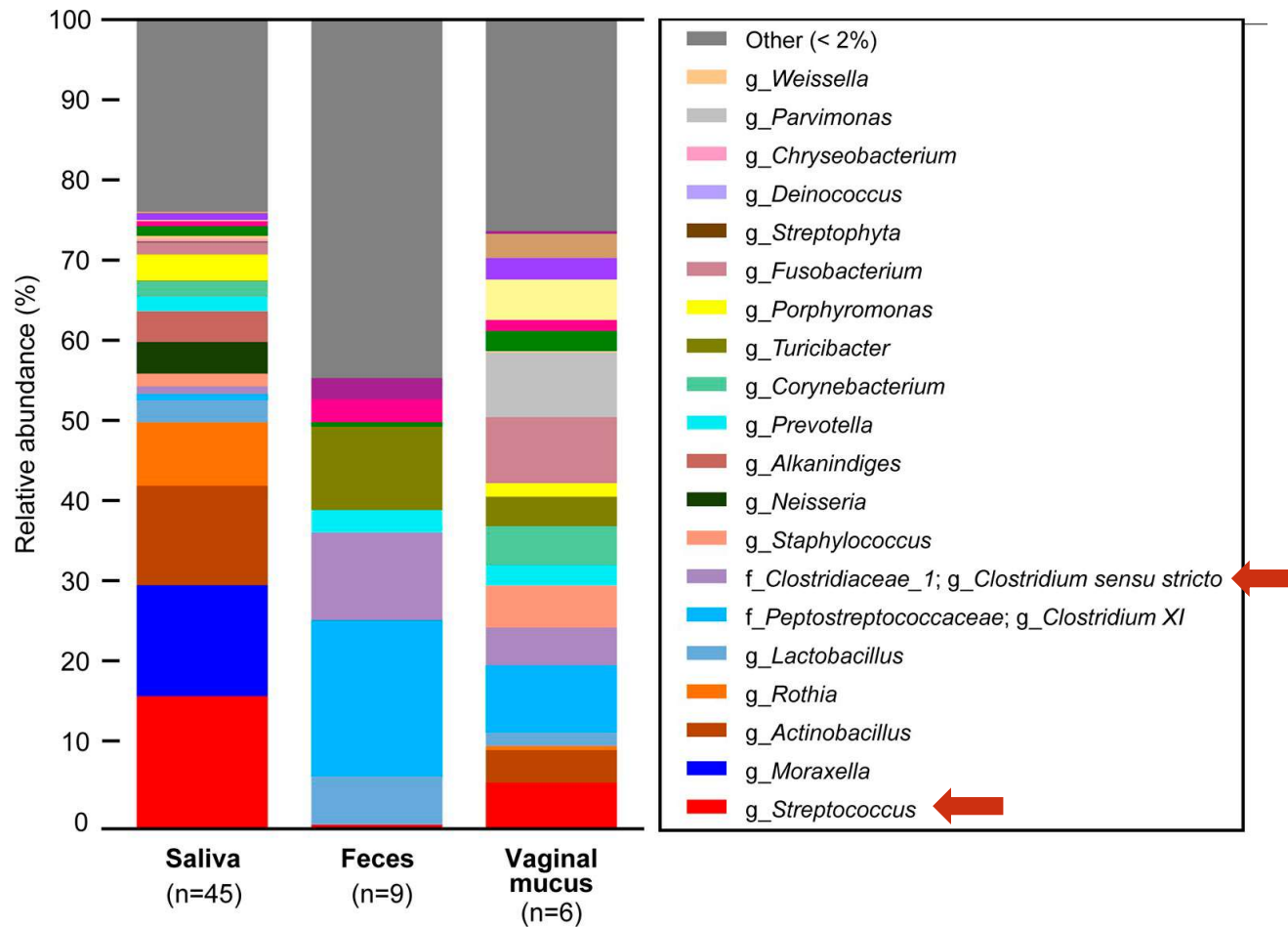


Gaiser et al. 2019 submitted

Knowhow to feed



# Composition of bacteria in the sows



Murases et al, 2019

Probably we need different strategies to reduce *S. suis* problems vs. *Clostridium* neonatal diarrheas



# Feeding strategies in pre-weaning diets



Colostrum  
The first 24  
hours

Focus on developing microbiota and innate immune system > **Role for prebiotics via milk replacer or creep feed?**



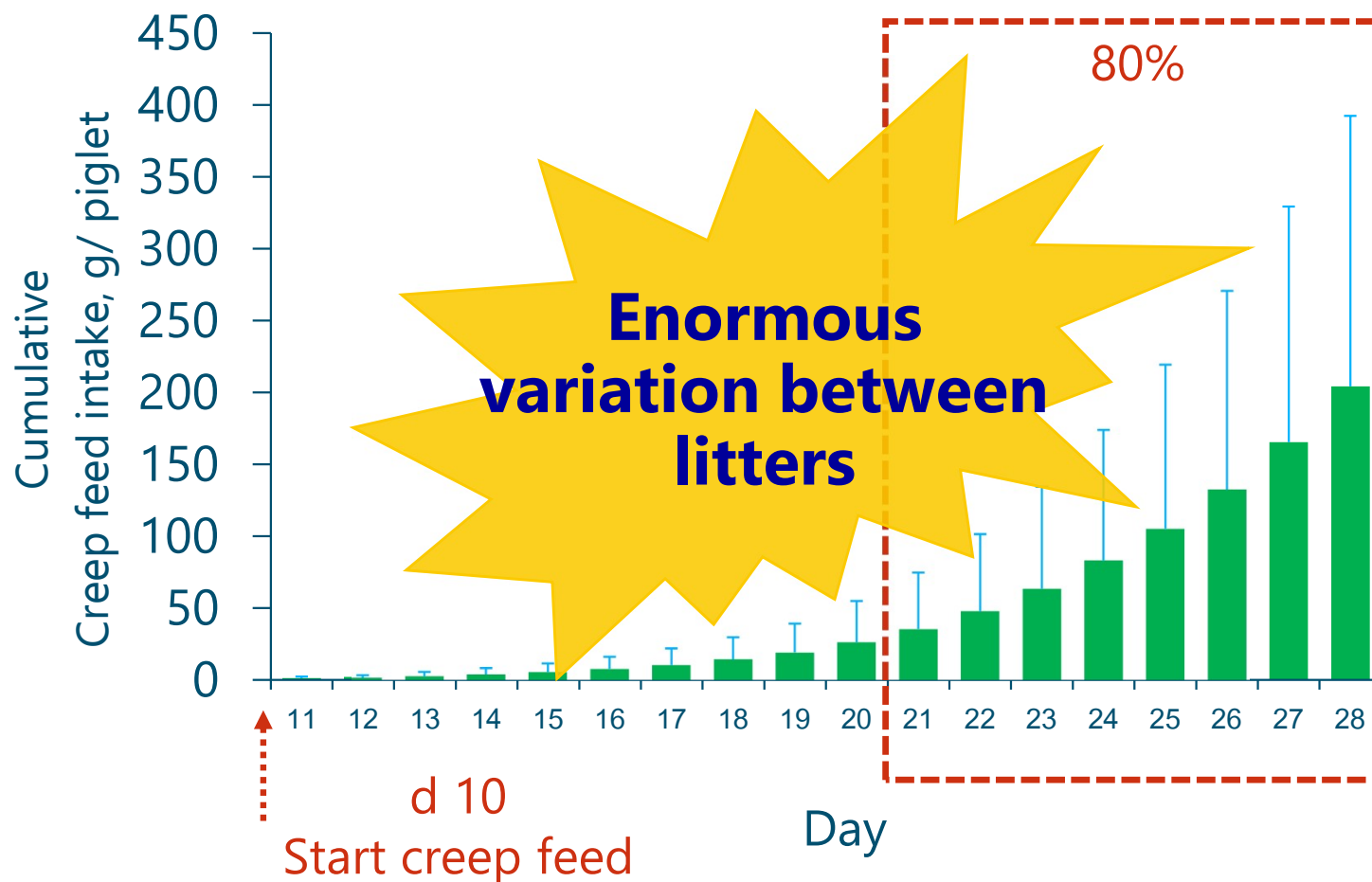
Milk replacer

Focus on having a robust GIT and preparing the piglets for the weaning period > **Role complex vs. simple diets**



# Pre-weaning management strategies

## ➤ Pre-weaning creep feed intake



Huting et al., 2017

# Role of complex vs. Simple diets pre-weaning

Hypothesis:

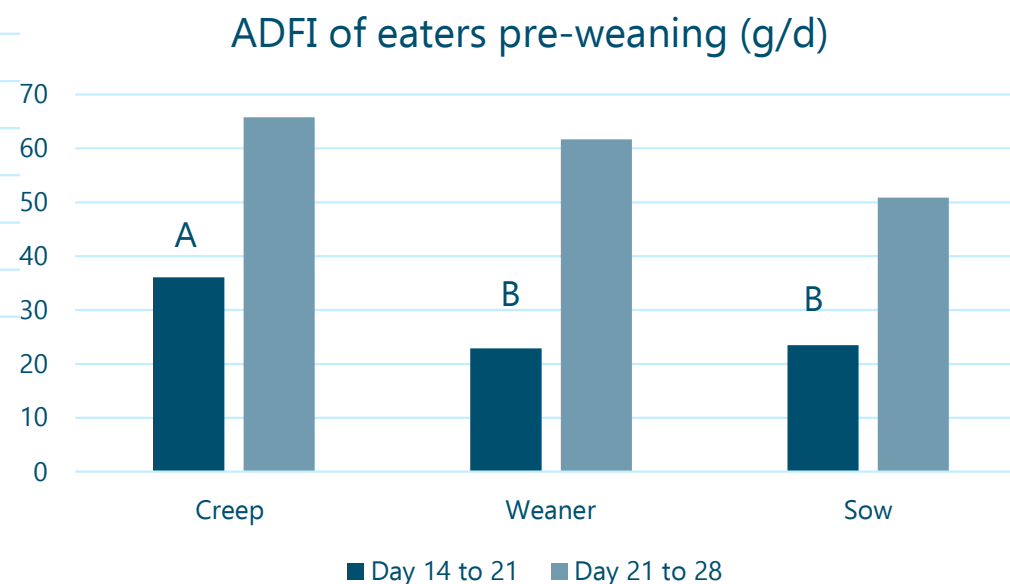
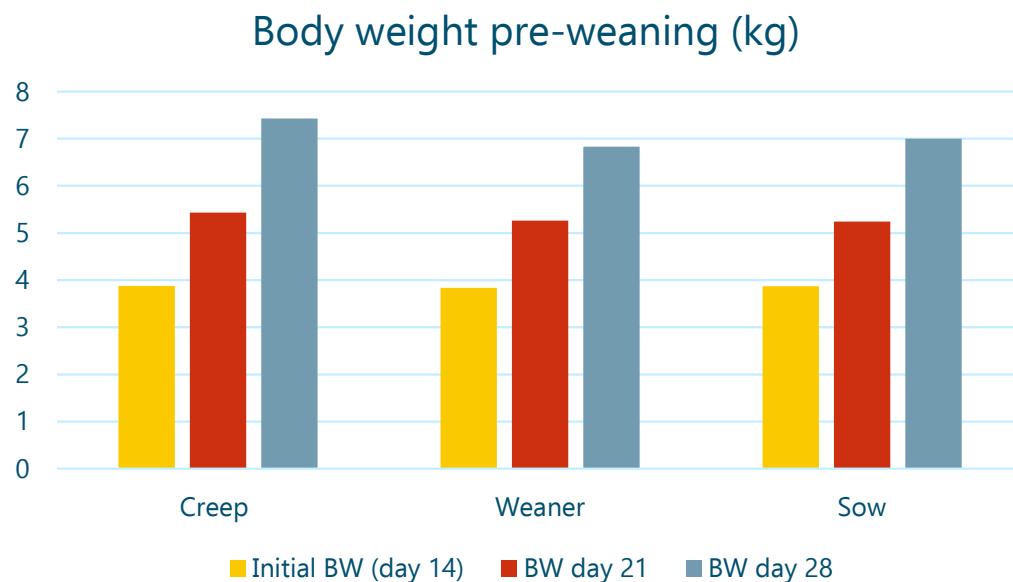
- In the absence of in-feed antibiotics and weaning piglets close to 24 days of age, having a simple low nutrient diet around weaning (+/- 10 days after weaning) could help to reduce post-weaning problems?
- Can we increase the % of eaters in the litters (from 60 > 100%)?
- What are the long term effects post-weaning?

# Complex vs. Simple diet pre-weaning

- 24 sows and litters divided in 3 treatments. All litters standardized at 11 piglets / sow 24h post-farrowing.
- Experiment starts at 14 days of life until weaning. After weaning the middle class piglets were selected and all piglets received the same weaner I and II diets.
- Experimental treatments
  1. Litters receiving **creep feed**.
  2. Litters receiving a **weaner diet**.
  3. Litters receiving **sow feed**.
- 4 Days PW 4 piglets per pen were euthanized to compare gut structure.

# Results Pre-weaning

➤ No differences in sows performance

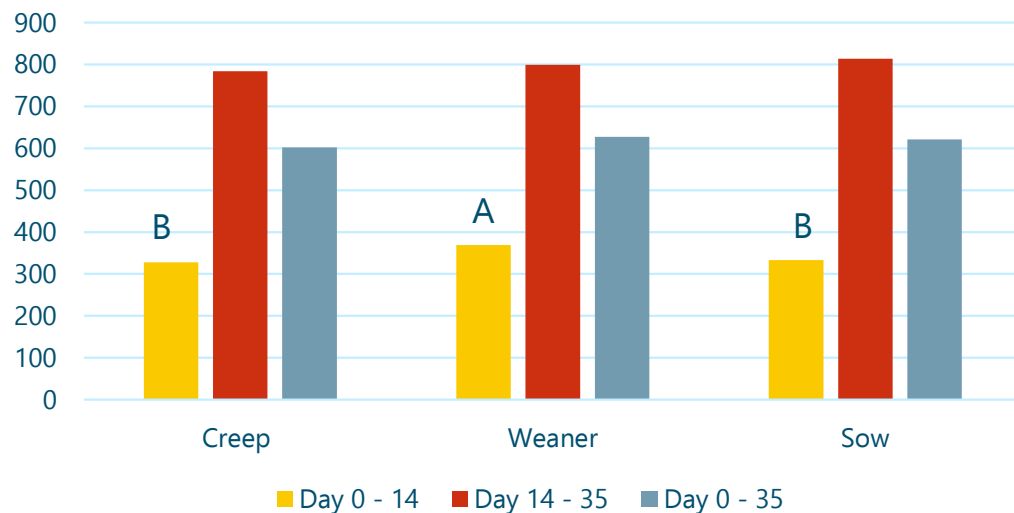


Heo et al., 2018

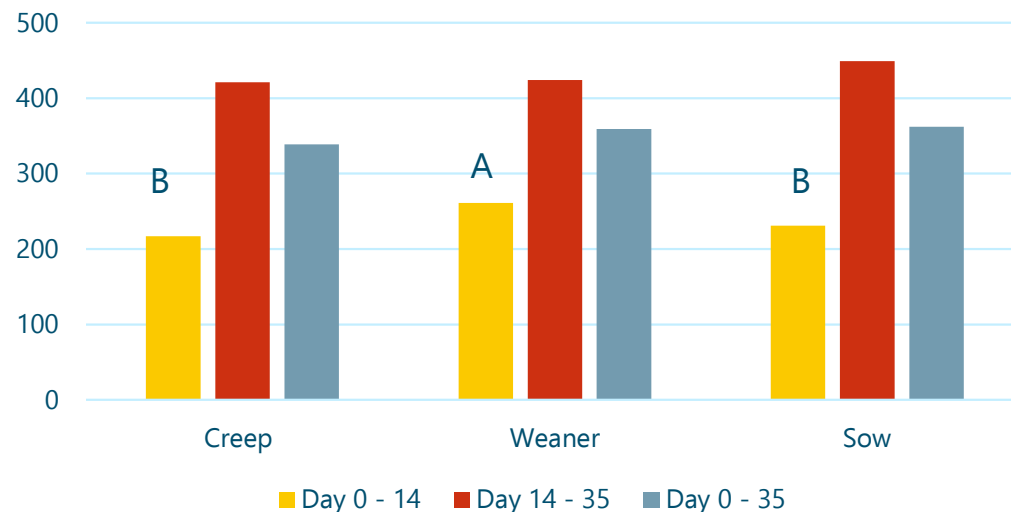
No differences in BW of the piglets.  
A tendency for a higher ADFI of eaters piglets in the creep group.

# Effects post-weaning

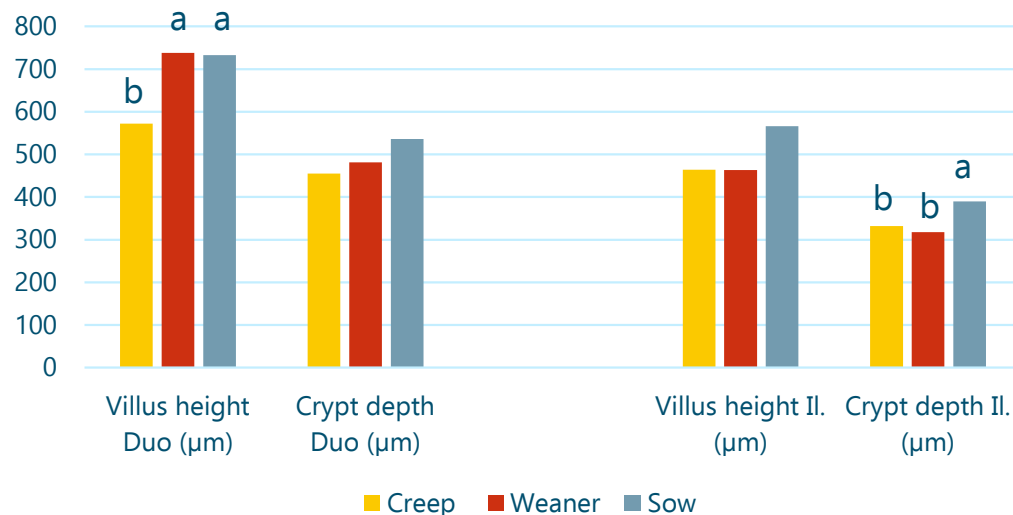
ADFI (g/d)



ADG (g/d)



Intestinal morphology 4 d PW



- Piglets receiving the weaner diet pre- and post-weaning tended to show the highest ADFI and ADG in the first 2 weeks PW.
- Piglets eating the sow and the weaner diet pre-weaning showed longer villus height in the duodenum. Piglets eating sow diet pre-weaning showed deeper crypts in the ileum.

# Post-weaning

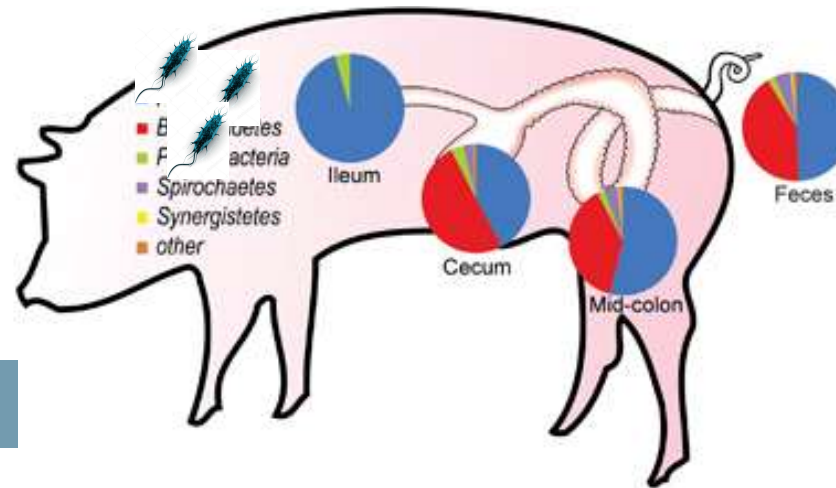
- Important feed intake with control of substrate.
- Phase feeding with nutrient adaptations can help to minimize the risk factors.
- Important management to reduce stress.
- Better knowledge nutrition and vaccination.
- Better understanding substrate – bacteria interactions.
- Animals should remain healthy and then they should grow



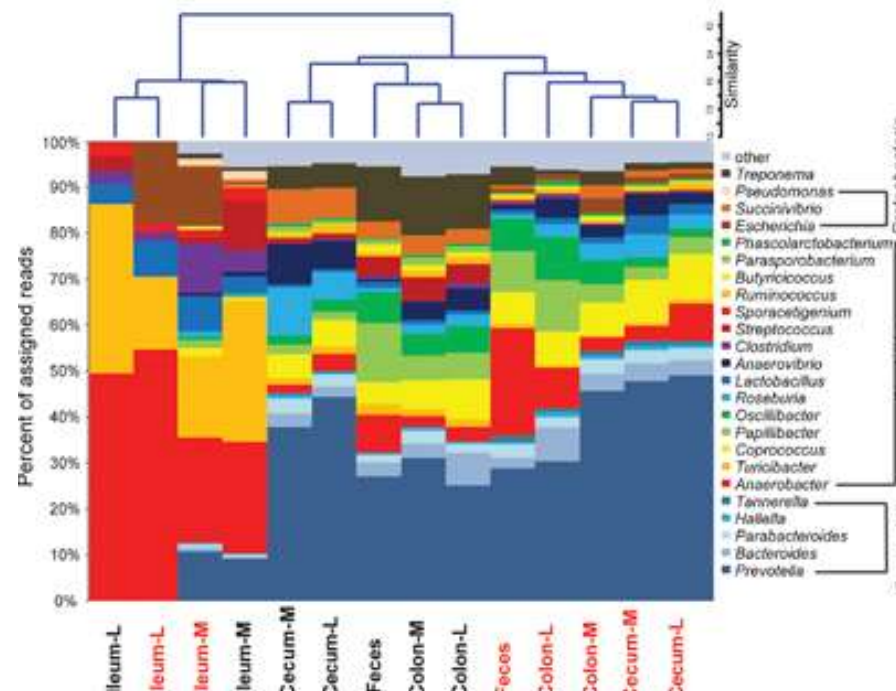
## Excess non-digested nutrients in the GIT



No feed ab



Higher risk  
of diarrhea



- Without antibiotics in the feed: too much substrate available for the bacteria => overgrowth of pathogenic bacteria!
- AVOID BACTERIAL GROWTH BY LIMITING SUBSTRATE



WEANING

20 DAYS

5 - 10 days

5-10 days

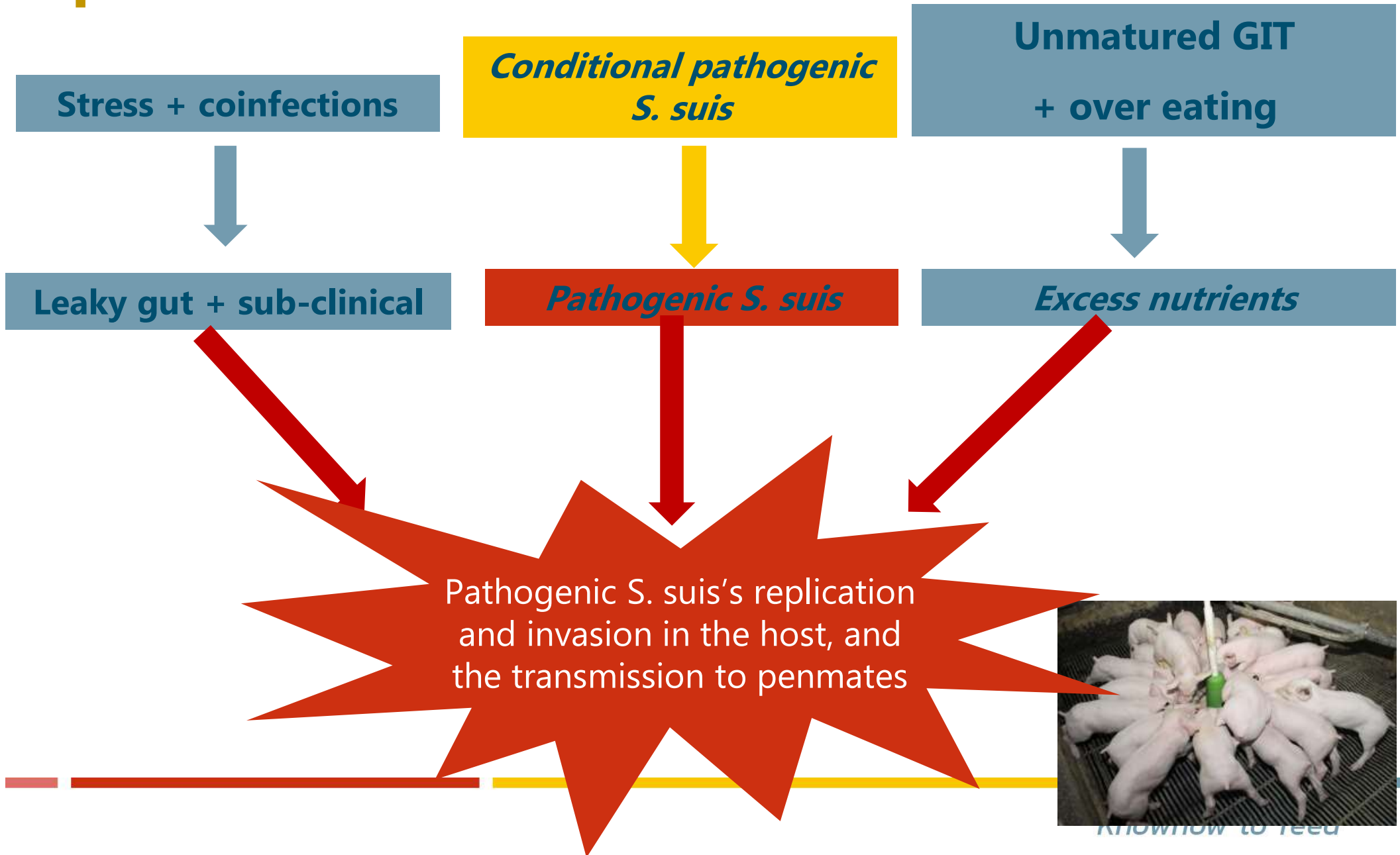
ACUTE PHASE

MATURATION PHASE

- Anorexia & intestinal stasis
- Malabsorption & absorption
- **PW diarrhea (PWD)**
- Intestinal inflammation
- Intestinal damage

- Feed intake
- Nutrient absorption
- **Excess nutrients increase the risk of *S. suis***
- Reduced immune system activity

# *S. suis* outbreak: a multifactorial problem!



# How we can help the piglets to have a good start?

## MODIFIERS OF THE MICROBIOTA OF THE GIT



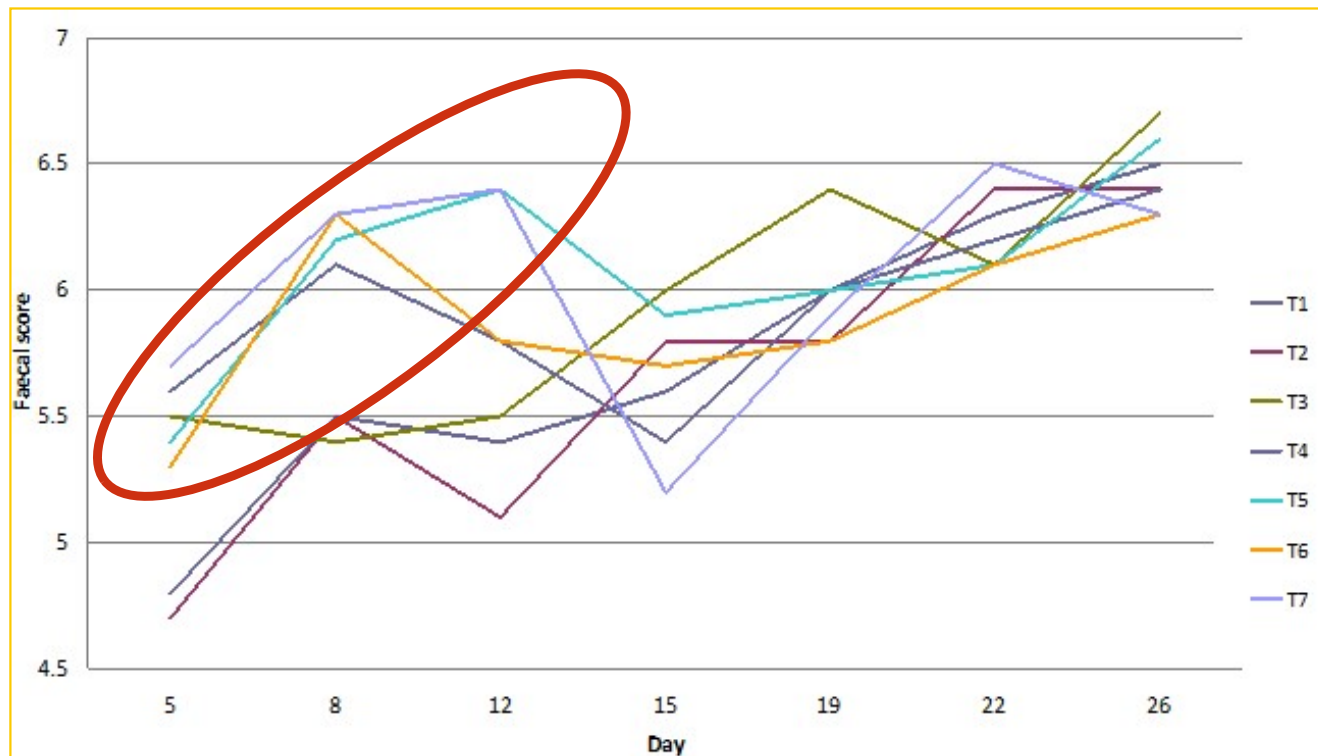
- Acidifiers
- Prebiotics
- Probiotics
- Symbiotics
- Plant extracts
- Minerals: ZnO & Cu
- Dietary fibre
- Low CP diet
- Role of fat

## PROMOTERS OF FOOD CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION ENHANCERS



- Palatable ingredients
- Digestible ingredients
- Flavours
- Synthetic amino acids

# Feecal score results during the first 4 weeks PW

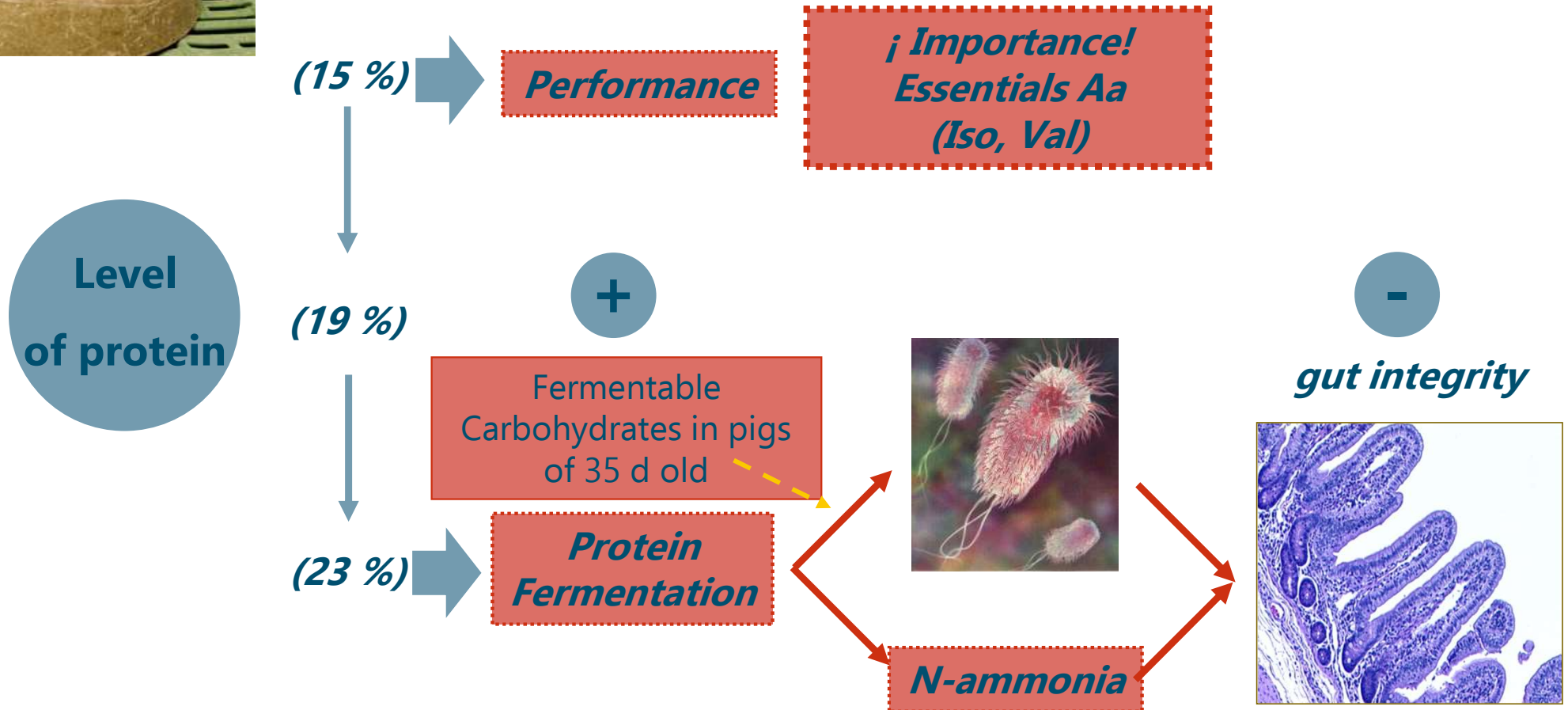


**Diluting the diet with I-CHO sources improved the faecal score**

| Treatment | T1<br>Control | T2<br>6%<br>Soya hulls | T3<br>12%<br>Soya hulls | T4<br>6%<br>Sunflower hulls | T5<br>12%<br>Sunflower hulls | T6<br>6%<br>Wheat straw | T7<br>12%<br>Wheat straw |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|-----------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

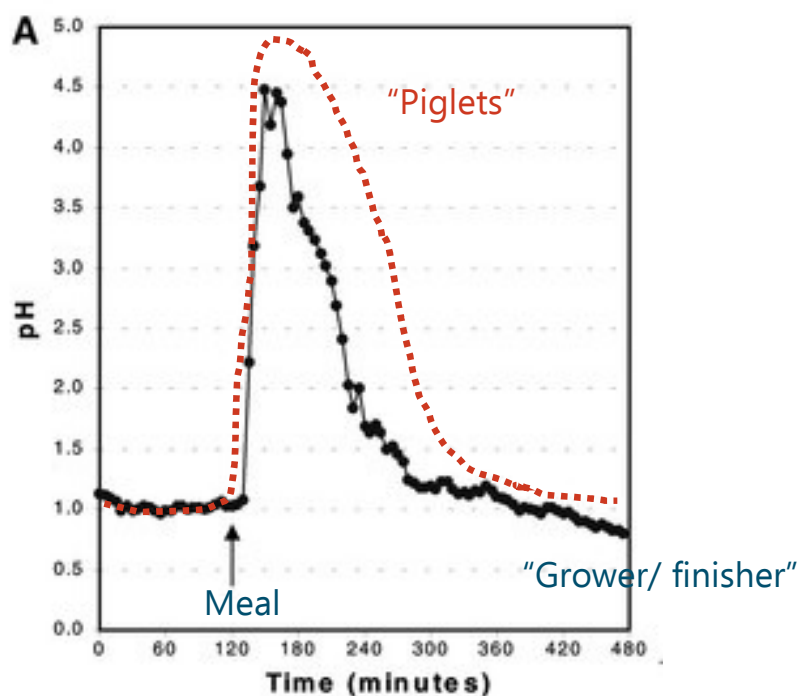
SFR 2016

# Fiber & CP fermentation

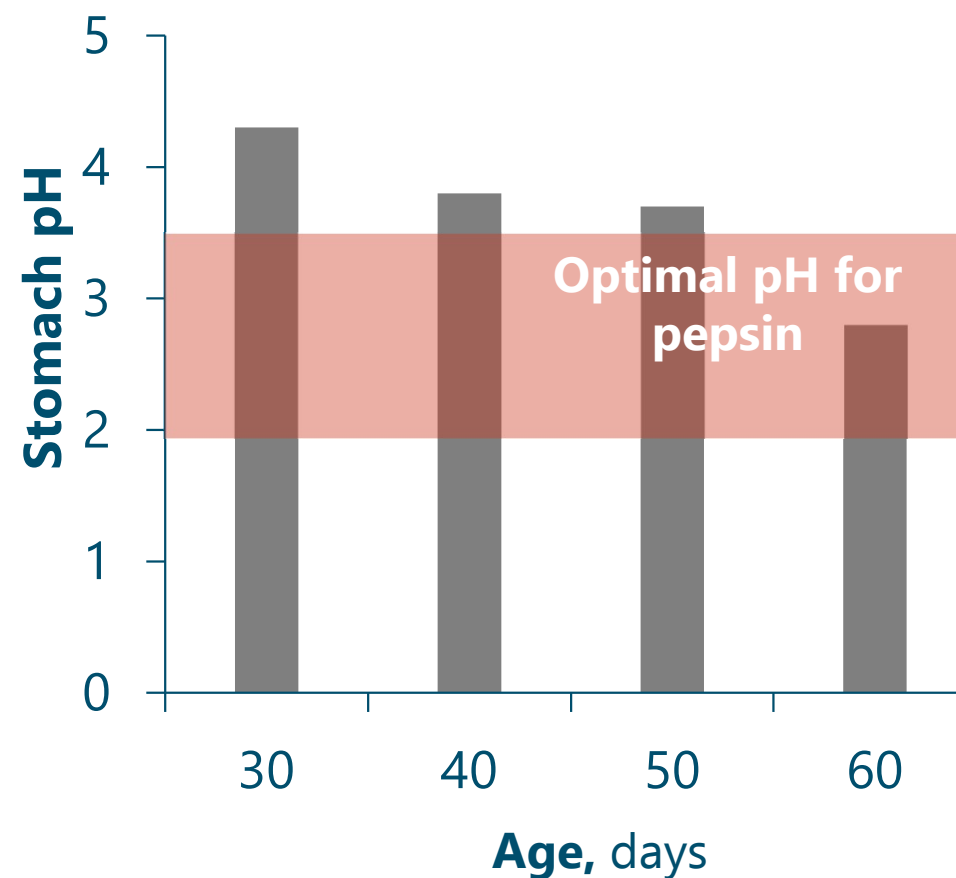


# Protein digestion - stomach

*Hypothetical difference between piglets and G/F:* Piglets have a higher stomach pH/ need longer to acidify their stomach content after a meal than grower/ finishers



adapted from Gardner et al., 2002

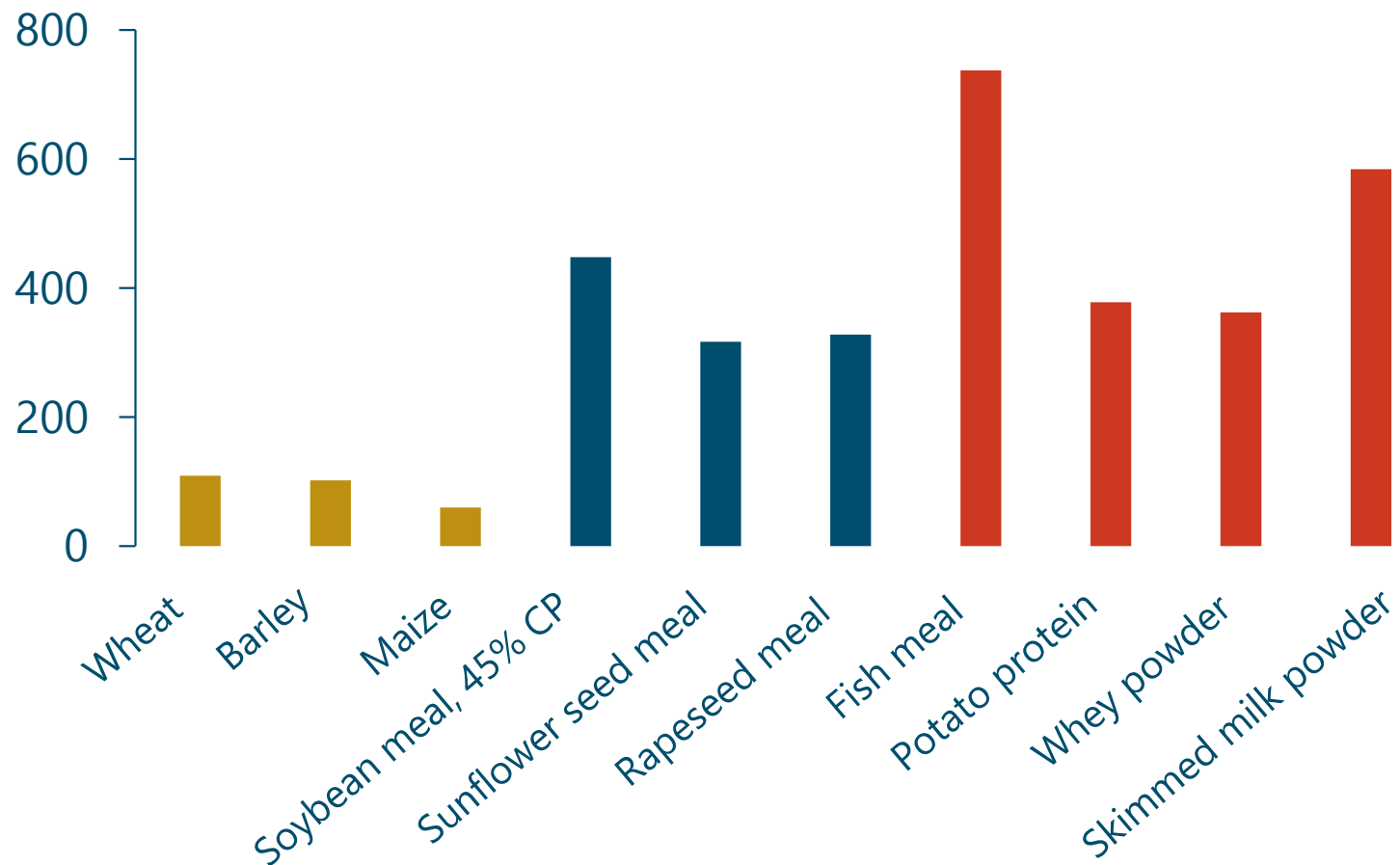


Piglets <60 days of age are not able to acidify the stomach sufficiently



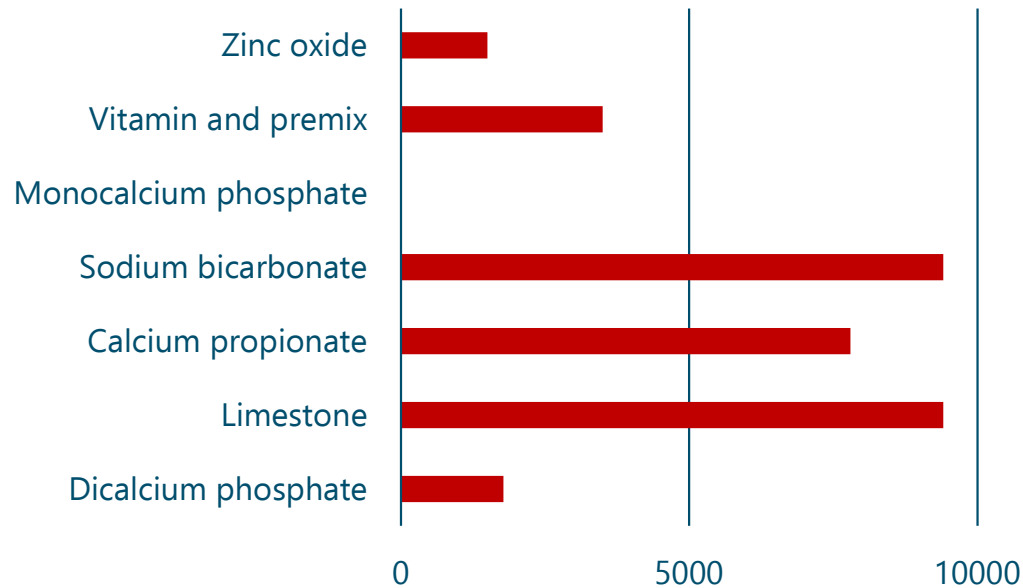
# Acid binding capacity (mEq/kg)

## ➤ Feedstuff



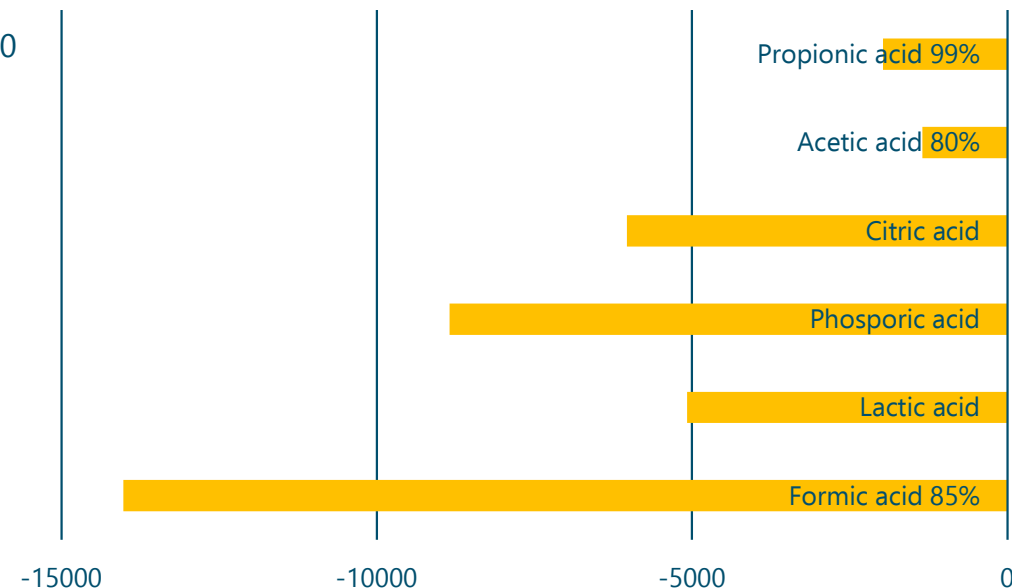
Protein sources have a greater impact on acid binding capacity than cereals

# Acid binding capacity (mEq/kg)



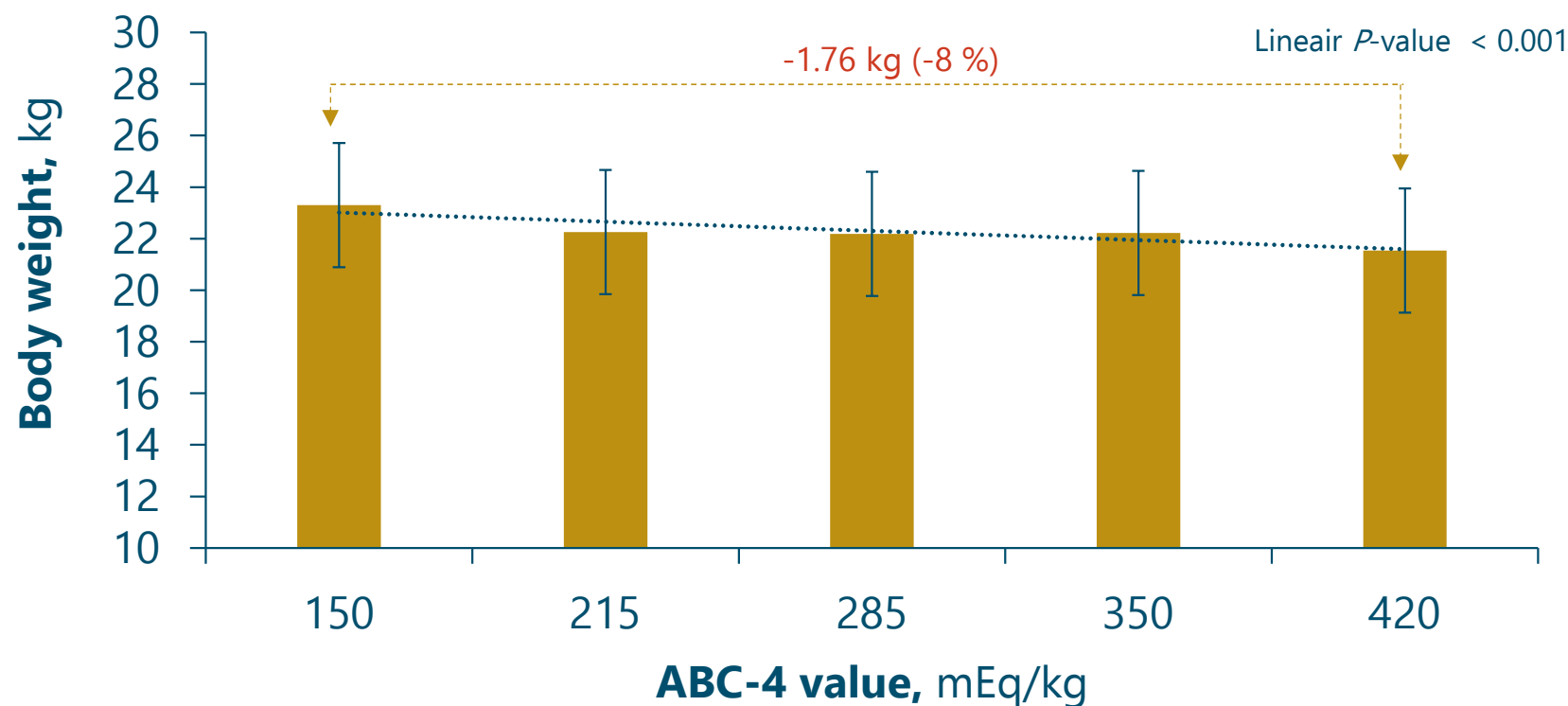
Minerals have a large impact on the ABC. Therefore, reduce minerals that will have a negative impact on the pH in the stomach (high ABC-4 value)

Organic acids will help to reduce the pH in the stomach (acidifying effect)



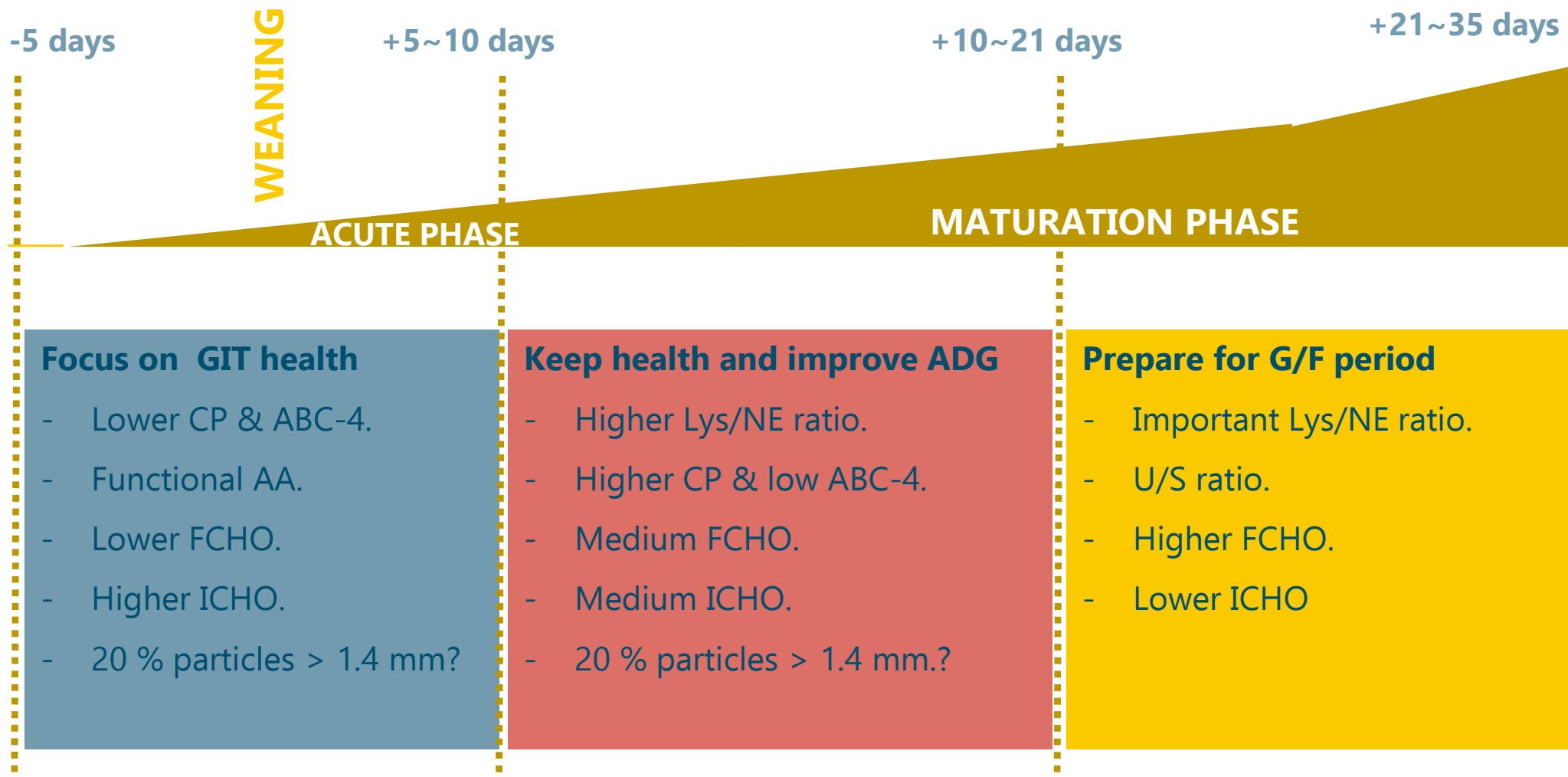
# Optimal ABC-4 value

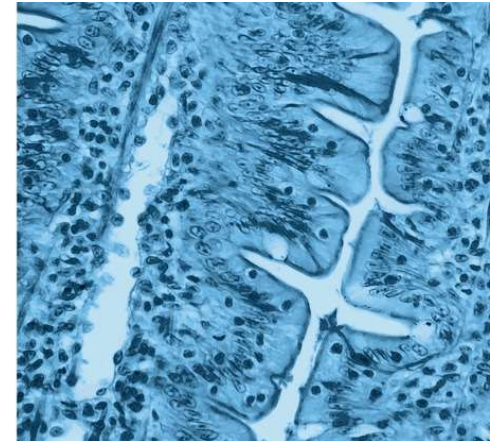
## ➤ Body weight day 35



\* Achieved by adding limestone, Ca-formate and fumaric acid

# Take home message post-weaning





**Thank you for your attention**

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