

EnMax™ helps Bret Lindaman use DDGS in his hog operation

When soybean meal prices jumped a few years ago, Bret Lindaman turned to dry distiller's grains with solubles (DDGS) as an economical ingredient in his hog feed. Lindaman grinds his own feed, and the incorporation of DDGS into rations allowed him to back off on both the amount of corn and soybean meal he needed to feed. After Lindaman began feeding DDGS he noticed that the gut health of his herd improved. DDGS along with Regano™ from Ralco Nutrition, and the EnMax™ feed program has improved the health of his hogs and added profit to the bottom line.

Lindaman sells about 6,000 hogs annually from his isowean-to-finish operation near Westbrook, Minn. He has been feeding DDGS for three years. He wanted to improve gut health, and it wasn't long before he noticed results.

"In my finishing barns I noticed my gut health was not up to par. There was loose and dark stool, I call it bloody bowel. I wanted to work on the gut health during the later stages of feeding and do it naturally," Lindaman said. "Now my death loss is down and overall gut health has improved."

When piglets are first shipped to Lindaman, he starts them off with Early Wean dry pellets as a complete feed along with ExSel™ from Ralco with Regano™. At two and a half weeks he begins feeding Porkflex 625 base mix and transitions to Nursery Base 75 with phytase. When the pigs move out of the nursery after eight or nine weeks and weigh 60 to 70 pounds they begin the EnMax™ program with GroMax 50 DDGS base mix, and GroMax 7.5 XE3 base mix. The pigs are introduced to DDGS at a five percent inclusion rate at that point. At 90 pounds, Lindaman begins feeding his hogs DDGS at a 10 percent inclusion until they are marketed.

The health of his finishing hogs has improved, but Lindaman said he noticed some additional benefits of feeding EnMax™; his hogs stay cooler in the summer time.

"I actually go by the pigs and how they are acting when it comes to running the drippers and I haven't had to do that as much. So my pits don't fill as fast," Lindaman said.

Lindaman will continue to feed DDGS. He has two bulk bins on his farm to store the grain, and said he has never had a problem handling it. If the DDGS seems a little warm, he leaves the top of the bin open so it can cool. After three years of experience, Lindaman is confident about the future of DDGS as a component of swine feed.

"With all the ethanol plants going up, the DDGS hopefully will remain profitable," he said.