



NovaUCD

Technology Licensing Opportunity

Novel Feed Supplement to Improve Gut Health in Weaning Piglets

- Enhances growth and performance in swine



Opportunity:

In the past, antibiotic growth promoters were used to control post-weaning diarrhoea (PWD) in piglets. However this strategy was banned in the European Union (EU) in 2006 due to rising antimicrobial resistance. Presently, zinc oxide (ZnO) is commonly supplemented to the diet of weaning pigs to control PWD and enhance performance. However ZnO will also be banned in the EU from 2022 due to the risk of environmental accumulation and its associations with the development of antimicrobial resistance. Further restrictions on the use of antibiotics in livestock will also be imposed in 2022.

Researchers at University College Dublin have found that orally administering a beta-glucan and casein hydrolysate composition to either the sow and/or the weaned piglet supports a healthy gut and improved growth parameters in the weaned piglet similar to ZnO inclusion.

Applications:

Replacement for ZnO as a growth promoting supplement in swine feed with the potential to be used in wider animal feed applications.

Key Features/Advantages:

- Supports a healthy gut indicated by healthy faecal scores and improved growth parameters; similar to ZnO inclusion.
- Positive effect on the gut microbiota with supplementation.
- Restoration of homeostasis of the newly weaned piglet gut, similar to ZnO.

Value Proposition:

Use of a combination supplement comprising beta-glucan and a casein hydrolysate as an alternative to ZnO in supporting a healthy gut and promoting growth performance in swine.

Market:

Animal feed industry.

Lead Inventors:

Professor Torres Sweeney, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
Professor John O' Doherty, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

IP Status/Publication:

Patent at application stage (WO2017/081193) in the following territories: US, Europe, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Vietnam.



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