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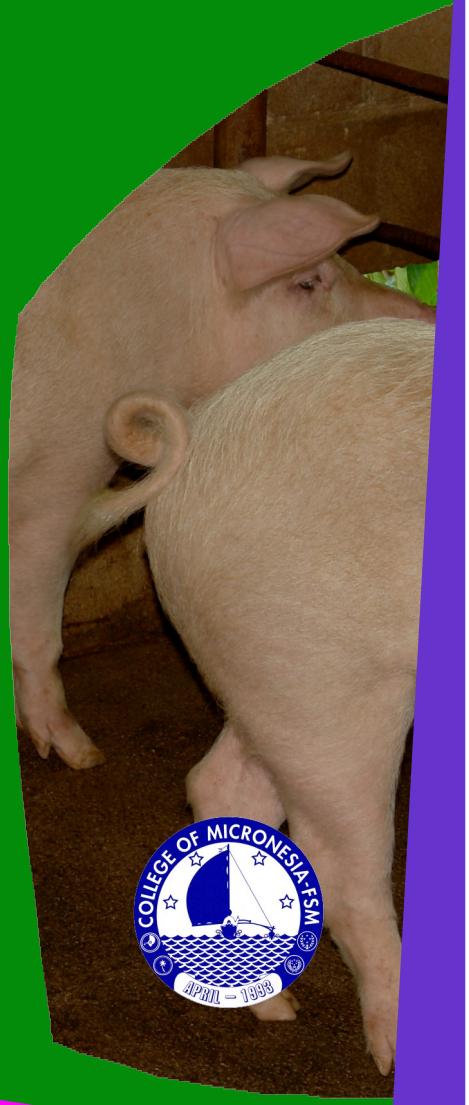
MODIFIED SWINE DIET GUIDE



Modified Swine Diet: Useful Facts

Feed costs comprise approximately 90-95% of the cost of pork production in Micronesia if pure commercial feeds are used. The ability to properly formulate diets to achieve production goals and optimize profitability is essential for the success of any pork production operation.

Energy Source

Energy fuels maintenance, growth, reproduction and lactation processes and physical activity. Carbohydrates from cereal grains are the most abundant energy source in typical US swine diets. Fat and oils contribute on average 2.25 times more gross energy than carbohydrates, but are included in diets in lower quantities and therefore make a smaller overall contribution to total dietary energy. Protein usually contributes between 15 and 20% of the total energy in the diet.

Substitute commercial energy feed by using excess and non-marketable cooked sweet potato storage roots, soft taro corms and banana.

Protein and Amino Acid Source

Swine of all ages and stages of the life cycle require amino acids to enable them for normal body function. Amino acids are the structural units of protein. During digestion, dietary protein is broken down into amino acids and peptides. The amino acids and peptides are then absorbed into the body and are used to build new proteins, such as muscle, which is composed of about 21 different amino acids. Substitute commercial protein feed by using cooked soft taro leaves and young petioles, raw sweet potato and kangkong leaves and young vines, excess and non-marketable eggplants and papaya fruits.

Macro Minerals

Minerals constitute a small percentage of swine diets, but their importance to growth, health, and productivity of the pig cannot be over-emphasized. Swine require 15 minerals in their diet and macro-minerals are the minerals that swine need in larger quantities. The macro-minerals are: calcium, phosphorus, sodium, chlorine, potassium, magnesium, and sulfur.

Modified diet will provide most of these.

Trace Minerals and Vitamins

Trace minerals and vitamins are another class of nutrients required for normal metabolic functions in the body. Vitamins are generally required as co-factors in metabolic reactions. Modified diet will provide most of these.

(Reference: National Swine Nutrition Guide, USA)