

EFFECT OF HERBAL DRUGS ON ESTRUS PERFORMANCE IN SWINE

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ABSTRACT

During the present study four herbal drugs (Clemenstol syrup, Femelin, Lecorin Plus and Asoka Cordial) were administered orally to 75 gilts and sows at various stages of reproduction to see their effect on estrus performance. The average duration for expression of estrus and fertile estrus were shorter in treated gilts with Clemenstol. Average duration for corresponding features were also shorter in all the treated groups of sows which was shortest in Lecorin Plus treated treated group followed by Asoka Cordial and Femelin treated group. However, the differences in duration were non-significant in both gilts and sows.

Key Words: Herbal drugs, Fertile estrus and Swine

The experiment was conducted on a total of 75 gilts and sows during different stages of reproduction namely pubertal, periparturient, post farrowing and around weaning stage. The pigs were allocated to 4

treatments and 2 control groups and the drugs were administered as per the schedule mentioned in the table below.

Treatment schedule:

Group 1 (gilts)	Drugs	Stage of Animals	Dose	Route of drug administration
T ₁ (n=15)	Clemenstol syrup	Pubertal	25 ml b.i.d. for 10 days	Orally
C (Control) (n=5)	No treatment	-----	-----	-----
Group II (sows)	Drugs	Stage of reproduction	Dose	Route of drug administration
T ₁ (n=15)	Femelin	Periparturient stage	25 ml b.i.d. for 10 days	Orally
T ₂ (n=15)	Lecorin plus	Post farrowing	25 ml b.i.d. for 10 days	Orally
T ₃ (n=15)	Asoka Cordial	Weaning	25 ml b.i.d. for 10 days	Orally
C (control) (n=10)	No treatment	-----	-----	-----

Gilts and sows were observed every morning and evening for estrus symptoms and those detected in estrus were mated twice daily with the same boar during mid and late estrus. Duration from last treatment to first estrus, last treatment to first fertile estrus, from day of weaning to appearance of first estrus and from the day of weaning to fertile estrus were calculated in days.

The interval for expression of first estrus was shorter (12.2 ± 3.12 day) in Clemenstol group treated gilts than the gilts of control group (19.80 ± 3.12 days), however the difference was nonsignificant. Though no information was available on the effect of this drug,

different workers have tried different herbal drugs to induce estrus in pigs with variable results (Nisoli et al., 1991 and Wheeler, 1992). The interval between the treatment and expression of fertile estrus was also lower (25.60 ± 4.44 day) in Clemenstol syrup treated gilts than the gilts of control group (29.80 ± 2.80 day). Similar observation has also been made by Wheeler (1992) and Wheeler and David (1998) who also recorded shorter interval for fertile estrus in Prajana and Prajana premix administered gilts as compared to control gilts.

The interval from weaning to first estrus was also apparently shorter in treatment groups as compared to control group in sows which was shortest (9.27 ± 0.70

days) in Lecorin plus sows preceeded by 9.93 ± 0.92 days in Asoka Cordial, 10.60 ± 1.02 days in Femelin and 12.70 ± 1.58 days in control group. The results obtained in this study are by and large in consonance with the findings of Nisoli et. al. 1991; Garcia et al. 1989 and Tubbs et al. 1990. The interval from weaning to fertile estrus was recorded to be 20.93 ± 2.16 , 19.20 ± 2.79 , 20.07 ± 1.53 and 25.60 ± 2.64 days in Femelin, Lecorin, Asoka and Control group, respectively. However, the interval did not differ significantly among the groups. Singh(2000) also did not find significant effect of herbal drug on weaning to fertile estrus interval in pigs.

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