PRAIRIE
SWINE
CENTRE

To whom it may concern,

In December 2013, the Prairie Swine Centre participated in an initial evaluation of JYGA Technology's new Gestal Gestation feeder. As a research scientist in animal behaviour, my role was to evaluate the performance of the feeder in relation to sow behaviour and welfare. I visited JYGA Technology's test site for the Gestal Gestation feeder, and was impressed by some of the advantages of this new feed system as compared to existing ESF or Free-access stall systems.

The Gestal Gestation feeder provides individual feeding to sows, using an RFID ear tag and offers programmable feed curves, similar to ESF systems, but at a reduced sow-to-feeder ratio compared to ESF. This results in less competition at the feeder entrance and more social facilitation of feeding behaviour as multiple sows can feed side-by-side in the feeder stations. I observed that even at the daily feeder reset, sows entered the feed stations and fed calmly, with minimal displacements or aggressive interactions at the feeder entrance.

Compared to free-access stalls, the Gestal Gestation feeder has the advantage of providing individual feeding, while requiring less pen space and penning because each feed stall is shared. The stall was also very easy for sows to use, with a simple gating system that resulted in most sows learning the system with no manual training. Based on these characteristics, the system appears to blend the advantages of existing non-competitive feeding systems, and to provide this at lower cost.

As a research scientist in swine behaviour, I congratulate JYGA Technologies on this innovation, and look forward to further development and demonstrations of this new gestation feeder.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown

Dr. Jennifer Brown
Research Scientist- Ethology

cc:\Lee Whittington

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