Starting weaned pigs to improve livability

Joel DeRouchey, Mike Tokach, Robert Goodband, Jason Woodworth, Jordan Gebhardt and Katelyn Gaffield. Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Kansas State University | applied swine nutrition

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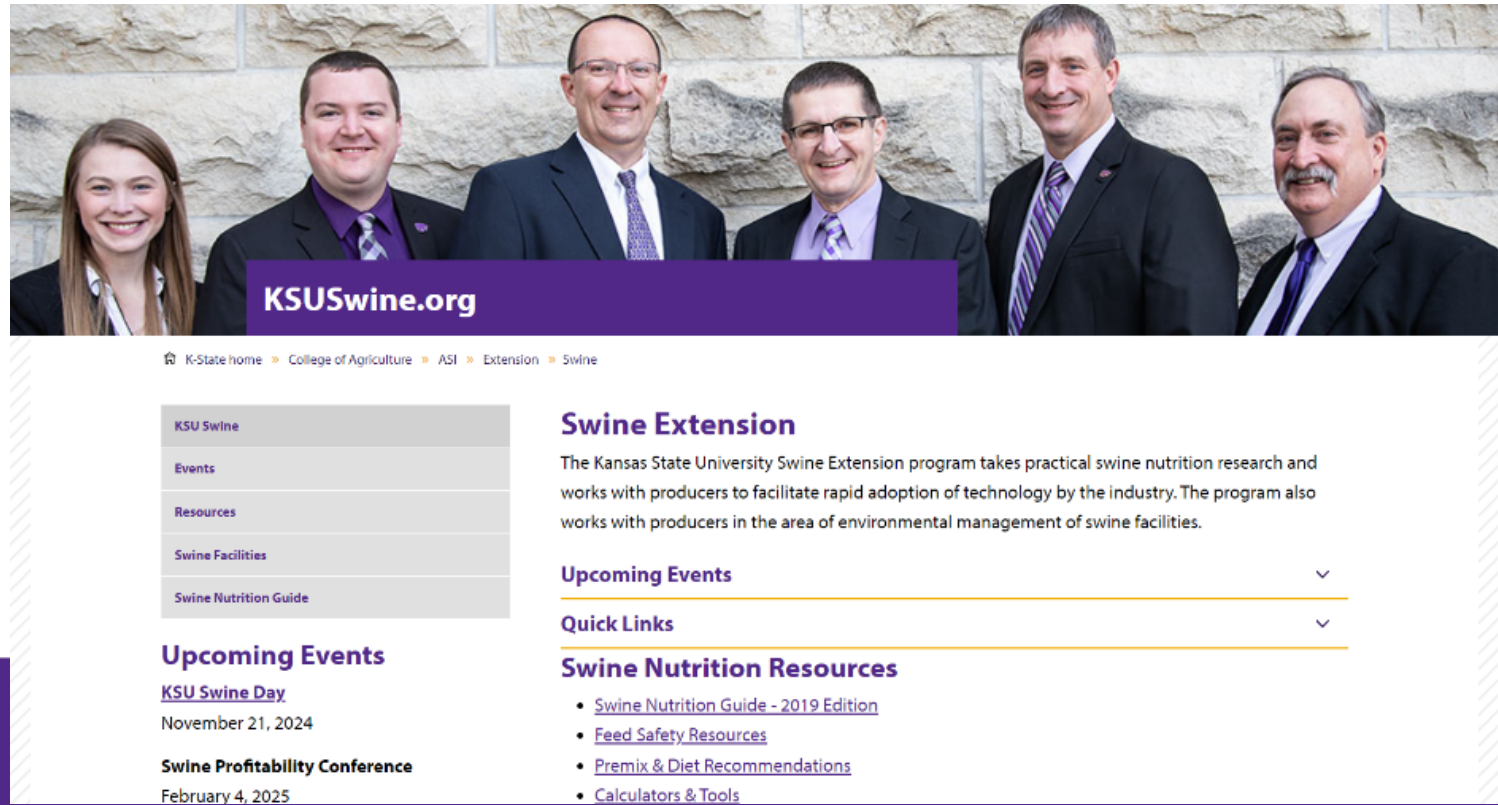
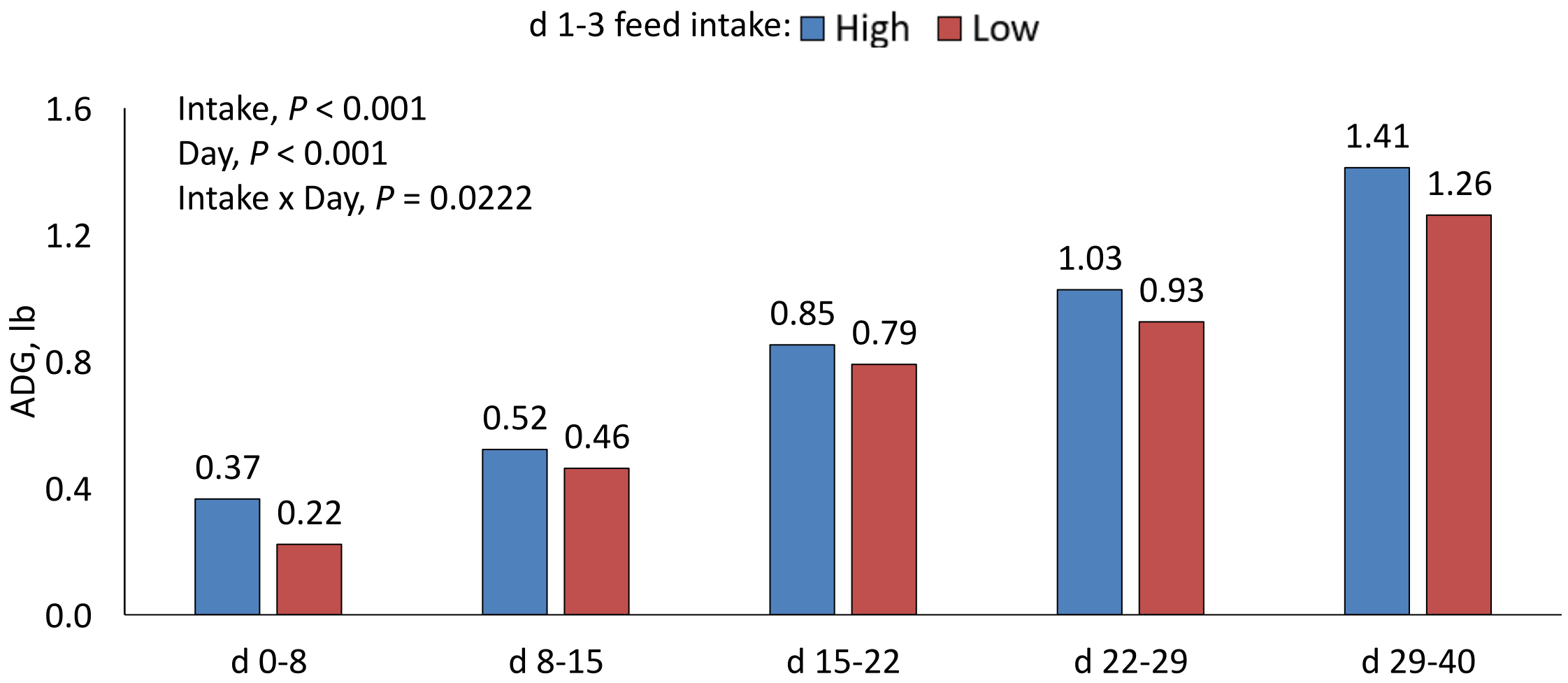


What can we do to increase post-weaning growth and livability?

Multi-factor issue that requires the entire team to work together.

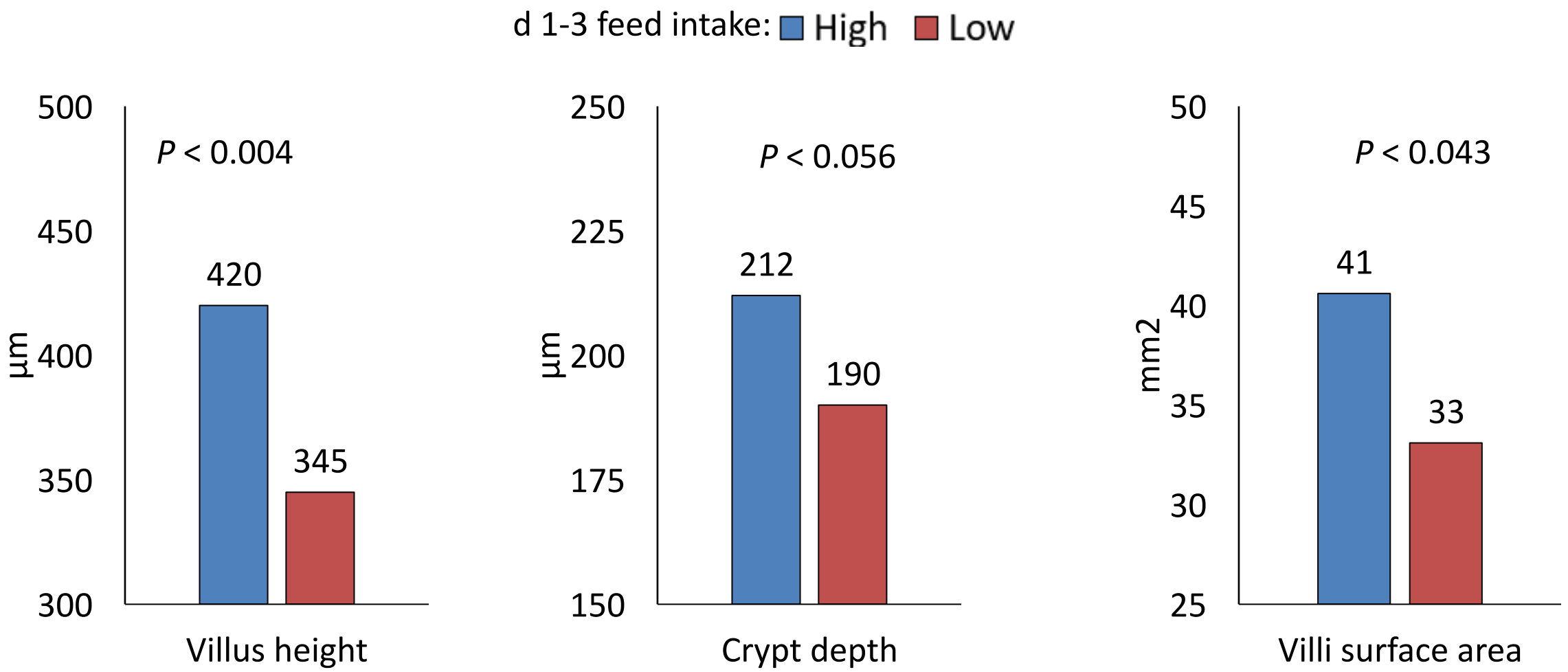
- Management factors
  - Prewean management (colostrum intake, creep feeding)
  - Increased weaning age
  - Emphasize sanitation (farrowing house and nursery)
  - Reduce management stressors (immunity, housing, environment, fill time etc.)
  - Find and treat sick or fall-behind pigs promptly
- Dietary factors
  - Right feed to the right pig at the right time
  - ABC-4, highly digestible ingredients, lower CP with increased amino acid ratios to lysine, phytase, Zn and Cu, and other feed additives

Increasing post-weaning feed intake increases nursery ADG



Faba et al., 2024

Increasing post-weaning feed intake improves intestine development



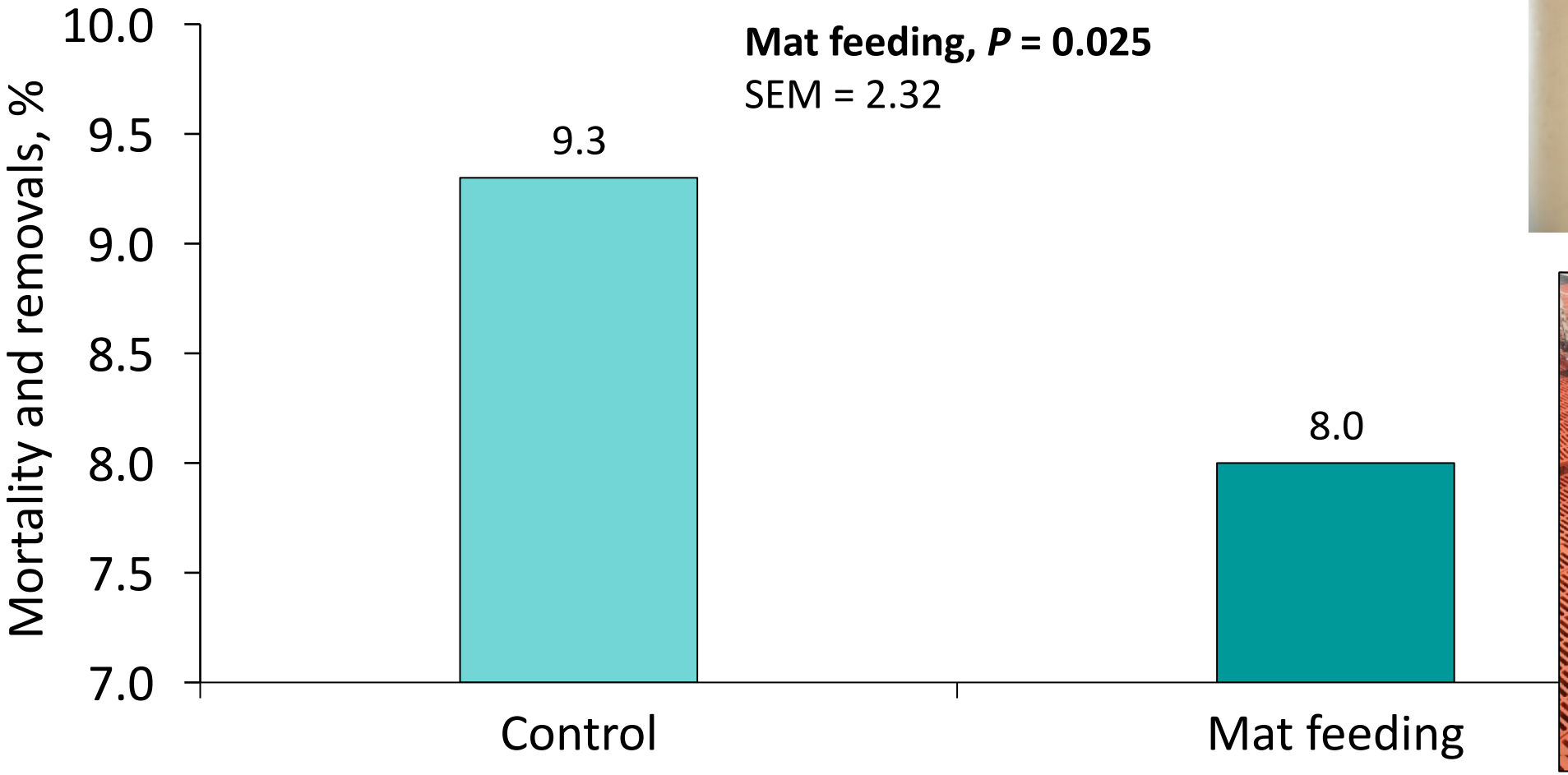
Faba et al., 2024

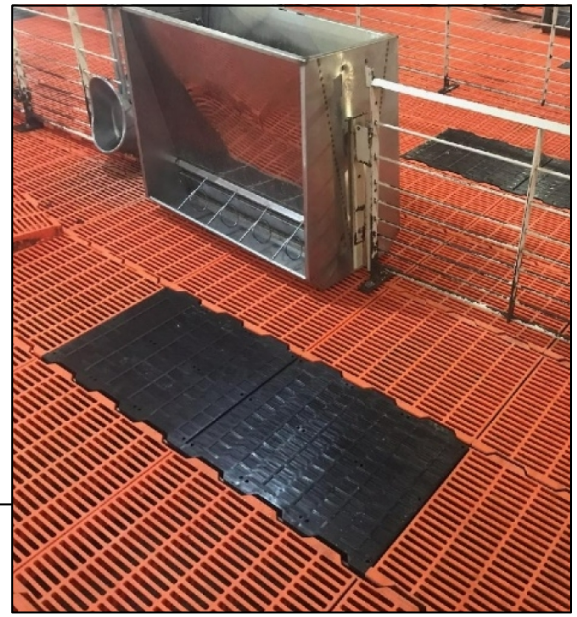
Impact of type of creep feed on mortality and removals

Wensley et al., 2022

Impact of mat feeding on mortality and removals

3 combined experiments using 9,403 nursery pigs

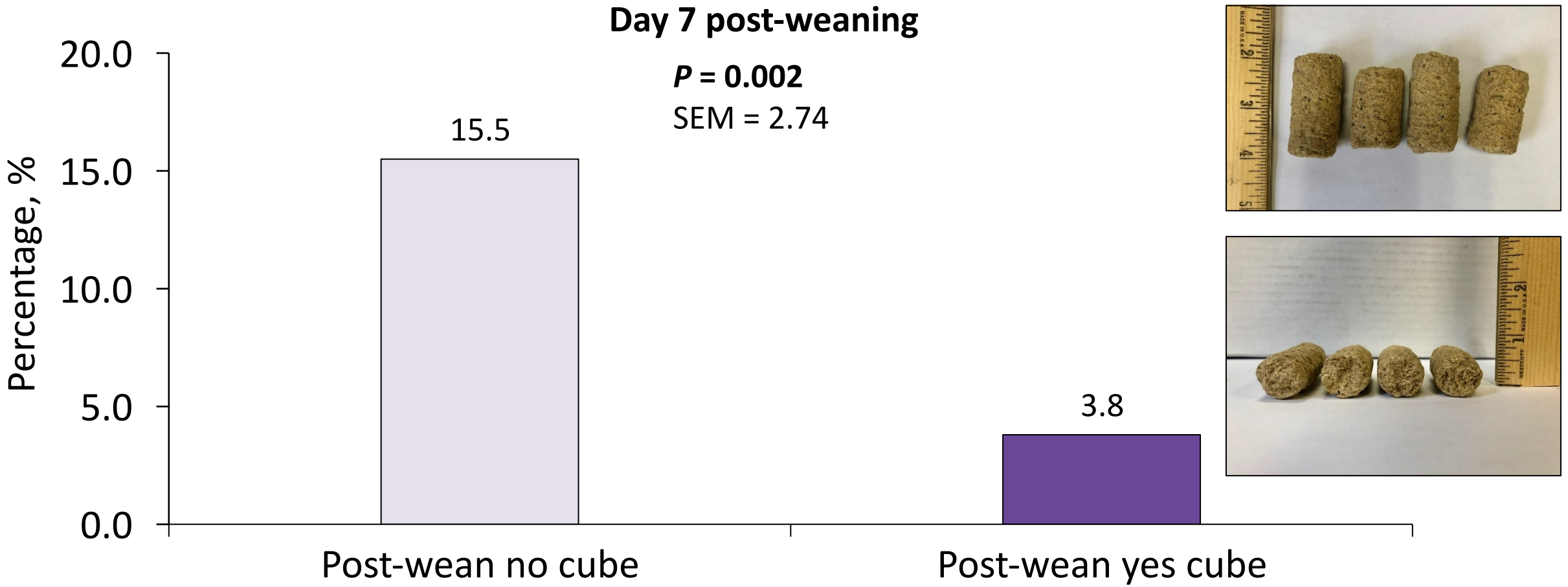




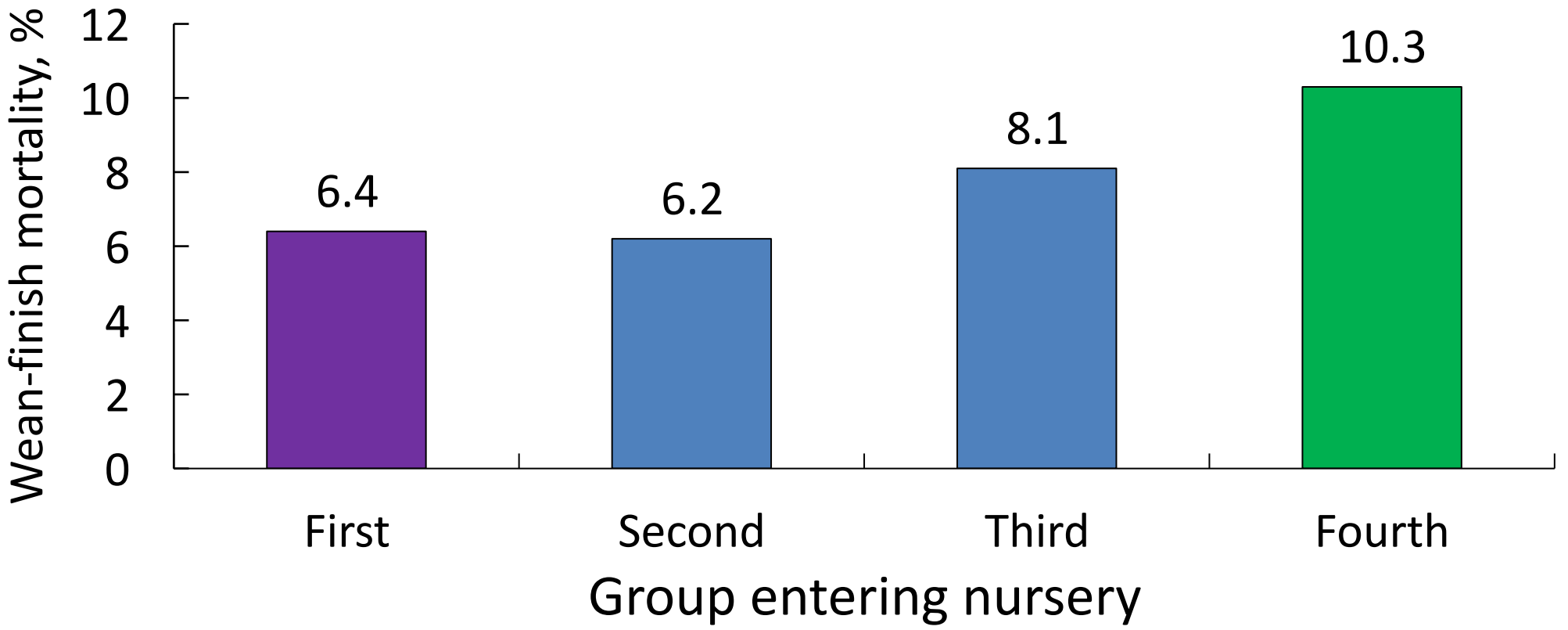
Wensley et al., 2022

Enrichment cubes after weaning on early BW loss

0.22 lb (100 g) was provided in feed 1X per day

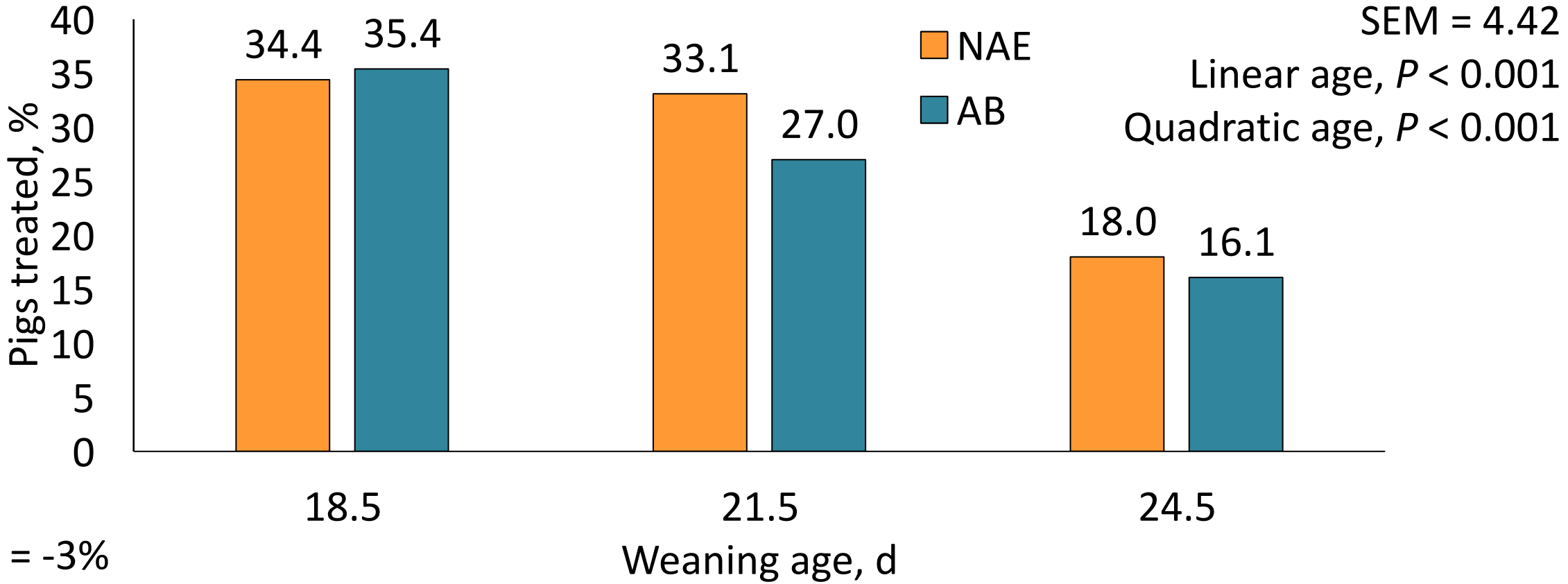


Reducing groups filling a nursery will improve livability



Faccin et al., 2020

Influence of weaning age on need for injectable antibiotics



Slope = -3%

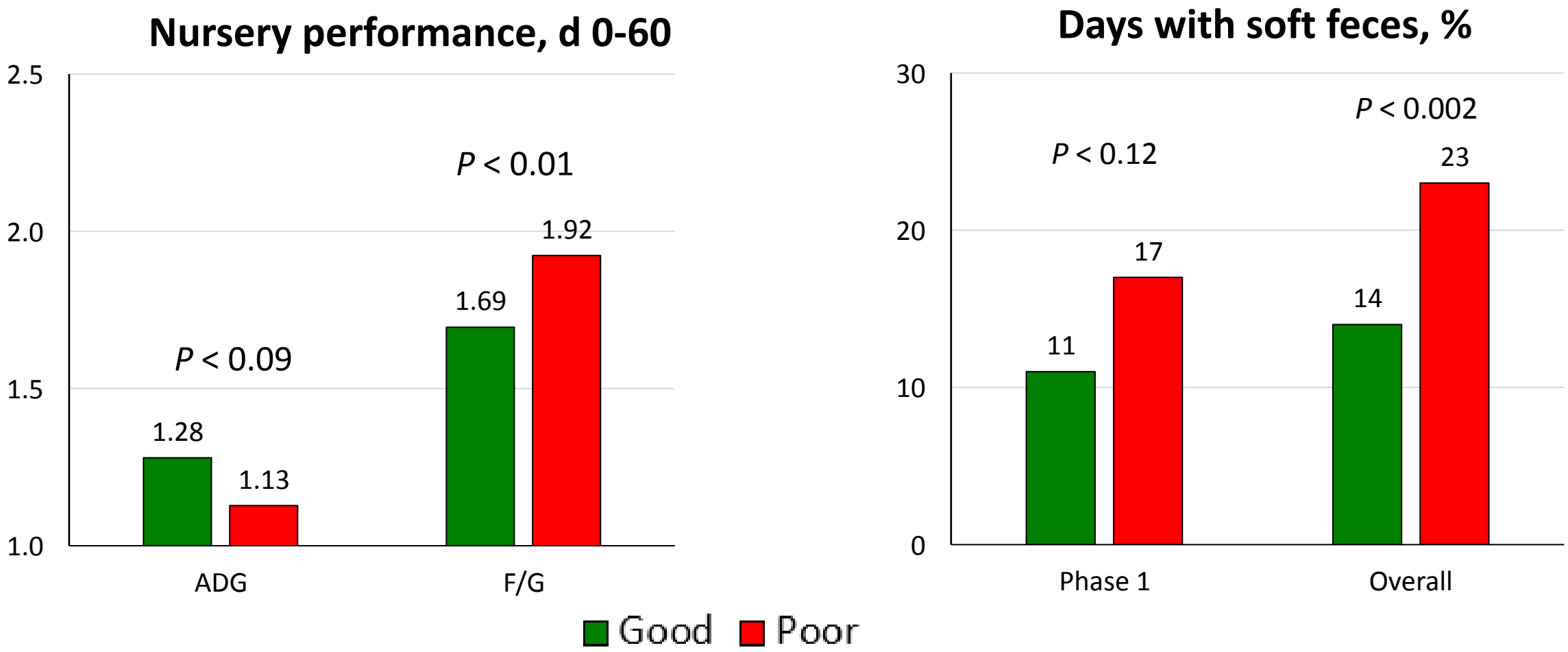
Faccin et al., 2020

Increased sanitation to reduce stress

- Lower exposure to enterotoxigenic *E. coli* and other bacteria
- Decreasing environmental load is extremely important to not have buildup of *E. coli* and other bacteria over time.
  - Floor, feeders, drinkers, chutes, etc.
    - Thorough clean and drying
    - Maximizing drying before placing next group
  - Detergent and **hot water** are a must!
  - Consider flaming, white-wash, extended downtime.

Impact of nursery sanitation on performance and diarrhea

~28 d wean

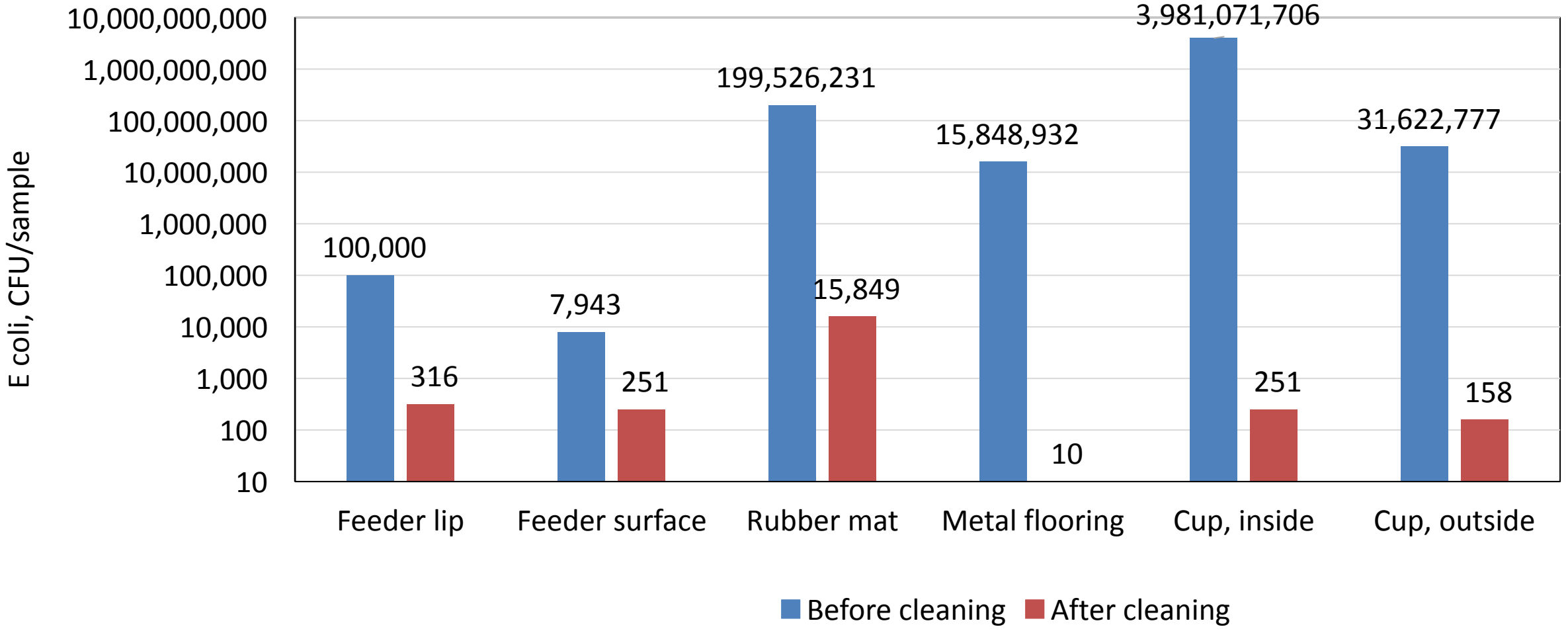


Good: Clean & disinfect before and during trial

Poor: No clean & disinfection

Pastorelli et al., 2012

E. Coli before and after cleaning & disinfecting



Reeb et al., 2022

Individual Pig Care (IPC) and Early Detection of Sick Pigs

Mikayla Spinler and Dr. Chris Rademacher, Iowa State University

A Pigs - HIGH Treatment Success

Full flesh from above
Trouble breathing
Slightly gaunt flank
Slightly drooped ears
Dimmed, red eyes
Signs of depression
Fever

B Pigs - MODERATE Treatment Success

Gaunt flank
Crust around eyes
Shoulder blade and spine showing
Uncomfortable posture
Rough hair coat
Listless ears
Pushed around by pen mates
Decreased body condition

Individual Pig Care (IPC) and Early Detection of Sick Pigs

Mikayla Spinler and Dr. Chris Rademacher, Iowa State University

C Pigs - LOW Treatment Success

Extremely gaunt and flesh Loss	Very skinny, bones showing
Signs of lameness	Poor hair coat
Crust around eyes	Struggling to breathe
Listless ears	Depressed

Not able to keep up with pen mates

Figure 1. **Effect of Timeliness of Treatment on Mortality**

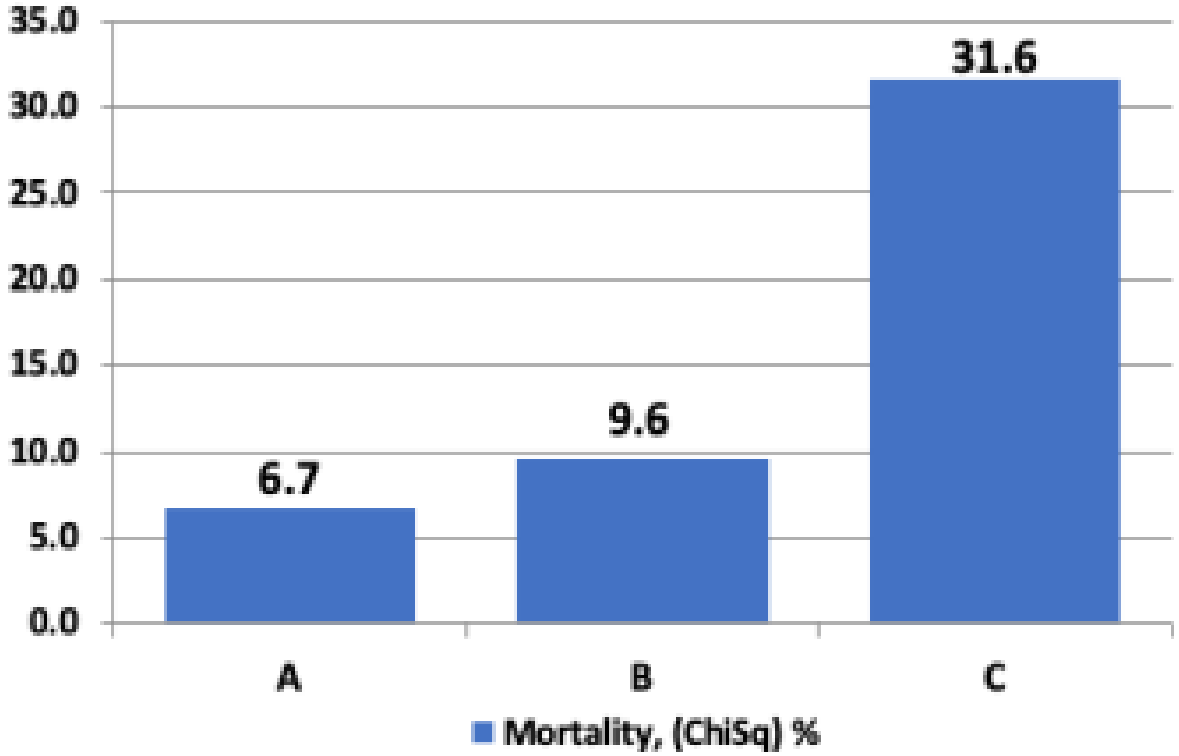


Table 1. Effect of caregiver coaching on production outcomes in wean to finish sites
Least square mean ± SE

Parameter	Non-educational Program	Educational Program	P-value
No. of nursery groups	72	83	NA
Starting inventory per group	2395 ± 110	2288 ± 89	0.05
Mortality rate (%)	3.64 ± 0.004	3.12 ± 0.001	<.001*
Weaning weight (kg)	5.90 ± 0.032	5.84 ± 0.0047	0.88
End of nursery weight (kg)	25.51 ± 0.28	26.12 ± 0.20	0.02*
Treat cost (US $)	1.08 ± 0.08	0.54 ± 0.06	<.001*

Spinler and Radamacher, 2022

Improving Pig Survivability Project

pork checkoff | FFAR

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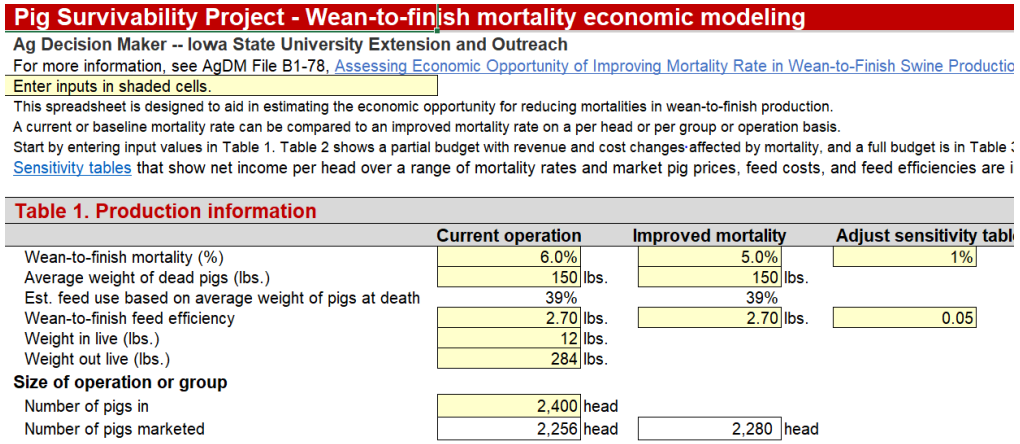
62 Podcasts

28 Fact Sheets

Producer Tools



29 Short Videos

Numerous Educational Materials

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********piglivability.or

International Conference on Pig Livability

Scan for more information about Pig Livability

********piglivability.org/2025-conference

November 5 – 6, 2025

Hilton Omaha
Omaha, NE

*********piglivability.org/

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