

USE OF A HUMIC SUBSTANCE AS A TOOL TO IMPROVE FINISHING PIG PRODUCTIVITY

Average finishing pig mortality continues to increase (4.6% in 2012 vs. 5.2% in 2022; Metafarms, 2021). This industry-wide increase in finishing mortality may be due to several ongoing health challenges. Although feeding a humic substance (HS) to provide bioactive components such as humic and fulvic acids does not likely address pathogen loads directly, feeding a HS may help support animal defense mechanisms by reducing free radicals associated with oxidative stress. Additionally, increased levels of endogenous antioxidants and maintaining a more homeostatic state during periods of stress can potentially make animals more resilient in the face of environmental and other challenges encountered during the finishing grow out period.



*Humic Substance
(AAFCO 73.241 - Reed-Sedge Peat)*

BENEFIT TO PORK PRODUCERS

In a series of 11 finishing pig studies conducted over several years at the Kent Nutrition Group Research Farm, it was observed that feeding a HS, on average, improves livability by approximately 0.7%. The improved livability benefit with feeding a HS (Fig. 2.), estimated at \$1.50 per pig placed for each 1.0% decrease in mortality, demonstrates an almost certain return on investment when feeding a high quality HS to finishing pigs.

Figure 2. Summary of animal mortality with humic substance application across several trials. Data presented are livability improvement across trials and the weighted average of all trials.

