



## White paper

### **Babito® unlocks genetic potential**

*By Wouter Naeyaert, product manager pigs at Nuscience*



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*There has been a huge evolution in the genetic potential of pigs. The piglet of today has a much higher potential for lean growth compared to 10 years ago. Next to this the litter sizes have increased tremendously during the last years. The drawbacks of this evolution have been documented quite well: lower birth weights, higher within-litter variation, lower colostrum and milk availability per litter. This means a higher number of vulnerable piglets. Only by supporting these piglets well before and around weaning, they can achieve good growth performances, hereby unlocking their genetic potential. Nuscience is specialized in producing piglet creep feed, milk replacers and prestarter diets and -concentrates that make a difference in the field.*



### Eating before weaning!

Unlocking genetic potential of piglets is a combination of different factors, ranging from management, health care, water quality and feed quality. In this respect, a high quality prestarter is only one of the determining factors but a very important one. A high quality creep feed and prestarter influences the performances of piglets in multiple ways. Firstly adapting the piglets to a solid feed intake before weaning, to smoothen the weaning transition. Secondly stimulating the intestinal development and enzyme production of the piglets, to improve nutrient digestion after weaning. In third place, a high quality prestarter will also provide the piglets with additional energy before weaning, increasing the weaning weight. Additionally, by feeding special nutrients in the creep feed, the intestinal microbiota and immune system of the piglets can be influenced in the early stages. This will impact their post-weaning intestinal health, general health and disease resistance.

### Improving lifetime performances

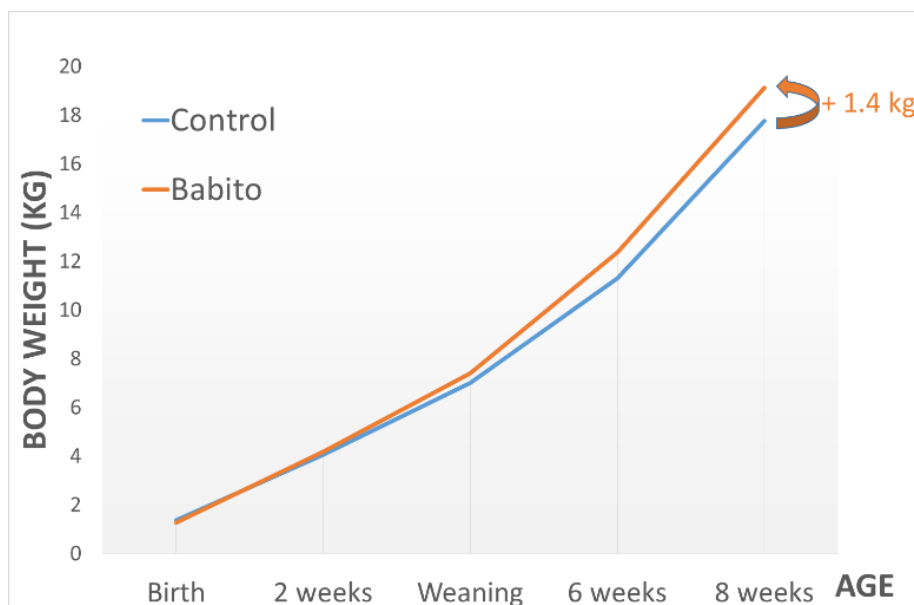
A small investment in these phases will result in high returns after weaning. So to improve lifetime performances of piglets, the nutrition in the early stages is the most cost-efficient option. The higher the production levels, and the more vulnerable the piglets (low weaning weight, early weaning), the bigger the influence of a good young animal nutrition. Some numbers to illustrate the importance of feed intake before weaning are given in the frame.

- Piglets eating before weaning take three times less time to start eating after weaning compared to non-eating littermates.
- For every 50 grams the piglet eats before weaning, villus height is increased by 10%.
- Each 100 gram higher weaning weight will be tripled at the end of the nursery phase.



### Babito is key

Research has also shown that the earlier the piglets receive creep feed, the higher their feed intake before weaning. Starting to feed the piglets 4 days earlier, can result in a 25 % higher feed intake of the piglets by the age of 16 days. So it is very important to provide the piglets with a tasteful creep feed as soon as possible after the colostrum intake. For this reason Nuscience developed **Babito, the ultimate tasteful creep feed**. This feed was especially designed to meet the expectations of young piglets and increase their early feed intake. As shown in Figure 1, this early feed intake has a huge influence on post-weaning performances.



**Figure 1.** Effect of Babito on weight evolution in piglets

## Feed intake and health

Nuscience has a long-lasting experience with creep feeds and prestarter feeds like Babito. These feeds are characterised by their exceptional taste and attractivity for piglets, increasing the feed intake of piglets to the highest level. Creating a tasteful piglet feed is something that can only be achieved by a profound selection on raw material quality and digestibility, and the experience of searching and combining synergistic raw materials and feed additives. Next to this the Nuscience piglet products also contain innovative feed ingredients like Aromabiotic, patented mixture of medium chain fatty acids. These medium chain fatty acids are well known to impact intestinal health and immunity of the piglets. In multiple trials the effect of this early and high feed intake and immune stimulation on post-weaning performances has been shown.

As follow-up feeds of Babito, Nuscience created the Babistar prestarters. Thanks to their similar raw material choice, taste and smell, these are the perfect match for piglets after the Babito. The different Nuscience creep feeds and prestarters like Babito and Babistar are grouped under the brand Porcito, standing for ultimate taste and performances.

## With Porcito the complete genetic potential of the piglets is unlocked

*References available on request*

