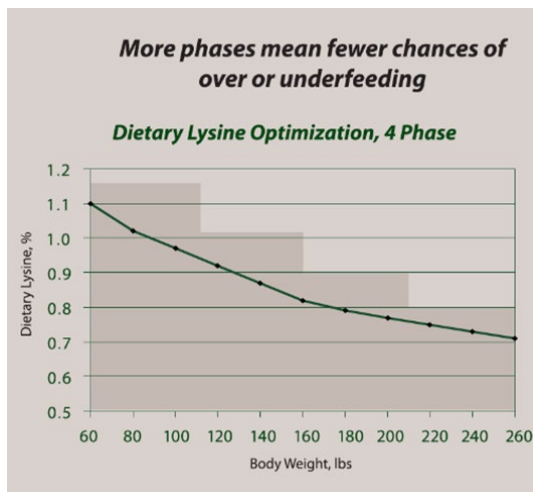


Feed budget management is an important part of delivering proper nutrition throughout a pig’s growth cycle. Following a well-designed feed budget serves two purposes: it reduces both the chance of underfeeding important diets and overfeeding higher-cost diets.

## Phase Feeding and Nutrition

The purpose of phase feeding is to accurately deliver the right nutrients at the right time throughout a pig’s growth cycle. As a pig’s body weight and feed intake increase, its requirements for digestible amino acids, phosphorus and other key nutrients decrease. Phase feeding allows diets to be formulated based on a pig’s specific weight range and nutritional needs while minimizing the under- and over-feeding of nutrients, as depicted in the graph below.



## Benchmarking

The following chart offers guidelines on the expected performance for pigs in a broad range of health and management scenarios.

Weight range, lbs.	Gain, lb./d	Intake, lb./d	Feed:Gain
10–13	0.25–0.40	0.35–0.50	1.00–1.20
13–16	0.40–0.65	0.65–0.78	1.10–1.30
16–25	0.60–0.85	0.95–1.20	1.20–1.40
25–50	0.80–1.20	1.45–1.80	1.50–1.80
50–80	1.20–1.40	2.20–2.90	1.80–2.30
80–130	1.40–1.60	2.90–4.00	2.30–2.50
130–180	1.60–1.80	4.00–5.00	2.50–2.70
180–230	1.80–2.00	5.00–6.50	2.70–2.90
230–280	2.00–2.20	6.50–8.00	2.90–3.30

## Hubbard Feeds Nursery Programs

The Hubbard nursery program provides several proven technologies from Alltech® that are designed to maintain gut health and integrity and support overall performance. The two-stage feeding program for pigs weighing between 13 to 25 pounds includes the POWERSTART 19/13 and POWERSTART 25/16 products.

POWERSTART Solo is a unique, single-phase diet formulated for pigs weighing a minimum of 13 pounds and is meant to be fed until pigs reach 25 pounds.

First Course and POWERSTART Launch are formulated for younger pigs that require a more highly digestible ration.

### POWERSTART Multi-Stage Nursery Program

Diet	Initial weight	Final weight	ADG	F:G	Feed/pig (lbs.)	Days on feed
POWERSTART Launch	11	13	.3	1	2	7
POWERSTART 19/13	13	16	.4	1	3	7
POWERSTART 25/16	16	25	.75	1.33	12	12
POWERSTART Nursery Premix	25	50	1.35	1.75	42	18

### POWERSTART Solo Single-Phase Nursery Program

Diet	Initial weight	Final weight	ADG	F:G	Feed/pig (lbs.)	Days on feed
POWERSTART Solo	13	25	.53	1.25	15	23
POWERSTART Nursery Premix	25	50	1.35	1.75	42	18

## Finishing Phase: Feed Budget Development

A feed budget is a practical tool used to manage the amount of feed pigs receive during each phase of growth. Feed budgets eliminate the need for weighing pigs to determine when it is time to switch to the next diet. Instead, feed budgets use consumption data that estimates how much feed each pig consumes within a certain weight range. Every production system is different, so it is important to develop a feed budget based on your pig's genetics, target market weight and performance history. This will help ensure the accuracy of delivering the right feed at the right time during the pig's growth cycle.

Utilizing the pigs' performance history, dietary phases are ordered and delivered based on an estimated feed intake per pig. The table below shows an example of a feed budget. You can see that a 25-to-50-lb. pig is projected to consume an average of 45 lbs. of feed. Therefore, if you have a 1,000-head barn, you would order 22.5 tons of the N#3 diet. When the 22.5 tons of N#3 has been delivered, you would then switch to the next phase of your program — which, in this case, is GF#1. This group of pigs would require 46 tons of this stage of feed.

## Example Finishing Budget

Diet #	Pig weight	ADG	Est. days	F:G	Lbs. per pig	Tons per 1,000 hd.
N#3	25–50	1.2	21	1.8	45	22.5
GF#1	50–80	1.4	29	2.3	92	46
GF#2	80–130	1.6	25	2.5	100	50
GF#3	130–180	1.8	28	2.7	135	67.5
GF#4	180–230	2.0	25	2.9	145	72.5
GF#5	230–280	2.2	23	3.3	165	82.5

Total feed usage per hd. (lbs.)	682
Total feed usage per 1,000 hd. (tons)	341
Total weight gained per hd. (lbs.)	255
<b>Total days on feed</b>	<b>151</b>

## Using Feed Budgets to Determine a First Cut

Feed consumption is the best indicator of live body weight. After a careful analysis of the historical close-out data, protocols can be developed for determining when to take the first cut of pigs to market. For example, let's assume, based on the historical farm data, that when a group of 50-lb. feeder pigs consumes an average of 505 lbs. per pig, the average group weight will be 230 lbs. Given this average group weight of 230 lbs., the top 15% will have an average weight of 270 lbs. and can be marketed.

## Feed Budget Compliance

Conducting a feed budget compliance analysis is an important process that measures how closely a feed budget is being followed. If too many or too few pounds of one diet are fed, then the subsequent diet's budgeted amount needs to be adjusted to stay compliant with the budget. Factors such as rounding and split truckloads can also influence the accuracy of the feed budget. Adjustments to the budget should be made as necessary. Conducting a retrospective analysis of the feed deliveries is an important exercise that gives insight into what is being fed to a group of pigs, rather than what is assumed to be fed.