



THE EFFECT OF BIRTH-WEIGHT SEGREGATION DURING THE GROWING PERIOD ON SWINE PRODUCTIVE FEATURES



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CONCLUSIONS

Performance was greater in Segregated pigs than in Non-Segregated pigs

Males showed better growth patterns than females

Studies at slaughterhouse are required to clarify possible effects of segregation by BW on meat quality

The **lack of homogeneity** in growth patterns and meat quality is a main problem in the profitability of modern pork industry, specially in Iberian pigs.

BACKGROUND

Sex and the Birth-Weight (BW) variability are principal causes.

OBJECTIVE

The aim was to evaluate if the negative effect of BW variability may be alleviated by segregating pigs in the growing period according to BW.

DESIGN

407

Iberian x Duroc piglets were separated in:

Segregated group (S) 240

by

SEX & BW

Small
Medium
Large

≤1.18

≤1.15

1.19-1.53

1.16-1.52

≥1.54

≥1.53

by

SEX

Non-Segregated group (NS) 80

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Birth Weight

Weaning (24 d) Weight Backfat and loin thickness

Growing

Weight & Average Daily Gain (each 5 w) Backfat and loin thickness (15 & 30 w)

35 w

GLM procedure, S/NS, SEX and interaction SAS

RESULTS

S/NS

SEX

Interaction

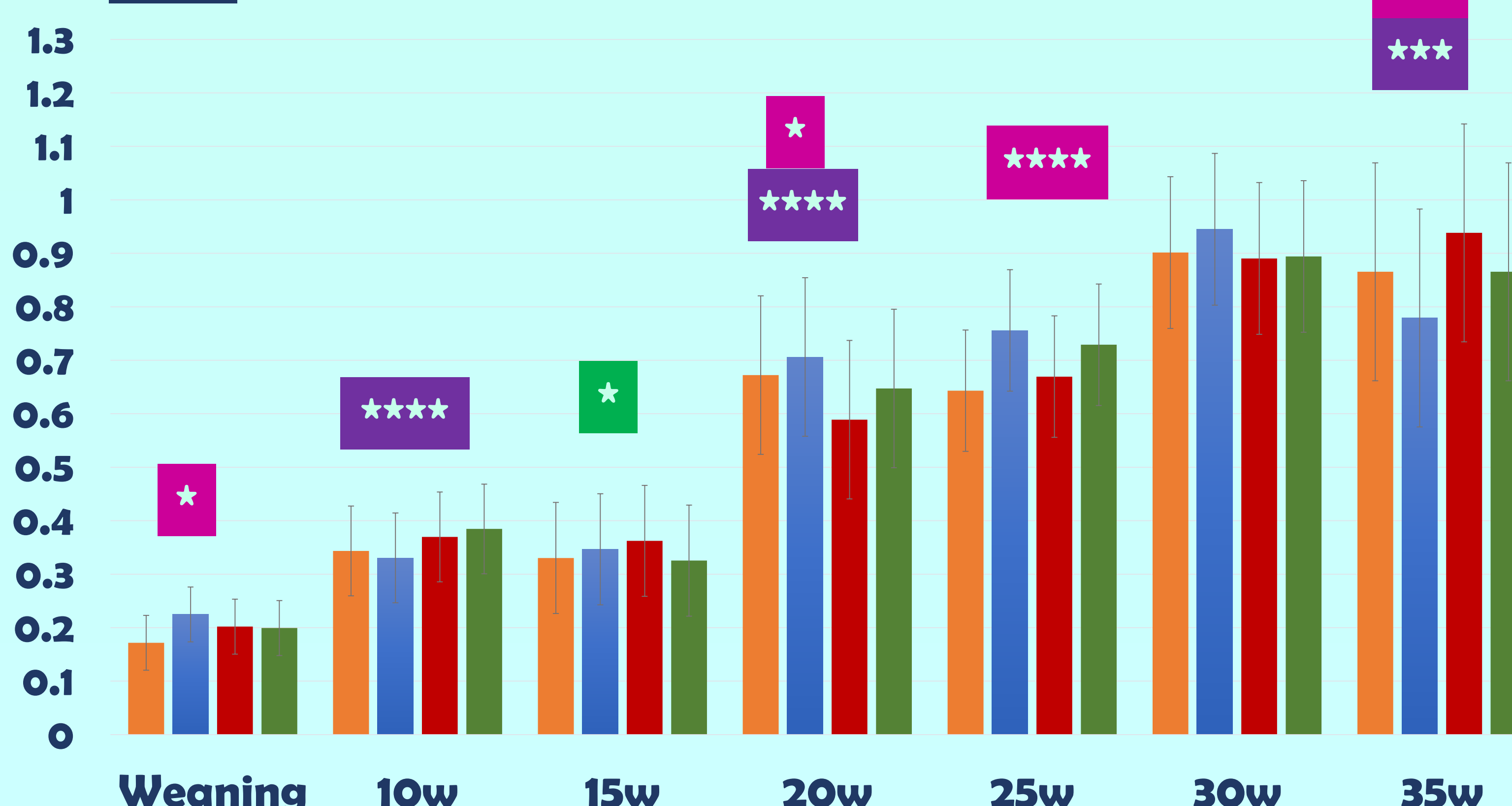
Significant differences between:

t, $0.9 < P < 0.05$; *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.005$; ****, $P < 0.0001$.

■ NS Female ■ NS Male ■ S Female ■ S Male

Significant differences were found in Weight, ADG and the Thickness of loin and backfat.

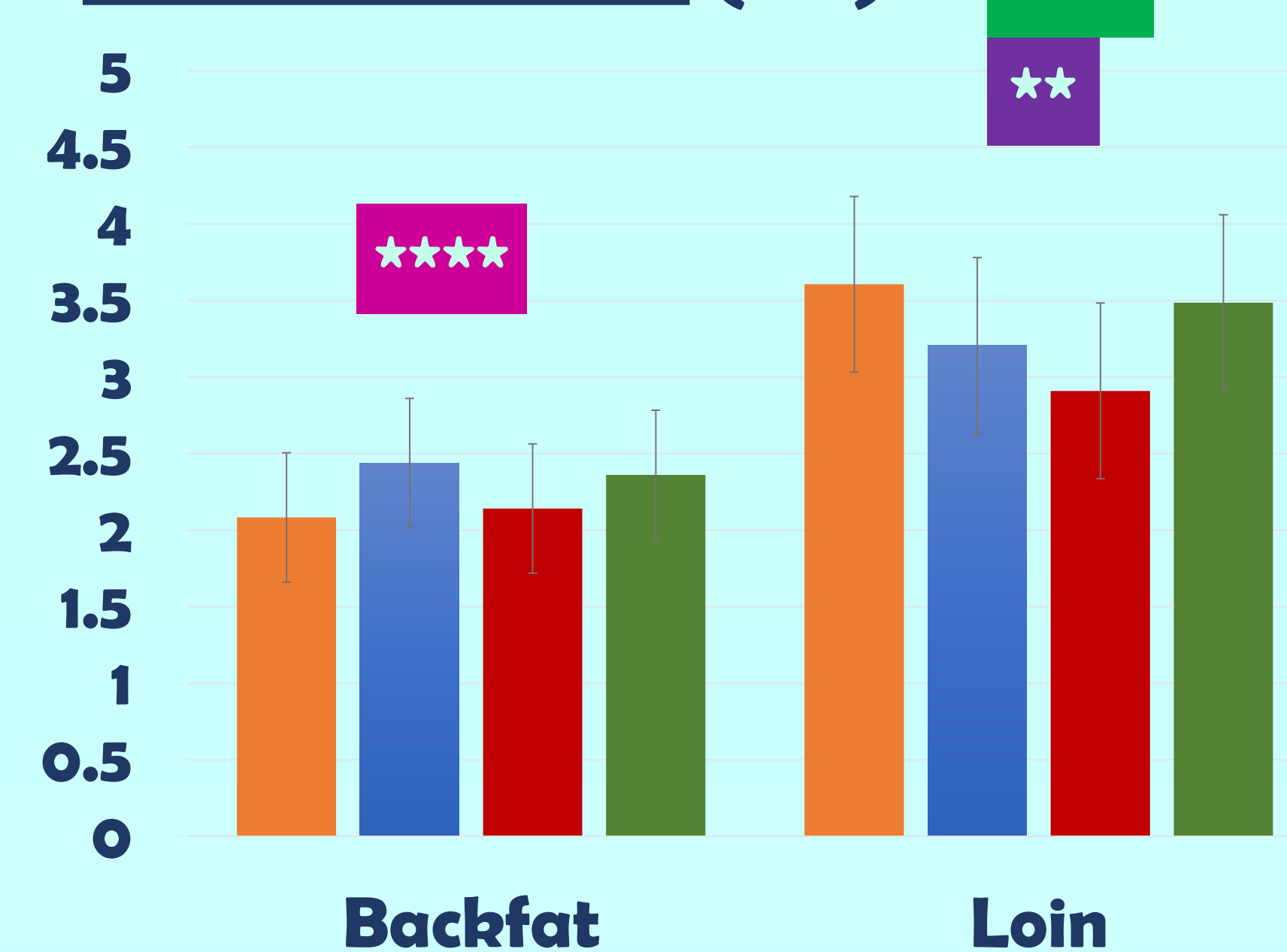
ADG



WEIGHT (kg)



THICKNESS 30w (cm)



At Weaning Males also had greater backfat depth ($P < 0.005$) than Females.