

TABLE 3. Population size estimates and relative proportions of selected bacterial groups in cecal or colonic samples from feeder pigs over three growth phases

Bacterial group	Phase ^a	Population density in ^b :		MSE ^c
		Cecum	Colon	
Total culturable	1, 2, 3	10.3	20.1	0.0043
CM-cellulose hydrolyzing	1	2.4	5.2 (23) ^d	0.0078
	2, 3	3.3	6.2 (32)	
Pectin fermenting	1	8.9 (86)	11.3 (50)	0.0043
	2, 3	9.3	17.4 (90)	
Pectin hydrolyzing	1, 2, 3	2.4	4.7 (23)	0.0237
Xylan fermenting	1, 2, 3	8.6	17.0 (83)	0.0031
Xylan hydrolyzing	1, 2, 3	1.0	2.0 (10)	0.0136
Sulfate reducing	1, 2, 3	2.9 ^e	5.7 ^e	0.0237
Methane producing	1, 2, 3	0.6 ^e	19.0 ^e	0.0891

^a Phases 1, 2, and 3 represent 4, 8 and 11 weeks on feed, respectively.

^b Values are least-square mean numbers (10^{-9} per g [wet weight]), except as noted.

^c MSE, Log₁₀ mean square errors.

^d Values in parentheses are the percentage of the respective total culturable population [across indicated phase(s) and (or) by site(s)] represented by the bacterial group.

^e Values are least-square mean numbers (10^{-7} per g [wet weight]).