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IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTION PARAMETERS AND HEALTH STATUS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGIC PRRS PIGLET VACCINATION WITH IDAL IN A COMMERCIAL FARROW-TO-FINISH-FARM IN GERMANY

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Introduction

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus is one of the most challenging diseases in pigs. Vaccination (IM and ID) against PRRS has been established as an important tool to minimize the clinical impact of the diseases. The impact of a strategic piglet PRRS vaccination with IDAL on standard production parameters and general herd health status was investigated. Emphasis was particularly on antibiotic use during the nursery and fattening period.

Material and Methods

In a closed herd with 1000 sows in a weekly production system in North-West Germany, sows were routinely vaccinated against Ery and Parvo, Influenza and PRRS. Piglets were IM vaccinated against PRRS on day 14 and PCV Mhyo on day 21. After an acute PRRS infection in fattening in December 2016, the PRRS vaccination was switched to an intradermal (ID) vaccination with Porcilis® PRRS with a needlefree device (IDAL).

Results

The PRRS ID vaccinated piglets had improved average daily weight gain (ADWG) of 54g/day, an increase from 766g/day to 820 g/day. Mortality rate in fattening decreased from 2.7% to 1.4%. The percent antibiotic treatments reduced from 42% to 5.6%. The percent of altered lungs dropped from 10.6% to 3%. Since the introduction of the intradermal PRRS vaccination, the proportion of medium to high grade pleurisies also significantly reduced from 4.19% to 0.9%.

Discussion and Conclusions

Following the introduction of a strategic PRRS piglet vaccination with IDAL from December 2016 onwards, a significant improvement of performance parameters and health status, including a reduction in antibiotic use and improved carcass quality was noted. Therefore, it could be stated that intradermal PRRS piglet vaccination is an effective tool to improve health status and production parameters in a closed herd system in a pig dense area.