

TITLE

IMPLEMENTATION OF PIGLET VACCINATION AT PROCESSING IN A PRRS UNSTABLE HERD

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

PRRS is an economically important swine disease and piglet vaccination is being increasingly used in control programs. The objective of this field trial was to assess the impact of a new PRRS piglet vaccination program at around 2-3 days of age (D) in a PRRS unstable herd.

Material and Methods

A 700 sow farrow-to-finish herd experiencing a PRRS outbreak causing reproductive symptoms, intensive PRRSv circulation in new-born piglets and clinical problems in the nursery. In February 2018 the farm started the vaccination of all piglets with Suvaxyn® PRRS MLV at 2-3D. Six month follow-up of vaccinated piglets was done to compare results with those from 6 months before implementation of vaccination. 2 groups of fattening pigs were compared: the last batch of non-PRRS-vaccinated pigs and the first batch with PRRS-vaccinated pigs. Production parameters were compared during nursery and finishing phases.

Results

The average start weight, end weight, days in the nursery and ADWG (average daily weight gain) were 5.95kg, 22.36kg, 46.5 days and 353g respectively for the vaccinated group, vs 6.00kg, 22.33kg, 47.6 days and 343g/day for the PRRSv non-vaccinated. Overall monthly mortality in nursery was reduced from 48.3 before vaccination to 23.3 after starting the vaccination ($p < 0.05$). During the fattening period, ADWG increased 22g/day while FCR (20-100kg) was reduced by 0.19, both in favour of the vaccinated group. Mortality was reduced by 0.47% in the vaccinated group and the total number of individual treatments with antibiotics by 45%. The estimated net financial return improved by €4.59 per fattening pig in the vaccinated group.

Conclusion

Vaccination of piglets with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV at processing improved the production parameters and the health of pigs in the nursery and fattening periods. The new PRRS vaccination strategy can help producers to improve PRRS control.