



## HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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### **SURVEY UPDATE ON MYCOPLASMA HYOPNEUMONIAE ACCLIMATION OF GILTS IN THE SPANISH SWINE INDUSTRY**

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#### **Introduction**

The introduction and management of replacement gilts is an important topic with regard to the control of *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* in the farm. Improper acclimation may result in colonization of the suckling piglets and increased M. hyo related respiratory disease in growing pigs.

This survey is the second part of a previous one on the same subject in the Spanish swine farms.

#### **Materials and Methods**

The survey included 16 questions designed to identify which gilt acclimation methods for M. hyo are currently used in Spanish farms nowadays. The survey covered different farm related factors, demographics and detailed the structure of health protocols:

#### **Results**

The survey was completed by 116 production systems representing 639.695 sows.

The most important findings were:

- 42% Receive naïve gilts into positive farms.
- 60% of farms have a replacement rate higher than 50%.
- 75% of farms practice late age acclimation, beyond 15 weeks of age.
- 79% of farms do not acclimate to the herd specific strain.
- 53% of farms use vaccines against *M. hyo* during the acclimation.
- 77% of farms do not perform diagnostics to verify an adequate acclimation.
- 63% of farms use antibiotics during the acclimation process.

#### **Conclusions and Discussion**

While 88% of the producers or veterinarians are convinced that a proper gilt acclimation program plays a major role in the *M. hyo* stability of their farms, 54% of the respondents did not rely on their methods. Most of them do not have a clear definition of sow herd stability and the time needed for a proper acclimation. Besides, 77% do not verify the acclimation process of the gilts.

Therefore, the survey reveals some opportunities to improve the acclimation process such as:

- The implementation of an early and efficient exposure method is needed.
- A "Best practice" for M hyo diagnostics has to be developed.