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PORCINE REPRODUCTIVE AND RESPIRATORY SYNDROME VIRUS DETECTION IN WEANING-AGE PIGLETS IN 120 FRENCH FARMS

I. Messager, N. Robert, E. Lewandowski.

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM, PACE, France.

Introduction

To assess the stability of a sow herd against Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus (PRRSv), PCR on blood in weaning-age piglets is regularly implemented. This work describes the results obtained in 120 farms.

Material & Methods

Between February 2015 and June 2017, 186 sampling-sets from 120 French farms were collected. One farm could be sampled several times. Each set consisted in blood samples from 20 to 30 in weaning-age piglets. PRRS PCR by pool of 5 was performed. The reason of each set investigation was either to assess the absence of PRRSv circulation on the sow herd in absence of clinical signs: "control" or to evaluate the presence of PRRSv in case of observation of PRRS infection-related clinical signs: "clinic". A farm was evaluated as "clinic" or "control" at each sampling time. A set was considered "positive" if at least one pool was positive, "negative" if all the pools were negative. ORF5 sequencing was performed on positive result.

Results

On the 186 sets, 44 were evaluated as "clinic" and 142 as "control". 36/186 sets were "positive": 25 in "clinic" and 11 in "control". ORF5 sequencing was successful on 18 of the 36 positive sets:12 were characterized as field strains (10 "clinic" and 2 "control") and 6 were related to vaccine strains (3 "clinic" and 3 "control").

Discussion & Conclusion

These results cannot be extrapolated to the French situation because farms were not selected at random. To assert a sow herd is PRRSv stable it requires a minimum of 4 consecutive negative PCR herd tests in weaning-age piglets sampled every 30 days or more frequently. In our case some farms have been investigated once and even if the result was negative they cannot be considered as stable. ORF5 sequencing is mandatory in order to reveal strain related to vaccines.