



BACTERIAL DISEASES

BBD-054

ERADICATION OF *ACTINOBACILLUS PLEUROPNEUMONIAE* BY PARTIAL DEPOPULATION AND TILMOVET® TREATMENT

J. Owen¹, L. Claerhout², W. Depondt², L. Jane Harrison².

¹Garth Pig Practice, Driffield, United Kingdom; ²Huvepharma, Antwerp, Belgium.

Introduction

App infections are sometimes not fully controlled by vaccination, medication or biosecurity. Partial depopulation, combined with strategic treatment with tilmicosin (Tilmovet®, Huvepharma®) was initiated to eradicate *App*, restore performance and reduce antibiotic dependence.

Materials and methods

Grower and finisher pigs in a 500 sow closed farrow- to- finish herd in a pig dense area suffered from *App* for 3 years resulting in acute outbreaks every few months. *M. hyopneumoniae*, PRRS and PCV2 were well controlled using commercial vaccines. *App* vaccination, in-water and in-feed medication, injections and off-site finishing did not improve results. Older and poor performing sows and all progeny below 10 months of age were removed. Piglets were sold at weaning and growers were finished elsewhere. The sow herd was then medicated with Tilmovet® at 16 mg/ kg bodyweight for 4 weeks. Piglets born during this time were injected weekly with tulathromycin and sold at weaning. All sows were injected twice with marbofloxacin at the end of the programme and 48 hours later. Inappetent sows were injected with marbofloxacin.

Results

Once the programme finished, group medication was not applied and individual treatments were exceptional, resulting in a reduction of antibiotic use from 1006 mg/ kg PCU to 6.2 mg/ kg PCU. Days to bacon were reduced from 177 to 172 days. ELISA blood tests showed negative results for *App* APX IV. 190 Pigs examined at slaughter showed no *App* or *M. hyopneumoniae* lesions. The mortality rate before the programme was 11.85 % but 3.2 % afterwards.

Discussion and conclusion

Partial depopulation combined with strategic medication with Tilmovet® resulted in a successful eradication of *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* with less cash flow disruption than a full depopulation and the maintenance of the herd's parity profile. Together with an improved performance, a significant reduction of mortality and antibiotic use was noted.