



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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IMPACT OF WHOLE HERD VACCINATION AGAINST PRRSV-1 ON SOW PERFORMANCE ON A ONE-SITE FARM IN SERBIA

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Introduction

The impact of PRRS on reproduction in sows can be reduced by the use of vaccination. This study aimed to investigate sow performance after implementation of a whole herd vaccination programme on a farm in Serbia.

Material & Methods

The study was conducted on a one-site farm with 1600 sows. Sows showed an increased rate of irregular returns to oestrus and other reproductive problems. Serological testing revealed antibodies against PRRSV in all stages of production and PRRSV was detected by PCR in aborted foetuses. PRRS vaccination was not implemented prior to the start of this study.

Vaccination started with double mass vaccination of the breeding herd, including gilts over 150 days of age, with ReproCyc® PRRS EU and single vaccination of piglets from 17 days until end of nursery with Ingelvac PRRSFLEX® EU. Breeding stock was revaccinated every 3 months and vaccination of piglets was continued in every batch at around 3 weeks of age. Performance data of sows was collected over a period of 7 months after implementation of the vaccination programme and compared with the same period one year before.

Results

PRRS vaccinated sows had a significantly higher farrowing rate and significantly more live-born piglets per litter ($p < 0.001$). The return to oestrus rate ($p = 0.093$) and number of abortions ($p = 0.067$) did numerically improve after implementation of vaccination. The number of stillborn and weaned piglets per litter, as well as the pre-weaning mortality did statistically not differ between the observation periods. However, results of pre-weaning mortality were influenced by piglet diarrhoea as a possible consequence of a lack of vaccine supply (*E.coli* / *Clostridium perfringens* type C) at the end of the observational period.

Discussion & Conclusion

The results show an overall positive impact of whole herd vaccination against PRRSV on the performance of the sows.