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TITLE

PRESENCE OF PRRS VACCINE VIRUS IN NURSERY PIGS IN 22 FARMS VACCINATING PIGLETS IN THE NETHERLANDS

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CONTENT

Introduction

PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) is probably the most costly pig disease in The Netherlands and farmers are increasingly vaccinating piglets with MLV (modified-live-virus) PRRS vaccines. The objective was to assess the presence of PRRS vaccine viruses in previously vaccinated nursery pigs.

Materials and methods

Between April and October 2018, 22 farms vaccinating piglets with any of the four commercial MLV vaccines available were selected by participating herd veterinarians. In each farm, 45 piglets were sampled as follows: 20 at start, 15 at mid and 10 at the end of the nursery period. Samples were pooled per 5 and investigated by PRRS PCR. In case of positive outcomes, the virus in the pool with the lowest ct value was sequenced for ORF5, and for Suvaxyn PRRS MLV vaccinating farms, pools were additionally investigated with a Zoetis in house DIVA PCR PRRS test (specific for the vaccine virus).

Results

The presence of PRRS virus (vaccine or field) in the nursery period was confirmed by PCR in all 22 farms. Field virus was found in 8 farms and vaccine virus in 14 farms. In 10 farms, a vaccine virus was found at the end of the nursery period. Viruses from all 4 vaccines were found at the end of the nursery period. Vaccine virus was found during the nursery period on all 5 farms vaccinating piglets with Suvaxyn® PRRS MLV at 4 days of age. All these farms were also vaccinating sows.

Conclusions

PRRSv from all 4 commercially available vaccines was detected at the end of the nursery period in farms vaccinating piglets. Suvaxyn PRRS MLV virus was found in nursery pigs born to Suvaxyn PRRS MLV vaccinated sows and given the vaccine themselves at 4 days of age, showing no indication of maternal immunity interference.