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ELECTRONIC TREATMENT AND HEALTH REGISTERS AND A JOINT DATABASE AS CORE TOOLS OF THE SUISSANO/SAFETYPLUS PROGRAM

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Introduction

In order to improve transparency concerning antibiotic consumption in Swiss pig production and to concurrently measure antibiotic use and health parameters the SuisSano/Safetyplus program was started in 2015. The most important evolution step in 2018 is a joint database connected with electronic treatment and health registers, which are obligatory for all participating farms. It is expected that more than 90% of all pig farms in Switzerland will participate at the program.

Material and method

Mandatory electronic data input are all antibiotic treatments including date of treatment, number of treated animals, age group (piglet, sow, weaning pig, finishing pig), average weight, indication, product and quantity. Health data include percentage of losses in each age group. For each participating farm, the number of produced animals per age group per year is stored in the database. Antibiotic consumption is reported to the farmer by calculating an animal treatment index. Treatments with certain products, e.g. containing High Priority Critically Important Antibiotics, are multiplied by an additional factor. For more profound analysis and international comparison, several calculation methods are carried out for internal use (e.g. therapeutic intensity, number of DCDVET/animal/year).

Results

Using the electronic treatment register, antibiotic consumption of each participating farm can be demonstrated in relation to the overall program. Multiplication of treatments with certain products gives impulses to reduce such use. Based on additional analysis of joint data concerning antibiotic use and health, the management of the program is able to steer antibiotic consumption by adjusting benchmarks for treatment indices and multiplication factors for certain products.

Discussion and Conclusion

The electronic treatment register and the joint database are most useful tools in order to provide transparency and enable steering and reduction of antibiotic consumption in pig production within the SuisSano/Safetyplus program in Switzerland. Monitoring health data is essential to preserve animal welfare.

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