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TITLE

ON FARM INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE THE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN PIG FARMS, A PRACTICAL APPROACH

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Prudent use of antimicrobials in livestock production is of relevance to prevent the selection for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Antimicrobial use (AMU) in pig production, differs per country in Europe. To set up a practical on farm approach to reduce the use of antimicrobials in different countries an assessment decision support (ADS) tool was developed.

Material and methods

The basis of the ADS was the AMU assessment and farm audit on hygiene and overall management. An optimization cycle to reduce the use of antimicrobials was implemented, detailed and followed up in 41 farrow to finish farms in the Netherlands and France during 2 years on average.

Results:

The most important disease problems were in the piglets post weaning (39%) and suckling piglets (29%), followed by fatteners (18%). Implemented interventions were allocated to the following topics: disease management, farm management and improving stockman ship. In suckling piglets the most important health problem was related to intestinal problems and batch management and AMU stewardship were most implemented interventions. Another frequent implemented intervention was improvement of climate in farrowing. In post weaning piglets meningitis from *Streptococcus suis* infections was the major problem. Autogenous vaccination was started in 11 farms. The predominant problem in fatteners were lawsonia infections. Vaccination and improved feed quality were the implemented interventions.

Conclusion:

Although main disease problems in farrow to finish farms were related to respiratory problems, intestinal problem and to streptococcal infections, there is a broad scale of possible interventions. To find the optimal intervention for the farm, it is important to assess the disease problem, disease management, farm management and stockman ship in a structured way.