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TITLE

EFFECT OF MASS-VACCINATING SOWS WITH ATTENUATED PRRSV VACCINE ON THE PRRS STATUS OF BREEDING HERDS

Daniel Torrents[1], Joel Miranda[1], Rafael Pedrazuela[1], Alex Ramirez[2], Daniel Linhares[2]

[1] *Laboratorios HIPRA S.A, Amer, Spain*
[2] *Iowa State University, Ames (IA), USA*

CONTENT

Background and objectives
Vaccinating sows with modified live PRRS virus vaccines (MLV) may result in transient shedding of the vaccine's virus, which has the potential to be transmitted to their offspring. Therefore, sow mass vaccination (SMV) programs may affect PRRS status of breeding herds. The aim of this study was to assess the effect of SMV using UNISTRAIN®PRRS (Hipra, Spain) on the likelihood of changing a PRRS stable status of breeding herds.
Materials & Methods
Data related to PRRSV vaccination, and PRRS status was collected from 35 PRRS-positive Spanish breeding herds, which were enrolled in a one-year systematic PRRS monitoring program based on 4-to-6 weeks periodic sampling of 30 serum from due-to-wean piglets. Breeding herds were classified as "PRRS stable" when achieved 4 consecutive samplings testing negative to PRRS RNA by RT-PCR. Then, PCR results of subsequent samplings immediately after SMV of PRRS stable breeding herds were evaluated. In case of PCR positive results, samples were submitted for PRRSV open reading frame (ORF)-5 nucleotide sequence.
Results
During the monitoring period, 58 SMV events were carried out on PRRS stable farms. PCR-positive samples right after SMV were obtained on 15 of 58 events, from which 6 were related to a wild-type PRRSV. For all other 9 cases (16%), PCR-positive results were transient, with duration of only 1 month. All farms had PCR-negative results in the next sampling.
Discussion & Conclusion
The low rate of PCR positive results immediately following SMV with UNISTRAIN®PRRS in PRRS stable breeding herds indicated a very weak and occasional interference between this prevention strategy and the breeding herd classification in monitoring and control programs.