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TITLE

IMPROVEMENT IN HERD HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN HERDS WITH SWINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE WITH TILMICOSIN AQUEOUS CONCENTRATE IN LACTATING SOWS

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CONTENT

Background & Objectives

Pulmotil® (tilmicosin) has been shown to effectively control respiratory disease in sows. The effect of administering tilmicosin aqueous concentrate (PAC) via drinking water to sows during lactation is unreported. The study objective is to evaluate the health impact of the PAC lactation medication program on sow and piglet health and performance.

Material & Methods

Four 2,600 sow farrow-to-wean farms reporting sow and piglet respiratory disease caused by *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and *Pasteurella multocida* and exacerbated by Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus infection were enrolled. Three treatment and control groups were included per farm totaling approximately 1,200 sows per treatment. Treatment groups received PAC via drinking water at a rate of 2 grams/sow/day beginning 3 days prior to expected farrowing date which continued for the entire lactation period. Control groups received fresh water only.

Results

Variable percent combined stillborn and mummies within the data confirmed PRRSV activity. Percent combined stillborn and mummies ranged from 7.46% to 12.17% for controls and 5.76% to 13.15% for treatments. Least-square mean estimates of pre-wean death loss were 13.1% for treatment vs 14.6% for controls ($P < 0.01$). An interaction between treatment and percent combined stillborn and mummies ($P = 0.001$) and significant treatment effects ($P = 0.004$) were observed. Overall pre-wean death loss advantage was 1.3%. At 10% combined stillborn and mummies, the treatment vs control advantage increased to 1.95%. At 12% combined stillborn and mummies, the treatment advantage was 4.88%.

Discussion & Conclusion

The study demonstrated that PAC at 2 grams/sow/day during lactation lowered death loss. In this study, when percent combined stillborn and mummies increased, application of PAC lowered pre-wean death loss. Application of PAC during periods of high combined stillborn and mummies (? 9.5%) can lower pre-wean death loss. Further studies will substantiate these findings and define the impact on weaning weight.