



VIRAL DISEASES

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PRRS RISK ASSESSMENT OF DUTCH SOW HERDS USING COMBAT

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Introduction

COMBAT is a questionnaire tool to assess farm associated PRRSV risk factors by looking at variable risks: Internal, External, Management and Location. In this overview we tried to have an insight in the most relevant risk factors for PRRSV infections of sow herds in the Netherlands, using COMBAT.

Material and Methods

In 2017 at 31 farm locations in the Netherlands that housed sows a COMBAT questionnaire was performed. Each answer was classified ('Very high', 'High', 'Intermediate', 'Low' risk) and compared.

Results

Farm location was a very high risk in 68% of the cases; 87% have more than 4 pig farms within 5 km, 90% don't know the PRRS status of the nearest pig farm.

External risks were (very) high in 56% of the cases; at 84% the pig transport vehicle was used at any farm, 61% without a need for drying the vehicle.

Internal risks were (very) high in 46% of the cases; at 93% workers could walk freely between production areas.

Management risks were (very) high in 62% of the cases; 90% puts lightweights to a younger age group and 87% had maximum 4 week quarantine period for incoming gilts.

Discussion and conclusion

This overview shows that PRRSV infection risks in Dutch farms are high. One may discuss if this is due to lack of knowledge and/ or motivation. High pig farm density is a considerable risk for PRRS infections. Nevertheless there was almost no knowledge on PRRS status of the nearest neighbor.

The infection risk of mixing age groups is hardly recognized by farmers. For good PRRS risk factor advice every individual farm needs a custom made advice and a clear visualization of what might help. For that COMBAT can be used to visualize the farm PRRSV risk status and to discuss points of improvement.