



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE, HEALTH AND ANTIMICROBIAL USE FOLLOWING PRRS PIGLET VACCINATION IN A UK SWINE FARM

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Introduction

Piglet vaccination against Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) can play a very important role in the control of this disease. Here we document the impact of a PRRS piglet vaccination implementation under commercial conditions in the UK with PRRS clinically present.

Material & Methods

PRRS virus circulation was confirmed with serology and PCR. To assess the impact of PRRS vaccination in the control of PRRS, live weights (LW), average daily weight gains (ADWG), feed conversion ratio (FCR), morbidity, mortality and antimicrobial use were analyzed. Three consecutive batches of pigs were vaccinated with Porcilis® PRRS (Porcilis), two preceding (NV) batches and data collected between April to November 2015 (Hist), non- vaccinated, were assessed and compared.

Results

Live weight before slaughter for Porcilis, NV and Hist was 103.3^a, 93^b and 99.3^c kg respectively. ADWG from entry in the feeding herd to slaughter for Porcilis, NV and Hist was 967.4^a, 871.5^b and 956.6^{ab} g / day respectively. The FCR from entry in feeding herd to slaughter for Porcilis, NV and Hist was 2.2^{a,b}, 2.5^b and 2.4^{c,b} respectively. No differences were observed for morbidity and mortality due to low number of animals. The percentage of animals individually treated in Porcilis, NV and Hist groups was 0.7%, 5.8% and 8.5^{b,c}% respectively. Different superscripts indicate statistically significant difference (p<0.05).

Discussion & Conclusions

Under the study conditions, Porcilis vaccinated batches had a 10.3 kg heavier live weight at slaughter than the preceding batches and 4 kg heavier than the pigs killed before PRRS became clinically important (Hist). The FCR was also improved with Porcilis PRRS vaccination by 0.22 (NV) and 0.13 (Hist). The improved FCR and extra average weight at slaughter results in an extra profit of £3.5 per slaughtered pig in an endemically affected herd.