



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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USE OF A CRITICAL POINT QUESTIONNAIRE AS PART OF PRRS MANAGEMENT IN 53 FRENCH FARMS

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Introduction

PRRS control needs a global approach to be successful. At farm level, identifying the critical points which contribute to maintain PRRS virus circulation is crucial. To list these points a dedicated questionnaire has been used in 53 French farms as part of the 5-Steps® approach. The objective of this work is to give a summary of the results obtained.

Material & Methods

From July 2015 to June 2017, 53 farms with a project of PRRS control were investigated. During these visits a questionnaire consisting in 4 parts (external and internal biosecurity, management and hygiene) giving 62 questions was performed. Each question was weighted. The maximum rating for an “ideal” farm was 100. The visit was divided in two parts. The first one to fill in the grid took place in the farm office room. The second one was dedicated to the farm building visit. A report was written at the end.

Results

The total mean score was 59/100 with external biosecurity: 7.7/15, internal biosecurity: 7.8/15, management: 25.7/40 and hygiene: 17.6/30. The most well controlled measures met in more than 80% of the farms were: washing and disinfecting after emptying rooms, no held-back piglets in the farrowing room. Most important criteria that did not comply in more than 60% of the farms were: no correct farm entry room, no specific clothes per farm sectors, no washing and disinfecting of the rendering tank.

Discussion & Conclusion

All farmers involved in the study were motivated to implement a PRRS control plan. So they were proactive for the questionnaire. For each critical point identified a clear explanation helped to convince the farmer. As often as possible a feasible solution was proposed. Then a realistic action plan, based on vaccination and sanitary measures to control PRRS with the highest probability of success was elaborate.