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TITLE

REPRODUCTIVE IMPACT OF PCV2 INFECTION: EFFECT OF SOW VACCINATION

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CONTENT

Background and objectives

The impact of Porcine Circovirus type 2 (PCV2) on reproductive disorders has been demonstrated in experimental and field conditions. The objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of sow vaccination on reproductive performances.

Material and methods

Two farrow-to-finish farms in which PCV2 infection in the breeding herd was diagnosed were selected. The diagnosis was based on serological and qPCR tests on blood samples from sows and, in one case, completed with PCR on mummies.

Herd 1 had a 5-batches management program and Herd 2 a 20-batches management program. After diagnosis: in herd 1, all the sow herd was vaccinated; in herd 2, only gilts and parity 2 sows were vaccinated against PCV2. For each herd, the number of total alive borns/litter (AB), dead borns/litter (DB), mummified piglets/litter (MM), weaned piglets/litter (WP) and fertility rate (FR) (respectively in 5 and 10 batches before and after implementation of CIRCOVAC® on sows) were compared.

Results

In herd 1, AB raised from 12 to 13.4 for the gilts and from 11.7 to 13.8 for the sows. The percentage of MM decreased from 7% to 0.8% and from 3% to 1.3% respectively. Consecutively, WP increased from 11.3 to 11.9 and from 10 to 11.8.

In herd 2, AB raised from 15.15 to 15.63 for the gilts and from 13.04 to 13.45 for the sows. FR raised from 92% to 100% for the gilts but remained stable for the sows. WP increased from 12.56 to 13.14 and from 11.73 to 12.2 respectively.

Discussion and Conclusion

The results of this study show that practitioners have to take into account PCV2 in the differential diagnosis of suboptimal reproductive results, even in not newly established herds. Vaccination of the sows seems to be a useful tool to control PCV2 and to improve reproductive results.