



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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THE USE OF PCV2 VACCINES IN 60 DANISH HERDS

L. Tolstrup, K. Pedersen, C.S. Kristensen.

SEGES, The Danish Agriculture and Food Council, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Introduction

Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) is an essential factor for developing Post weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) in weaned piglets. Not all cases of PCV2 infections develop into PMWS, and in sows, it may cause reproductive failure and weak newborn piglets. After 2004 vaccines have been developed, both for sows and piglets, and now PMWS is practically non-existing in Danish herds. However, PCV2 is expected to be present in most of the Danish herds today. Vaccination could therefore be important to prevent PCV2 related problems in the herds. Hence, this study conducted by SEGES Pig Research Center investigated the vaccination strategies in Danish sow herds.

Material & Methods

In total, 60 herds, with 39 different veterinarians affiliated, were included in the study. The herd veterinarian was asked to answer a questionnaire concerning which group of animals the given herd vaccinated and the time of vaccination. The animals were divided into groups of piglets, gilts, sows, and boars.

Results

Out of the 60 herds, 43 (72%) vaccinated piglets, 29 (48%) vaccinated gilts, 4 (7%) vaccinated sows, and 2 (3%) vaccinated boars. Eleven (18%) refrained to vaccinate any animals. Piglets were mostly vaccinated at 3-4 weeks of age and gilts were vaccinated from the age of 15 weeks to 30 weeks, presumably before first service. The four herds which vaccinated sows all vaccinated them 3 weeks pre-farrowing.

Conclusion & Discussion

Relatively few herds used PCV2 vaccines for adult animals, meaning that PCV2 is apparently not considered a problem in this groups of animals in Danish pig herds. However, if the piglets should be protected by PCV2 antibodies from birth, it is crucial that they receive maternal antibodies through the colostrum. A way to ensure that is to vaccinate the sow, as acquired immunity from past infections may not be sufficient.