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COMPARISON OF THE EFFICACY OF SYNCHRONIZATION OF ALTRESYN® WITH ANOTHER ALTRENOGEST-BASED PRODUCT IN REPLACEMENT GILTS

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Introduction

The introduction of gilts into a breeding herd requires an effective method to synchronize estrus. Gilt oestrus synchronization by altrenogest (Altresyn®, Ceva) improves the farm performance minimizing the number of days for gilts insemination, planning of mating program and increasing fertility and prolificacy. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of Altresyn® synchronization on fertility of treated gilts in comparison with gilts treated with another commercial progesterone-based product.

Material and Methods

A total of 198 sexually mature gilts of two consecutive batches were investigated in a commercial farrow to finish farm with a weekly batch management. In batch A, 90 gilts were treated with 20mg of Altresyn® (5mL/animal/day during 18 consecutive days) and in batch B, 108 gilts were treated another commercial progesterone-based product according to manufacturer's recommendation. Both groups were managed under the same conditions defined by farm standard operation procedure (SOP), minimizing the variance. Four days after the last treatment of each batch, gilts were examined for oestrus twice a day by moving mature boars in front of the gilts while farm personnel performed the back-pressure test. Gilts were inseminated twice during oestrus and pregnancy diagnosis was performed at 4 weeks after mating by the same person. Statistical analysis was performed using contingency tables (Fisher's exact test).

Results

Number of gilts which came in heat after the treatment in batch A (82/90, 91.11%) was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) compared to batch B (85/108, 78.70%). On the other hand, as expected, in terms of pregnancy rate (pregnant gilts/inseminated gilts), no statistical differences among batch A (77/82, 93.90%) and batch B (80/85, 94.12%) were found.

Discussion and conclusion

The use of Altresyn® for synchronization of replacement gilts represents an efficient and successful strategy for managing the gilt introduction and increase the insemination rate. However, no differences on pregnancy rate among batches were observed.