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TITLE

IMPLEMENTATION OF COLIPROTEC F4/F18 AND A NEW FEED PROGRAM IN A FRENCH FARROW-TO-FINISH FARM TO CONTROL POST-WEANING DIARRHEA AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCES

Christine Meymerit¹, Daniel Ferreira¹, Vincent Burlot², Thomas Gin²

¹ *Interface*

² *Elanco*

CONTENT

Coliprotec F4/F18 is a live non-pathogenic *E. coli* vaccine for active immunization of pigs against F4-Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) and F18-ETEC. This study describes the implementation of Coliprotec F4/F18 and a feed program having an increased protein contents to control post-weaning diarrhea (PWD) and improve performances in the nursery.

This study reports on a French 540-sow farrow-to-finish farm with a 10 batches management system weaning at 21 days of age. Piglets showed PWD and laboratory analysis identified an F4-ETEC. For two consecutive batches, piglets were divided in two groups. Control groups follow the standard protocol of the farm with PWD-specific antibiotic treatments based on colistin and trimethoprim + sulfadiazine while vaccinated groups were drenched in the farrowing unit with Coliprotec F4/F18 at 18 days of age. During the nursery, vaccinated groups were fed with a pre-starter and starter feed containing an extra protein content of +1.57% and +1.06%, respectively. For each group, mortality, average daily gain (ADG), feed conversion rate (FCR) and antibiotic treatments were recorded during the nursery. No statistical analysis was done.

Following vaccination with Coliprotec F4/F18, PWD-specific antibiotic treatments were not required for vaccinated groups. Nursery average mortality was 0.5% and 0.9% for non-vaccinated and vaccinated groups, respectively. Nursery ADG was 392 and 404 g/day for non-vaccinated and vaccinated groups, respectively. For light piglets at weaning (weight below 4.7 kg), ADG was 356 and 379 g/day for non-vaccinated and vaccinated groups, respectively. Nursery FCR was 1.51 for both the vaccinated and non-vaccinated groups.

The vaccinated pigs did not need PWD-specific antibiotic treatments. Vaccination improved nursery ADG by 12 g/day, reaching +23 g/day for light piglets at weaning. Coliprotec F4/F18 vaccination also allowed to move to a feed program having an increased protein contents in the nursery without occurrence of PWD.