

VVD-PP-12

TITLE

TIME TO STABILIZATION IN 9 SPANISH FARMS EXPERIENCING PRRS OUTBREAKS BY VACCINATING PIGLETS AT PROCESSING

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CONTENT

Introduction

Sow vaccination against PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) is common practice to achieve farm stability and production of newborn piglets negative to wild-type PRRS virus (WT-PRRSv). Recently, piglet vaccination has proven to reduce/delay WT-PRRSv infection of growing pigs. The objective was to determine Time to Stability (TTS) for PRRS in commercial farms, defined as time needed to produce WT-PRRSv negative piglets at birth, 6 or 9 weeks of age, using a new vaccine and vaccination protocol..

Materials and Methods

Nine farrow to nursery (9 weeks of age) farms located across Spain, with clinical PRRS outbreaks diagnosed by clinical signs and confirmed by PCR, were included.. Mass vaccination of sows and routine vaccination of piglets at processing with Suvaxyn® PRRS MLV was started in each farm. To investigate sow to piglet WT-PRRSv transmission, 12–15 newborn piglets per farm were sampled at processing (1-5d of age, tails, testicles and/or sera) and tested by PCR. To determine circulation of WT-PRRSv in nurseries, 12–15 piglets per farm were bled at 3 and either 6 or 9 weeks of age, and tested using a newly developed DIVA PRRS PCR (differentiates-field-and-vaccine virus) in pools of 3 samples.

Results

TTS in breeding herds (WT-PRRSv negative newborn piglets) was achieved 4-7 weeks after starting vaccination; TTS in nursery (WT-PRRSv PCR negative) was achieved in 9-12 weeks in 3 farms based on 6 week of age testing, and 12-16 weeks in all farms based on 9 week of age testing.

Conclusion

The results support the value of Suvaxyn PRRS MLV in reducing the TTS for PRRS. Improved sow immunity prevents trans-placental WT-PRRSv infection; early piglet vaccination induces early development of active immunity against WT-PRRSv infection. To achieve WT-PRRSv negative 9 week old piglets it is also essential to implement strict biosecurity measures.