



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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COST-BENEFIT OF ERADICATION SWINE DYSENTERY IN A FARROW-TO-FINISH HERD

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Introduction

Swine dysentery (SD) induce animal ill-thrift and financial losses. One way to control the disease is to eradicate it, but farmers may hesitate for costs.

Materials & methods

A two-sited integrated pig herd with 300 sows and growers on one site and fatteners 1 km away. Every third week, 40 sows farrowed. Piglets were weaned at 33 days of age. Intestinal disorders had frequently been recorded in growers/fatteners since years, and occasionally also in gilts/sows. *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* (BH), sensitive to tiamulin and tylosin, had been demonstrated in diseased pigs. Pigs were treated for SD-like diseases for 9000€ per year (30€ per sow/year).

SD was eradicated in in the summer of 2016 by transferring washed and tiamulin-treated sows to emptied and disinfected farrowing units. Thereafter units for growers and fatteners were sanitised before pigs born by sanitised sows were installed.

Results

No clinical signs of SD have been recorded after the eradication. Sow production was improved with 2 pigs/year. As the eradication attempt not demanded any production stop, the total cost was 22.200€, corresponding to 74 € per sow.

- 1) Extra work (Wash and movements of sows etc) 4350€
- 2) Cleaning of units (commission) 8800€
- 3) Disinfectants 1050€
- 4) Medical treatment of sows and gilts 8000€

Conclusion and discussion

The improvement with 2 pigs/sow/year indicate an improved production. The annual cost for endemic SD has been estimated to 250€/sow in Sweden (increased mortality with 10% and 3%; prolonged rearing with 3.5 and 5 days for weaners and fatteners, respectively), to which medicines for 30 € ought to be added. If so, there will be a payback for eradication within 4 months. At a more significant SD, the pay back will be faster. Provided that the eradication has been successful, the production improvement will remain over time.