

## **VVD-PP-20**

### **TITLE**

PREVALENCE OF PRRS VIRUS IN NURSERY PIGS IN DUTCH FARMS IN BETWEEN OCTOBER 2017 AND MARCH 2018

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### **CONTENT**

#### Introduction

PRRS (Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome) is one of the most important pig diseases, and its significance in the Netherlands seems to be increasing, especially during the early nursery period. To gain insights about the extent of the problem, PRRS virus prevalence was evaluated at start, mid and the end of the nursery period in 30 farms.

#### Material and methods

Between October 2017 and March 2018, 30 farms not vaccinating piglets against PRRS, were selected by herd veterinarians based on their interest to participate in the project. In each of the 30 farms, 45 piglets were sampled as follows: 20 at start, 15 at mid and 10 at the end of the nursery period. Samples were pooled per 5 and investigated by PRRS PCR. A survey was conducted to identify risk factors for the prevalence of PRRS virus.

#### Results

The presence of PRRSv was confirmed in young piglets just after weaning in 37% of the farms. At mid of the nursery period PRRSv presence increased to 50%, and at the end of the nursery it reached 63% of the farms. The overall presence of the virus in the nursery period was confirmed in at least one of the three time points in 67% of the farms.

The prevalence of PRRSv was higher in farrow to finish farms (81%) than in breeding farms (piglets kept to end of nursery) (60%). The PRRS vaccination strategy in the sows did not seem to have any influence on the prevalence of the virus.

#### Conclusions

The results of the Zoetis PRRS prevalence project demonstrate a high prevalence of PRRSv in very young piglets just after weaning, which clearly increases during the nursery period. These results are in line with prevalence data obtained in other studies in Belgium (DGZ, Biggenmonitor).