

## HHM-PP-25

### TITLE

PERFORMANCE AND HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF PIG HERDS AFTER ERADICATION OF SWINE DYSENTERY

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### CONTENT

**Introduction:** *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* infection (swine dysentery, SD) can cause economic losses, health problems and increased antimicrobial usage. Eradication of SD is one potential intervention strategy and hence expected to improve the three factors mentioned before. However, data on these improvements are rare and often limited to individual herds.

**Material & Methods:** Performance data and parameters indicative for health (e.g. number of treatments per pig) were collected from 68 Swiss pig farms having undergone an SD eradication. Three time frames, if available, were included: one year before eradication, and one and two years after eradication, respectively. To balance the influence of individual farm characteristics, the percentage changes in respect to 'before eradication' were calculated and used in the further analyses.

**Results:** Of the 68 farmers, 19 provided data for performance and 11 data for health of sufficient quality for analyses. Performance data from one wean-to-finish herd were analysed separately for weaned and for grower-finisher pigs. The medians of the percentages of 'daily weight gain' (n=19, median: +1%), 'cost for feed per kg weight gain' (n=13, median: -2.9%) and 'losses' (n=19, median: -15.6%) were improved in the first year after eradication. A further improvement of these parameters was present in the second year (n=13, median: +4.6%; n=10, median: -5.1%; n=13, median: -27.3%). The median of 'feed conversion' did not differ (n=11, median: +/-0). In the 11 herds with data for 'health' (e.g. veterinary costs or treatments), the median was decreased by 44.4% in the first year and by 38.3% in the second year, representing a significant improvement.

**Discussion & Conclusion:** Pigs' performance and health (including antimicrobial usage) of most of the herds had improved in the two years after the eradication. The study also demonstrated that retrospective analysis of performance, health and antimicrobial use is challenging due to lacking or incomplete data.