VVD-002

ILL-THRIFT IN WEANERS

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Introduction

A pig unit in Ireland expanded to 1000 sows within a year. Piglets are vaccinated against PCV-2 and EP. The breeding herd is vaccinated against PRRSv with a MLV. Weaner pigs are overstocked. There is an increase of weaners losing their body condition and abdominal panting. Wean to finish mortality ranges from 10 to 15%.

Materials and Methods

Two 6 weeks old weaned pigs with clinical signs were euthanised for post-mortem examination on-farm. Samples were taken from fresh lung tissue and lung tissue, inguinal and broncho-mediastinal lymph nodes fixed in formaldehyde. These samples were sent to Anicon Labor GmbH.

Results

Post-mortem examination of both animals revealed loss of body condition, pericarditis, pleurisy and consolidation of the cranio-ventral lobes of the lung.

Histological examination of the lungs detected chronic inflammation of the lung. Bronchi were filled with neutrophilic granulocytes and hyperplasia of the bronchial epithelium. Interstitial oedema of the lung was detected.

Pasteurella multocida was isolated from both lungs and *Streptococcus suis* serotype 3 in one of the lungs.

RT-PCR was negative to EP, Flu type A, PCV-2 & PRRSv NA. Results came back positive to PRRSv EU (CT:21.2).

Based on the amplified nucleotide sequence coding for the orf5 gene of PRRSv, the RNA extracted from the sample was 94.5% related to the Lelystad PPRSv strain.

Wean to finish mortality reduced to 4% after vaccinating piglets with a MLV-PRRSv at 10 – 14 days old.

Discussion & Conclusions

The results of the present case prove the value of vaccinating pigs against PRRSv with a MLV.

Severity of PRRS infection in pig units in Ireland varies from unit to unit. Non- infectious factors like overstocking exacerbate the expression of clinical signs. Concurrent infections with some viral and bacterial agents potenciate PRRS. *Pasteurella mutocida* plays an important role as secondary agent.