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TITLE

IMPROVED FEED CONVERSION RATIO IN FINISHERS BY VACCINATION AGAINST PCV2

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CONTENT

Introduction

The negative impact of PCV2 in the swine industry is well documented, and so are the benefits of vaccination against the infection. Most controlled trials have investigated the effect of vaccination on average daily gain and mortality. This field trial examine the effect of PCV2 vaccination on feed conversion ratio (FCR) in finishers. FCR is considered one of the most important expenses in pork production.

Materials and methods

The trial was performed in a wean-to-finish herd including close to 1500 pigs. At weaning the pigs were evenly divided in 3 groups with the same mean weight. 3 different treatments were applied:

- 1: Commercial Vaccine A 1 ml
- 2: Commercial Vaccine B ½ ml
- 3: Control Saline 1 ml

At approximately 25 kg liveweight the pigs were moved to the finishing unit, weighed in the treatmentgroups and placed in pens of 16 pigs with liquid feeding. At an average liveweight of 115 kg the finishers were weighed in groups and slaughtered. Feed intake, dead and culled pigs per pen was measured and recorded during finishing. PCV2 challenge was confirmed by PCR analysis on blood and oral fluid.

Results

Both vaccinated groups had FCR that was lower than the non-vaccinated control group. Group 1 had a consumption of 0,12 kg feed per kg weight gain less than the control group. Group 2 had a consumption that was 0,09 kg feed less than the control group. The differences were not statistically significant. Group 2 (Vaccine B) had a significantly higher mortality and culling rate than group 1 (Vaccine A). The mortality and culling rate of the non-vaccinated control group was not significantly different from any of the vaccinated groups.

Conclusion

This study shows a benefit from vaccinating with commercials PCV2 vaccines to improve FCR.