

MIS-PP-18

TITLE

THE ROLL OF EVIDENCE BASED VETERINARIAN MEDICINE (EBVM) IN THE DUTCH SWINE INDUSTRY: POINTS OF FRICTION AND SOLUTIONS

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

EBVM is the use of best evidence from research for health decisions in the veterinary profession. These principles are in The Netherlands incorporated in guidelines for veterinary actions. Despite the good performance of the industry still several points of friction for implementing EBVM remain.

Material and Methods

Geudeke (specialist-AnimalHealthService), Vonk (Chairman VakGroepVarken of KNMvD) and Geurts (veterinarian/Lawyer) are questioned in order to get an overview of main friction points regarding implementing EBVM and possible solutions are discussed.

Results

- 1.Lack of reviewed-, randomized-, controlled- and longitudinal cohort studies on specific topics. Case studies are often not properly randomized and use historical controls.
- 2.No registered effective antibiotics for specific indications and/or dosage.
- 3.Report guidelines are often not properly followed resulting in off label- or autogenous vaccinations without justification leading to liability of the vet.
- 4.Farmers get veterinary orientated off label advises from not qualified advisors. This can have serious consequences for animal welfare, trading partners and farmer's results.
- 5.Lack of ROI data of farm constructions based on pig health versus constructions based on the lowest construction cost.

Discussion and Conclusions

Although results of the Dutch pig industry are good it faces several challenges that can be overcome. Some of them need cooperation of several stakeholders.

Veterinarians can avoid liability connected with off label use by following the report guidelines (problem definition, clinical investigation, diagnostic and technical data, plan and follow up).

Mandatory report and accountability for non-veterinary farm advisors in private quality systems.

Case studies value with historical control can be improved by a more critical review of the setup, statistics and conclusion before publishing. Publishing all registration trials can provide more scientific information for health decisions. ROI calculation where farm constructions based on animal welfare (multi-side, hygiene lock, clean-dirty routes) are compared with the "traditional" constructions.