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TITLE

SUCCESS OF A NEW PRRS CONTROL PROGRAM, INCLUDING ROUTINE EARLY PIGLET VACCINATION, IN A PERSISTENTLY AFFECTED SPANISH FARM

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Effective control of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) remains a priority in most commercial pig farms. The study objective was to assess the efficacy of an improved PRRS management program, including vaccination of sows and routine vaccination of newborn piglets, in a PRRS endemic farm.

Materials and Methods

A two-site farm was selected, which had experienced four PRRS outbreaks in the previous 5 years, with 3 different strains (ORF 5 sequence). Site 1 had 1,250 sows (60% ACMC + 40% Danbred genetics) with batch farrowing every week. Site 2 had 4,800 weaning pigs. Four month herd closure for replacement gilts and was implemented the management of the farm to 3 week bands (farrowing every three weeks). Suvaxyn® PRRS MLV (Zoetis) was used for mass and routine vaccination of piglets at processing. Strict McRebel rules were implemented and sick pigs were treated with Draxxin® (Zoetis).

Results

After the program implementation, the farrowing rate improved a 8.2% (78,4% to 86,6%) and total newborn piglets 0.8 per sow (15.2 to 16.0). Preweaning mortality decreased 1.1% (12.6% to 11.5%) and weaned pigs per sow improved 1.4 (11.4 to 12.8). Post-weaning mortality decreased 7.6% (9.4% to 1.8%). Negative PRRS DIVA PCR results indicated no-circulation of field PRRS virus in the farrowing and weaning zone (at 20, 40 and 60 days of age). A reduction of secondary bacterial infections and consequent antibiotic treatments was also reported.

Discussion and Conclusion

The control program, including the new vaccination protocol with Suvaxyn PRRS MLV, resulted in elimination of field PRRSv circulation in farrowing and weaning zone and a significant improvement of productive parameters. The farm has not experienced a new PRRS outbreak, confirming the on-going success of the program.