



## HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

HHM-062

### **CASE REPORT: IMPROVED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES COMBINED WITH A TRIPLE PIGLET VACCINATION DECREASED ANTIBIOTIC USE IN WEANED PIGLETS**

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#### **Introduction**

PRRS infections increase susceptibility for secondary bacterial infections like *Streptococcus suis* (Ss), which in many Dutch farms leads to high antibiotic use in weaners. This case describes how on a multiplier site PRRS and Ss were controlled using the 5 Step Process.

#### **Material and Methods**

A multiplier farm - 1600 sows - in the Netherlands produces and sells 25 KG piglets. 'Before' sows were vaccinated PRRS-MLV using the post-farrow pre-breed program. Piglets were vaccinated 3 times before weaning: PCV2, Mhp and PRRS-MLV. In the two quarters 'before' the antibiotic use in weaning piglets was considered high, primarily due to oral treatment of Ss meningitis. The 5 Step Process was followed: 1) goal of no use of oral antibiotics in weaned piglets, 2) current PRRS status: PRRSV wild type virus in the weaned piglets, 3) constraints: a high level of external biosecurity, intermediate level of internal biosecurity, 4) solutions: minimizing mixing of litters at weaning, optimizing piglet feeding before and after weaning and providing partially closed floors after weaning. Vaccination protocols were changed to PRRS-EU sow mass vaccination 4 times a year and one-shot piglet vaccination (off label) with a 2 ml IM triple vaccine combination of PCV2 - Mhp and PRRS-EU at 3 weeks of age. Finally 5) solutions were implemented and monitored.

#### **Results**

A period comparison of two quarters 'before' and two quarters 'after' the implementation of the 5 Step Process showed: PRRS wild type virus still present, mortality 6-25 KG 2.2-2.7%, decrease in antibiotic use by 52% (Defined Daily Doses).

#### **Discussion and Conclusion**

The 3 in 1 piglet vaccination resulted in a labor reduction and in less stress for the piglets.

The combined strategy following 5 Step Process of improved management and vaccination resulted in better health and subsequent less use of antibiotics in weaned piglets.