



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

HHM-071

ELIMINATION OF *BRACHYSPIRA HYODYSENTERIAE* FROM A FATTENING UNIT IN THE NETHERLANDS: A CASE REPORT

F. Vangroenweghe¹, G. Janssens².

¹Elanco Animal Health, Antwerpen, Belgium; ²DAP Grensstreek, Reusel, Netherlands.

Introduction

Swine dysentery (SD) caused by *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* (*B. hyo*) is an important intestinal disease with clinical signs typically consisting of mucohaemorrhagic diarrhea. Economic losses are due to mortality, diminished growth rates and cost of medical treatment. Diagnosis is performed using pooled faecal samples (microbial culture, PCR test). The objective was eradicate *B. hyo* from a large fattening unit through a cleaning and disinfection (C&D) protocol, including rodent and fly control, manure management and improved external and internal biosecurity rules.

Materials & methods

A large fattening unit (6000 pigs), receiving nursery piglets (25kg) from one sow farm has been diagnosed positive for *B. hyo* for several years. An audit - to identify critical control points to be improved - was performed. Several steps in C&D, rodent and fly control and biosecurity issues were optimized before eradication could start. Depopulation of the stables upon delivery of the finisher pigs to the slaughterhouse was followed by repopulation with clean *B. hyo*-negative piglets when all compartments (n = 44) were cleaned, disinfected and dried. In order to check for residual environmental *B. hyo* infection, several environmental samples were collected for a *B. hyo* PCR analysis. To evaluate the C&D protocol, Rodac plates for total bacterial count were collected. Piglets within the first production groups after the eradication protocol were thoroughly monitored for clinical signs of SD and regular samples were collected for *B. hyo* PCR analysis.

Results

Results on evaluation of C&D protocols through Rodac plates were low and specific detection of *B. hyo* showed overall absence of *B. hyo*. Monitoring of piglets is currently ongoing.

Discussion & Conclusions

Eradication of *B. hyo*, the etiology of SD, on a fattening unit was possible through a combination of thorough C&D protocols, rodent and fly control and biosecurity measures.