

TITLE

WHY DID THE FARROWING RATE DECREASE IN A HUNGARIAN SOW FARM? – A FIELD STUDY

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CONTENT

Introduction

To monitor production parameters farms started to use data collecting and analyzing management tools.

One of the most important economic parameters of sow farms is the farrowing rate.

Material and Methods

An 1800 sow farm experienced an increase in the “not-in-pig” sow number although the sows were pregnant on the 28 days pregnancy check. No abortions had been reported, that’s why they focused on the investigation of the 28-35 days of the pregnancy (before ossification). Data analysis by genetic lines of the farm, farm management and feeding audit, insemination on-site monitoring, genital tracts’ slaughterhouse examination, laboratory tests (PRRS, PCV2, PCV3, PPVs, PCMV, 6 serotypes of *Leptospira*) were completed. Employees were incentivized for any reported and sampled abortion. ReproPig based investigation model was used for analysis.

Results

With the employee incentive plan, immediately 26 abortions were reported and sent to the lab in 1 month.

Results did not reveal an infectious or nutritional etiology. Analysis discovered 65% of repeat breeders (RB) are non-cyclic and 40% of RB are over 48 days. 44% of RB’s weaning-to-serve interval (WTSI) was more than 6 days. Many environmental conditions - e.g. lighting, CO2 level and temperature - were inappropriate. The adaptation of the gilts was insufficient e.g. they did not contact older sow till the farrowing unit phase.

Inseminated sows and gilts were removed from individual cages in the period of “5-10 days after insemination”. The RB detection of pregnant sows was not performed. Cyclic ovaries were found on culled sows. The USG pregnancy check on farm was performed adequately, although numerous data collection and analyzing problems were identified.

Discussion and Conclusions

Our study shows that multiple factors are essential for good reproduction performance and productiveness.

Prudent continuous data collection and analysis are crucial to identify problems and to support effectiveness of reproduction.