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TITLE
RESULTS FROM 14 FARROW-TO-FINISH FRENCH FARMS BEFORE AND AFTER
IMPLEMENTATION OF COLIPROTEC F4/F18

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CONTENT
Post-weaning diarrhea (PWD) remains a major cause of economic losses for the pig industry. Coliprotec F4/F18 is a live non-pathogenic E. coli vaccine for active immunization of pigs against F4-EnteroToxigenic E. coli (ETEC) and F18-ETEC. This study describes the implementation of Coliprotec F4/F18 to control PWD caused by F4-ETEC and/or F18-ETEC infections in 14 French farms.
This study reports on 14 French farrow-to-finish farms with a history of PWD, representing 5500 sows. Antibiotics administered through feed, water and/or injection were used to control PWD. In order to optimize the control of PWD, it was decided to vaccinate piglets with Coliprotec F4/F18 at least one week before the onset of clinical symptoms and at a minimum of 18 days of age. Vaccination was implemented by drenching piglets or by using bowl in the farrowing unit. For each farm, mortality, average daily gain (ADG) and antibiotic treatments were recorded during the post-weaning period before and after implementation of Coliprotec F4/F18. Following vaccination with Coliprotec F4/F18 in all the 14 farms, PWD clinical signs decreased and PWD-specific antibiotic treatments were not required. The average mortality during the nursery in the 14 farms was shown to be significantly ($p < 0.05$) lower after the implementation of the vaccination (2.5%) than before implementation of the vaccination (3.7%). The ADG during the nursery in the 14 farms was higher after implementation of the vaccination (483 g/day) than before the implementation of the vaccination (466 g/day), but this difference was not significant. The vaccination with Coliprotec F4/F18 was shown to increase the average net benefit with 0.91 € per pig.
In those 14 farms, the implementation of Coliprotec F4/F18 reduced clinical signs of PWD, reduced the mortality rate by 1.2% in the nursery, improved the ADG by 17 g/day, while PWD-specific antibiotic treatments were not required.