

VVD-PP-04

TITLE

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PRRS CONTROL IN 35 BREEDING HERDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Karien Koenders¹, Eveline Willems², Marc Martens²

¹ *Topigs Norsvin Nederland B.V.*

² *Topigs Norsvin International B.V.*

CONTENT

Background and Objectives

PRRS is a viral disease that has a big impact on cost of swine production, animal health and welfare. Although Topigs Norsvin Nucleus herds are free from PRRS, conventional breeding herds of Topigs Norsvin Netherlands are producing and distributing replacement females to production herds in the Netherlands. Topigs Norsvin has started a systematic approach to PRRS control for those conventional breeding farms.

Material & Methods

A health monitoring is performed 3 times a year. Since June 2018 this monitoring consists of serological tests and PCR tests for PRRS virus in strategic animal groups: 5 young sows, 5 old sows, 5 own replacements, 20 10 weeks old pigs, 30 due to be weaned pigs, 5 16 weeks old and 5 22 weeks old. Samples are pooled per 5 for PCR. Based on the outcomes farms are classified as stable or unstable positive. PRRS strains found by PCR are further typed by sequencing on ORF5 and phylogenetic trees are constructed.

Results

The starting measurement is completed and the monitoring will proceed further. The outcome and history of the phylogenetic analysis gives direction to working on either internal or external biosecurity on each farm. Following the outcomes of the monitoring, guidelines are given for control of disease. In general these are targeted towards biosecurity, vaccination and animal flow. Farm specific measures will be implemented, based on results of the monitoring and the guidelines. The first systematic monitoring shows a diversity in PRRS stability of the farms. The first phylogenetic tree shows a wide variety in present PRRS strains between the breeding herds.

Discussion & Conclusion

PRRS virus is still highly prevalent in the Netherlands. First steps are taken to a systematic approach starting from the breeding herds of Topigs Norsvin Netherlands.