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TITLE

SURVEY ON MYCOPLASMA HYOPNEUMONIAE GILT ACCLIMATION PRACTICES IN GERMANY

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Gilts play a key role in the infection chain of *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (M.hyo), as an adequate gilt acclimation is necessary for a comprehensive control approach. The aim should be to decrease M. hyo shedding by the gilt at first farrowing and thereby decrease M. hyo colonisation in piglets at weaning as well as subsequent respiratory symptoms in fattening pigs. The objective of this study was to understand the gilt acclimation process for M. hyo in Germany.

Materials and Methods

A survey of 24 questions was answered by 61 veterinarians with regard to a representative farm of their region. These 61 farms represent approximately 42600 sows from 9 German regions.

Results

- Most farms (49%) have 201-500 sows and a replacement rate of 30-35% (in 44%) or 36-40% (in 30%). There is only a minority with a replacement rate below 30% (7%) or above 40% (19%).
- 75% purchase gilts from an external source, 2% have a mixed replacement and 23% have an own replacement.
- Even though almost all farms are M. hyo positive, 36% are purchasing M. hyo negative gilts. 45% purchase gilts from M. hyo positive sources, and the remaining 19% do not know the status of the gilts. Only 6% control the status of incoming gilts.
- 57% have a special M. hyo acclimation strategy, while 43% do not. The most common strategy is vaccination and the contact to naturally M. hyo infected pigs.

Discussion

The survey identified important factors that should be considered regarding M. hyo control. M. hyo positive farms that introduce negative gilts need special care. Vaccination can be a crucial factor in the improvement of M. hyo gilt acclimation. Acclimation strategies are irreplaceable for a comprehensive M. hyo control approach.