

BBD-PP-11

TITLE

SURVEY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SWINE INDUSTRY ON MYCOPLASMA HYOPNEUMONIAE GILT ACCLIMATION

Bianca Voigts¹, Michelle Benade¹

¹ *Boehringer Ingelheim*

CONTENT

BACKGROUND /OBJECTIVES

The introduction of replacement gilts and their management is considered a risk factor in the control of M.hyo. The objective of this survey was to understand the replacement gilt acclimation process for M.hyo in swine farms in South Africa.

MATERIALS /METHODS

A survey comprising of 14 questions was developed by Boehringer Ingelheim to identify risk factors for M.hyo control and current methods used in gilt acclimation. The survey was completed by 9 veterinarians of M.hyopneumoniae positive sow farms, representing 68 198 sows (approximately 62% of the mentioned sow inventory) from all nine provinces of South Africa. The average herd size was 897 sows.

RESULTS

The most important findings were:

- 67% of respondents felt that an appropriate acclimation protocol is very important to control M.hyo
- 66% of replacements are M.hyo positive on arrival
- 41% of the producers introduce replacement animals after 16 weeks of age.
- 54% use vaccines against M.hyo during the acclimation process
- 18% use young pigs and 7% use cull sows during the acclimation process.
- 85% of acclimation sites are continuous flow
- 89% feel that acclimation is started on time
- 49% use antibiotics during the acclimation process
- In 82% of farms, the stability is assessed based on the evaluation of clinical signs and lung lesion scores
- 38% of veterinarians feel that their gilt acclimation protocol is ideal.

DISCUSSION

67% of veterinarians felt that a proper gilt acclimation program is important in the control of M.hyo and the stability of their farms. Although 80% of veterinarians believe their acclimation protocol keeps the herd stable for M.hyo, verification of adequate acclimation is not performed by diagnostics. Therefore, some opportunities for further work would include developing protocols for early and efficient exposure methods as well as exposure validation techniques.