



## HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

HHM-030

### ANTIMICROBIAL USAGE: PIG FARMERS' PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES AND MANAGEMENT

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#### Introduction

In order to update data concerning the different practices and perception for antimicrobial usage in pig farms, a study has been conducted to compare antimicrobial usage, technical performances, management practices, farmers' perception of their antimicrobial usage and farmers' attitudes toward antimicrobial resistance.

#### Materials and Methods

The survey was carried out in 20 selected pig farms located in the West region in France among the 156 monitored since 2015 for their antimicrobial usage (based on vet prescriptions). A questionnaire has been filled during an interview with farmers. The association between practices, technical performances or perceptions has been analyzed with Khi2 or Kruskal-Wallis tests.

#### Results

No link has been seen between technical performances and antimicrobial usage.

Vaccination is considered as a major tool of antimicrobial reduction like biosecurity (17/20) or the use of "alternatives" (15/20). Nevertheless, during an opened question concerning the ineffective measures, these «alternatives» have been cited (5/20).

In all the interviews, pig farmers underline the strong advisory role of the veterinarian and state that antimicrobial resistance is a main concern. Among the farmers' proposals as key measures for antimicrobial reduction, a better training and more informations/knowledge concerning diseases, treatments or alternatives were cited (8/25).

#### Discussion/Conclusion

This study highlight brakes and levers for antimicrobial reduction in pig farms. Many positive and encouraging points like the strong implication of the veterinarian as the main advisor on animal health. Strengthened advisory role implies veterinarians to have better communication skills as asked by the farmers and to adjust their advices to the perceptions and attitudes of the farmers. Finally, the absence of link between the technical performances and the consumption of antimicrobials is also a major point to help veterinarians to engage farmers to reduce their antimicrobial use and comply with the alternative measures they recommend.