

REP-OP-03

TITLE

USE OF A PROGESTERONE ON-FARM KIT DETECTION (OVU-CHECK®) TO IMPROVE GILTS MANAGEMENT IN A COMMERCIAL FARM

Eva Ramells¹, Rut Menjón², Marcial Marcos², Jiménez Marta²

¹ *Inga Food*

² *MSD Animal Health*

CONTENT

Background

A correct gilt estrus stimulation and detection is key for the optimal reproductive performance of a farm. Gilts not showing estrus should be treated specifically, and to do it properly is necessary to know if animals are prepuberal or if there is a problem in heat detection. Levels of progesterone are variable depending on the physiological status and can be used to determine the phase of the reproductive cycle. The objective of this study was to demonstrate the efficacy of an on-farm commercial kit (Ovu-check®) to determine the level of progesterone in gilts, to determine if they have cycled or not.

Material & Methods

The study was conducted in 48 gilts located in 3 farms. All were coming from the same multiplier unit and introduced in different breeding farms at 6 months of age. From 7 months onwards, all animals were stimulated with direct contact with boars and heat detection was done once/day. One month later none of the study gilts had shown estrus. Individual blood samples were collected, and its level of progesterone was evaluated with Ovu-check®, an immunoenzymatic ELISA that determines progesterone level via colorimetric changes.

Results

Only 20,8% of the gilts (10/48) had high level of progesterone in serum samples (>5ng/ml), indicating the presence of active corpora lutea. The most probable situation was that these animals were in luteal phase, and therefore had cycled before, although heat hadn't been detected by the farmer. On contrary, 79,2% of the gilts shown very low levels of progesterone (<2,5 ng/ml), indicating absence of active corpora lutea, being the most probable situation that these animals had never cycled.

Discussion & Conclusion

Ovu-check® is a useful tool that can give information about the cycle status in an easy and quick way, allowing to take the most appropriate decision to improve reproductive performance.