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BIOSECURITY AND VACCINATION AS EFFECTIVE TOOLS TO HANDLE AN PRRSV OUTBREAK

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This report describes a case where higher number of stillbirths, weak piglets and therapy-resistant piglet diarrhoea occurred in a sow herd. In the affiliated barn for weaned pigs, an increasing number of animals showed diarrhoea and respiratory disease.

The herd with 560 sows is located in Lower Saxony, Germany. The piglet rearing is located about 500 meters from the sow barns on the opposite side of the road. The sows are vaccinated against parvovirus, *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* (Porcilis® Ery + Parvo) and PRRSV (Porcilis® PRRSV). The piglets receive vaccinations against PCV2 and M.hyo (Porcilis® PCV MHy), PRRSV (Porcilis® PRRS) and *Escherichia coli* (ECOPORC SHIGA, Coliprotec® F4/F18). Based on the clinical signs investigations of tissue samples were performed to identify specific pathogens such as PRRSV (porcine respiratory and reproductive disease virus). PCR based investigations revealed evidence of a PRRSV field strain. Sow mass vaccination for PRRSV (every 3-4 months) was maintained, but the vaccine was changed to a special sow vaccine (ReproCyc® PRRS EU). Also the piglets received a novel special piglet vaccine (Ingelvac PRRSFLEX® EU) in the third week of life. In addition, improvements have been implemented to individual biosecurity measures, such as the renewal of the biofilter in the nursery. These adjustments resulted in an immediate halt of clinical symptoms.

From April 2016 onwards, the performance data showed a decline in recurrences of estrus by 2.6 %. The number of life born piglets per litter slightly decreased by 0.2% to 14.7. The number of weaned piglets per litter similarly decreased by 0.1% to 13.1. The suckling piglet mortality rate fell by 1.1% to 10.2%.

This case report illustrates that an adjustment of biosafety measures and vaccination procedures with application of a novel sow and piglet vaccine can lead to a considerable decrease in numbers of sows returning to estrus.

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