



VIRAL DISEASES

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PRRSV CONTROL AND SOW PLANE EVALUATION ON THREE DIFFERENT SOW FARMS

S. Bockelmann¹, M. Kunze².

¹ Tierärzte am Finkenbergring, Verden, Germany; ² Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Ingelheim, Germany.

After a variety of clinical diseases occurred in three different sow farms in Germany, investigations were undertaken to identify the cause of disease. The farmers reported an increase in stillbirths, late abortions, sows returning to oestrus and piglet mortality with diarrhoea.

The farms comprise a stock of 268, 420 and 560 sows. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) vaccine for sows was given every 3 to 4 months as mass vaccination. In addition, sows were vaccinated against parvovirus and Ery, App. E. Coli and Strep. Suis. The piglets received vaccinations against PCV2, PRRSV and M.hyo. In some cases E. coli, Haemophilus, Strep and App. Stillborn piglets were examined for pathogens that could have led to abortion. Performance data were evaluated over a period of 2 years.

The investigations revealed evidence of a field infection with PRRSV. Based on these findings, a treatment switch to a novel PRRSV vaccine specific for sows and piglets respectively, was initiated. The mass vaccination scheme was maintained. The sow herd was vaccinated every 3-4 months, and piglets were vaccinated within the third week of life. In addition improvements were made to individual biosecurity measures. Change of PRRS vaccine led to a halt and striking decrease of clinical symptoms. In addition, the evaluation of the performance data showed a decrease in return to oestrus from 1.4-3% (avg -2 %). Other measurable parameters improved slightly like the number of live born piglets (avg +0.1%), suckling piglet mortality (avg -0.1%) and the number of weaned piglets (avg +0.4%).

Improved individual biosecurity measures at 3 sow farms, and a change in PRRS MLV vaccine, led to a decrease in clinical symptoms and an improvement in performance parameters, measured by lower return to oestrus rate, pre-wean mortality and an increased number of live born and weaned piglets.