



VIRAL DISEASES

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RESULTS OF PRRS CONTROL IN DUTCH FINISHER FARM AFTER OUTBREAK OF PRRS

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Introduction

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of a PRRS vaccination under field conditions at a PRRS positive farm with finisher pigs.

Materials and Methods

This case study was performed in a finishing farm of 3500 finishing places. The farm received since years PRRS negative piglets from a 400 sow farm. The piglets were vaccinated at 3 weeks of age against PCV2 for years; in January 2016 this was combined with a vaccination against Mycoplasma. Due to an acute outbreak of PRRS in February 2016 in the sow farm, the finishing farm received shortly afterwards PRRS positive pigs. PRRS was diagnosed by PCR on 10 week old piglets. The problems in the finishing barn consisted of increased respiratory problems, higher use of antibiotics, decreased growth, less uniform pigs and higher feed conversion rate.

In August 2016 the sow farmer started with a piglet vaccination against PRRS type 1 at 3 weeks of age, applied in a 2 ml triple combination with the PCV2 Mycoplasma vaccine.

Monthly close out data records were retrospectively collected from June 2015 until August 2017 for 3 different periods (before PRRS outbreak - outbreak pigs non-vaccinated - PRRS vaccinated pigs).

Results

In the time frame with the added PRRS vaccination the general health improved resulting in less coughing, better uniform pigs, and less losses until slaughter. All the major production parameters improved (ADG + 70 gr/day; FCR -0,17 compared with outbreak pigs data). Also the antibiotic usage decreased (-56%) below the legal recommended threshold (DDD).

Conclusions and Discussion

This retrospective analysis of a Dutch pig farm confirms that the PRRS vaccine in combination with vaccination against Mycoplasma hyopneumonia and PCV2 improved not only the clinical symptoms but also the technical performance of the pigs. This is in line with other reports.