



## HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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### **THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF A SINGLE SHOT VACCINATION AGAINST SWINE ENZOOTIC PNEUMONIA, WITH HYOGEN®, IN A FARM PRODUCING HEAVY PIGS IN ITALY**

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#### **Introduction**

Enzootic pneumonia (EP) remains one of the major conditions affecting pigs' respiratory health and farms' economic efficiency. Vaccination against *M. hyopneumoniae* is proven to be beneficial for controlling EP and the related reduced feed efficiency and high medication cost. The aim of this study was to evaluate the economic benefits of applying a single vaccination against EP, with Hyogen®, compared to applying double vaccination with vaccine A, in a farm producing heavy pigs in Italy.

#### **Material and methods**

A commercial two site farm was selected for the trial. In total 5867 pigs of 9 batches were vaccinated with Hyogen® at 3 weeks of age (WOA) and 8870 pigs of 12 batches vaccinated with Vaccine A at 3 WOA and boosted with Vaccine A (*M.hyopneumoniae booster*) together with Aujeszky vaccination at 5 months. The percentage of animals died and culled, feed efficiency and total medication costs were recorded in the fattening units and compared between batches vaccinated with different vaccines. The financial balance was calculated by using Respinomics™.

#### **Results**

The percentage of fatteners died and culled was lower ( $p < 0.05$ ) for pig vaccinated with Hyogen® compared to those vaccinated with Vaccine A (4.75% vs 5.14%). The total medication cost per pig, comprising the oral and injectable antibiotics, was 3.49€ for Hyogen® and 4.93€ for Vaccine A ( $p > 0.05$ ). FCR for pigs vaccinated with Hyogen® was by 0.104 lower compared to Vaccine A. Although this difference was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ) it was economically interesting. The calculated benefit due to lower mortality, FCR and medication cost for batches vaccinated with Hyogen® was 4.08€ per pig.

#### **Conclusion**

In this study, a single dose vaccination with Hyogen® resulted in better economic efficiency due to lower mortality and culling rate, FCR and medication cost in heavy weight pigs compared to double shot vaccination, which is commonly used in Italian farms.