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IMPACT OF AN INTRADERMAL PCV2 VACCINE ON VARIOUS PRODUCTION PARAMETERS AND ANTIBIOTIC CONSUMPTION IN FINISHERS

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Introduction

PCV2 plays an important role in porcine respiratory disease complex (PRDC) and viremia in late fattening pigs contributes to extended lung lesions, reduced daily weight gains and increased antibiotic use. The following investigation was conducted to show efficacy of an intradermal PCV2-vaccine on production parameters after an acute PCV2 infection under field conditions in Germany.

Material & Methods

This field trial was done in a closed herd with 2,000 sows and a three-week production system in North Germany. The herd was classified as high health and PRRS unsuspecting. Sows were routinely vaccinated against Ery, Parvo and Influenza, while piglets were non-vaccinated. In October 2016, an acute PCV2-infection occurred with high PCV2-viremia but without typical clinical PCV2-signs like PDNS. A piglet vaccination with an intradermal PCV2 vaccine (Porcilis® PCV ID) was immediately implemented at 21 days of age.

Results

A significant reduction of PCV2-viremia in vaccinated animals was observed (from 107.43 PCV2 DNA copies/ μ l serum to 101 c/ μ l serum). Vaccinated animals had an improved average daily weight gain (from 1,014 g/day non-vaccinated and affected piglets to 1,050 g/day vaccinated animals). Mortality rate in fattening decreased from 3.7% during the acute PCV2-outbreak to 1.3% in PCV ID vaccinated groups. The number of antibiotic treatments was also reduced from 7.8% to 0.6%. Since the introduction of the PCV2 vaccination, the proportion of medium to high grade pleurisies dropped from 3% to 0.5%.

Discussion and Conclusion

PCV2 infections can occur even in high health herds with high biosecurity standards. In this field trial, intradermal PCV2 vaccination of piglets further improved the already excellent performance parameters and carcass quality. In addition, the intradermal PCV2-vaccine effectively reduced PCV2 viremia and antibiotic use under field conditions in this German farm.