



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY

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COMBAT A NEW TOOL FOR FAST EVALUATION AND BENCHMARKING OF BIOSECURITY, PIG FLOW AND MANAGEMENT

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Introduction

COMBAT (Comprehensive Online Management and Biosecurity Assessment Tool) is a new app developed by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica to help farmers and veterinarians to evaluate and improve the level of biosecurity, pig flow and management procedures and benchmark against other farms. COMBAT is based on a detailed set of 55 questions to be answered directly in the application.

Material & Methods

This study is based on more than 1000 COMBAT's (questionnaires) from 46 different countries globally. The relative risk of not being able to prevent, control or manage a PRRSV infection is calculated in 4 categories: Internal risks, External risks, Location risk, Management and pig flow. Feedback is given to each category and categorized as very high, high, medium and low risk, to facilitate discussion of behaviors and prioritize fields of importance.

Results

Very high risky behaviours (percentage in brackets) were identified regarding; -external biosecurity; poor or no restrictions to vehicles for animal and feed transportation, pick up dead animals, (cleaning and disinfection) (38,45% - 64,51%) . -Internal biosecurity; persons (61,08%), clothes and boots (51,4%), nurse sows being moved unrestricted between areas of production (47,06%) and Incoming gilts in contact with PRRSV infected animals before introduction (54,81%). -Location; Unstable PRRSV or unknown status of nearest neighbouring farm (72,44%). -Management and pigflow; Holding pigs back for weaning quality (77,10 %), weaned pigs in farrowing room (58,55%), continuous flow after weaning (48,23%) and risky gilt introduction (74,29%).

Discussion & Conclusion

COMBAT facilitates improved biosecurity, pig flow and management practices, by highlighting the most important risk areas related to PRRS incidence. Successful PRRS control must incorporate measures to reduce the risk of new virus introduction (external risks) and improve the ability to control PRRSV internally on a farm/site/area. Immediate feedback encourages and veterinary advisers to address risky behaviors on the actual production site.