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SUCCESSFUL CONTROL OF PORCINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA IN A FATTENING FARM BY VACCINATING WITH COGLAPIX®

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Introduction

Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae is the causative agent of Porcine Pleuropneumonia (PP), distributed worldwide and responsible for considerable economic losses in the pig industry. An increase of new cases is reported from Austria. The aim of this study was to compare Coglapix® vaccinated fattening pigs to unvaccinated pigs from one farm in terms of antibiotic consumption, lung health and mortality.

Material & Methods

A fattening farm located in Styria, Austria, housing 1000 pigs from one origin was presented with respiratory problems and a relatively high consumption of antibiotics. In June 2017 a group of pigs was evaluated in terms of antibiotic consumption, slaughter lung health according to Ceva Lung Scoring Methodology and mortality. The owner then decided to vaccinate the next batch of pigs with Coglapix® according to manafacturers guidelines, evaluate the parameters end of September 2017 and compare them.

Results

Antibiotic consumption of the unvaccinated group was calculated at 12.26 g per pig housed (n=288) whereas for vaccinated group it was 0.07 g (n=130). Mortality was 1.04% and 0.77% ($P>0.05$) for the first and the second group, respectively. At slaughter, lungs of unvaccinated animals had significantly higher ($P<0.05$) frequency of dorsocaudal pleurisy compared to lungs of vaccinated animals, with 48% (n=121) and 2% (n=99) affected lungs and APP-Index of 1.19 and 0.05, respectively. Pneumonia was observed in 31% of the lungs from unvaccinated pigs and in 30% of vaccinated ones, with an EP-index of 0.67 and 0.43, respectively.

Discussion & Conclusion

During this field trial it was shown that Coglapix® is highly efficient in controlling PP. Vaccinated pigs performed better than the unvaccinated in terms of lung health and mortality. Furthermore the vaccinated group had a much lower consumption of antibiotics, highly suggesting that vaccination is superior to antibiotics in preserving lung health of fattening pigs affected by PP.