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TITLE

PROFITABILITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOLTRAZURIL ADMINISTRATION PROTOCOL IN NATURALLY INFECTED PIGLETS IN BRAZIL

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CONTENT

Background and objectives: Coccidiosis is one of the main diseases affecting suckling piglets and is endemic worldwide. This work aimed to evaluate the profitability and economic impact of different toltrazuril administration protocols in commercial piglets.

Material and methods: A total of 495 piglets was randomly divided into four groups. The control group (CG; n=125) did not receive toltrazuril. Piglets receiving toltrazuril on the third day of life (G2; n=127); Piglets receiving toltrazuril on the fifth day (G3; n=116), and piglets receiving two doses of toltrazuril at the third and seventh days (G4; n=127). They were individually weighted along 132 days to evaluate the growth performance in each treatment and the financial return at slaughter.

Results: All groups treated with toltrazuril presented higher live weight at slaughter compared to control group, with G2 group presenting the highest weight (98.05 kg), with a significant difference from CG (90.78 kg) (Tukey test, p<0.05). The individual dose of one mL of toltrazuril costs approximately USD 0.10. The price paid per kg of live swine at slaughter on September 2018, in São Paulo (Brazil), was USD 0.93.

Discussion and conclusion: G2 animals weighted 7.27 kg more compared to CG animals at slaughter, and one G2 animal valued USD 6.76 more compared a CG one. Discounting the individual cost of treatment, the income was USD 6.66 per animal at the slaughtered. For instance, a farm with 1.000 sows in a complete cycle that sells 27 pigs/female/year for slaughter, would increase profits in USD 179,820.00 in one year, which means a return on investment of 1:66. On the other hand, G2 pigs were slaughtered 3.68 kg heavier compared to G3 animals. Similarly, this farmer would profit USD 92,340.00. Toltrazuril administration proved to be profitable for swine producers, and administration on the third day showed the best profitability.