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TITLE

MYCOPLASMA SUIS ASSOCIATED WITH DYSGALACTIA AND ANEMIA IN A SOW HERD

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CONTENT

A case of dysgalactia associated with Mycoplasma suis is described for a Belgian sow herd. In a 440-sow farm, clinical signs started in August when some sows showed signs of dysgalactia one week after farrowing. No signs of mastitis (hyperthermia or udder congestion/inflammation) were observed. Feed mycotoxin contamination was first suspected but not confirmed. The impact on piglets preweaning mortality could not be measured as no data were collected in this hyperprolific sow herd. In March, two pale animals (a sow and a gilt) were confirmed PCR-positive for Mycoplasma suis. Further tests allowed to confirm 6 PCR-positive sows/9 clinically suspected animals. At the same moment, pale suckling piglets were detected. Consequently, sows were treated during 3-4 weeks with oxytetracycline in feed. Possible predisposing factors of M. suis infections were identified in the herd: PCV2 was actively circulating among sows and a European wild strain of PRRS was identified in the nursery. Poor lactation may also be associated to acute PRRS-infection. In April, PCR tests showed that purchased gilts were carriers of Mycoplasma suis and probably the source of infection in this farm. The supplier was contacted and then delivered PCR-negative gilts after treatment with a single tulathromycin injection. One year later, dysgalactia was detected again in 20% of lactating sows. In September, one lactating sow presenting anemia, jaundice and hyperthermia (40.1°C) 14-days postpartum was confirmed PCR-positive for M. suis. Hematological parameters confirmed anemia and a recent PCV2 seroconversion was identified, without evidence of PRRS-infection.

Recommendations concern the introduction of Mycoplasma suis negative gilts, treating outbreaks in sows with 22 mg/kg/day tetracycline in feed for 2 weeks and the control of PRRS and PCV2 as they could play a predisposing role in the development of the disease. Special attention should be paid to the single use of needles for vaccination purposes.