

Performance, health and antimicrobial use

following PRRS piglet vaccination

Is piglet vaccination an important tool to control PRRS?

Vaccination of weaned pigs against PRRSV is recommended in order to reduce field virus recirculation, infection pressure and minimize losses.

- 01 If just vaccinating breeding females, then part of the population of the farm is not well immunized, therefore, **vaccination of piglets** provides a whole herd immunization.
- 02 When vaccinating piglets, the number of susceptible animals and, consequently, **the risk of virus recirculation, is reduced**.
- 03 By means of vaccination **the clinical impact of the disease is reduced**, and consequently, also the **economic losses**.

Study design

AN EXAMPLE

Does piglet vaccination provide benefits to control PRRS?

Farm in the UK housing **230 sows** in a farrow to finish system, endemically infected with PRRSV

The **breeding herd** was vaccinated for PRRSV, but **not the piglets**

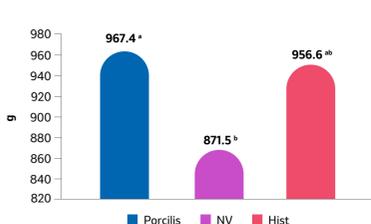
Data compared between the following groups:

Three consecutive batches of pigs vaccinated with **Porcilis PRRS** (n=247)

Two preceding non-vaccinated batches (**NV**; n= 637 pigs)

Data collected historically (**Hist**) between April to November 2015 when any vaccination was applied (n = 2,439 pigs)

Average Sale Weight



*Means denoted by a different letter indicate significant differences between groups (p < 0.05).

ADWG from entry in the feeding herd to slaughter for **Porcilis PRRS**, **NV**, and **Hist** was 967.4, 871.5 and 956.6 g/day respectively.

Porcilis PRRS vaccinated batches had a 10.3 kg heavier live weight at slaughter than the preceding batches.

Feed conversion ratio

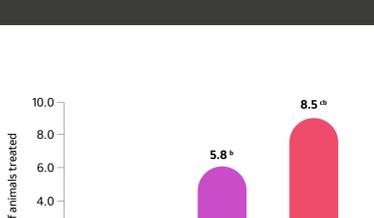


*Means denoted by a different letter indicate significant differences between groups (p < 0.05).

The FCR from entry in feeding herd to slaughter for the three different groups **Porcilis PRRS**, **NV** and **Hist** was 2.2, 2.5, and 2.4.

The FCR was improved with **Porcilis PRRS** vaccination by 0.22 (**NV**) and 0.13 (**Hist**).

Antimicrobial use



*Means denoted by a different letter indicate significant differences between groups (p < 0.05).

The percentage of animals individually treated in the **Porcilis PRRS**, **NV** and **Hist** groups was 0.7%, 5.8% and 8.5%, respectively.

The use of individual treatments was significantly reduced in the **Porcilis PRRS** vaccinated batches.

Keypoints

- 01 **Piglet vaccination against PRRSV** has the potential to **improve the feed conversion rate** achieving at the same time heavier live weights at slaughter.
- 02 The use of **individual treatments** can also be significantly reduced in **PRRS vaccinated batches**.
- 03 Under this study conditions, the **improved FCR and extra average weight** at slaughter resulted in an **extra profit** of **£3.50** per slaughtered pig.

With the appropriate piglet PRRS vaccination strategy, the productive parameters and the economic performance of the farm can be improved.

