FIELD STUDY ON THE PRRSV WHOLE HERD VACCINATION IN GERMANY

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Introduction and Objectives
Since the first German cases of PRRSV infection in 1990 the virus has spread rapidly countrywide and has become a permanent threat to swine operations (1). Today about 90% of all herds are PRRSV-positive in swine dense areas and therefore clinical signs have changed from an acute form towards a chronic form (2). The chronic form in sows is characterised by periodical appearance of late abortions, increased numbers of stillborn and weakborn piglets and increased return rates.

Materials and Methods
The study herd comprises of 2,800 sows being managed in the so called “Arbeitsteiliges System”, meaning that the sow herd rotates on 21 specialised farms. 3 different farm types do exist: breeding farms (AI and scanning), pregnancy farms (day 60 to 105 post insemination), farrowing farms. In the study herd in the course of 1999 clinical signs of a chronic PRRSV infection were observed and PRRSV was diagnosed to be the causative agent by means of serology and PCR. After the whole herd approval of Ingelvac PRRS MLV (Boehringer Ingelheim) in Germany in summer 1999, sows were vaccinated initially in November 1999. The following 2 blitz vaccinations were applied after a 2 month interval (January, March 2000) after which the regular 3 to 4 months vaccination interval was installed (see manufacturer’s instructions).

Results and Discussion
Shortly after the second blitz vaccination had been applied in January 2000, return rates started to decline in sows as well as in gilts. Animals came into heat with clearer symptoms and AI-timing improved. The current observations are supported by several field studies conducted with Ingelvac PRRS vaccination.

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Table 2: Impact of PRRSV whole herd vaccination on reproductive parameters in a 2,800 sow herd (monthly average)

Collectively, the current observation supports laboratory and field data on the successful control of PRRSV reproductive failure by a whole herd vaccination with Ingelvac PRRS MLV.

References

Table 1: Number of piglets weaned/ sow/ year after implementation of PRRSV vaccination in November 1999

The number of stillborn piglets was not influenced by the PRRSV vaccination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Weaned piglets/ litter</th>
<th>Weaned piglets/ sow/ year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>23.8</td>
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