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PREVENTION OF PRRSv HORIZONTAL TRANSMISSION BY THE HYCARE BIOSECURITY SYSTEM IN NURSERY PIGS

Background and Objectives

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of the HyCare biosecurity system compared to a traditional system - on PRRSv transmission in nursery pigs.

Material and Methods

Five batches of 2500 pigs were followed from birth to 25 KG bodyweight. At weaning around 4 weeks of age batch 1 to 3 (no PRRSv vaccination) were housed in a traditional nursery barn. Batch 4 was placed in a HyCare nursery barn. Batch 5 (PRRSv vaccinated with Ingelvac PRRSFLEX® at 3 weeks of age) was partially placed in HyCare- (5a) and partially in the conventional nursery barn (5b). The diagnostic evaluation consisted of: processing fluids (PF), 30 blood samples at 3 weeks of age (group 1 - 4), two weeks after placement in nursery (all groups) and at 25 KG body weight (all groups). Serum samples were pooled 1:5 (PSS) and tested by PRRSv PCR.

Results

Batch 1 and 2 showed PRRSv PCR negative results in PF and PSS until two weeks after weaning but both groups had positive PRRSv PCR PSS at 25 KG bodyweight. Group 3 showed positive PRRSv PCR in PF and PSS until 25 KG bodyweight. Group 4 showed negative PRRSv PCR PF and PSS until 25 KG bodyweight. Group 5 showed negative PRRSv PCR PFs, two weeks after weaning 1/12 PRRSv PCR PSS positive in group 5b (vaccine strain). At 25 kg both group 5a and 5b showed 6:6 PSS PRRSv PCR positive. Vaccine strain was detected in both group 5a (2/6) and 5b (1/6).

Discussion and Conclusion

The main biosecurity characteristics in the HyCare system are: separate hygiene entry, floor coating, water treatment, work flow, control visits with clean coverall, separate shoes and gloves per room and every injection with a new needle. The results indicate a potential positive effect of the HyCare system in limiting transmission of PRRSv after weaning in group 4 as compared to groups 1-3. However in group 5, the HyCare system showed no benefit.