

Positive impact of piglet PCV2 vaccination on fattening pig performance in a subclinically infected farm

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Objective

To test the efficacy of PCV2 piglet vaccination in addition to sow vaccination, in a herd with a subclinical PCV2 circulation, on growth performance and feed conversion efficiency in the fattening period.

Material and methods

- Sows of the farm vaccinated against PCV2 for at least 4 years.
- At 6 weeks of age, 168 piglets from the same farrowing batch allocated into 84 pairs of similar piglets according to sex, weight, parity of their dam and size of their litter: one piglet vaccinated against PCV2 and one received a placebo (saline, 0.5 ml, IM).
- Vaccin used: CIRCOVAC® (0.5 ml, IM)
- Both groups (vaccinated and placebo) comingled and exposed to a natural circulation of PCV2 at the end of the fattening period (as evidenced by PCV2 antibody seroconversion from the 17th week of life).
- Individual bodyweights, feed consumption measured by electronic feed dispenser and slaughterhouse data were registered.
- Clinical score, mortality and lung lesions were also individually recorded.

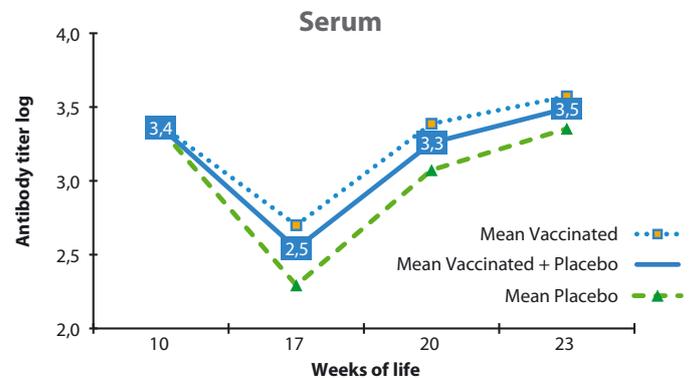


Results

No negative event was observed following PCV2 vaccination during the post-weaning period.

During the fattening period :

- Average Daily Weight Gains (ADG) were not different between groups.
- Feed consumptions were not different between groups.
- Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) was significantly decreased in the vaccinated group by 0.10 (2.67 against 2.77).
- Mortality clinical signs, lung lesions and carcass traits were not found significantly different.
- Return on investment (ROI) calculated with Pigsim® (www.pigsim.com), taking in account the FCR improvement and the vaccination cost, shows a gain of 1.7€ per produced pig.



Results

	Placebo	Vaccinated	Stat
ADG post-weaning period, g/d	476	468	ns
ADG fattening period, g/d,	916	918	ns
Feed consumption fattening period, kg/d	2,52	2,45	ns
FCR fattening period, kg/kg	2,77	2,67	0,02
Carcass weight, kg	94,6	94,6	ns
Lean meat percentage, %	59,6	59,8	ns

Conclusion

In this high performing farm with a subclinical circulation of PCV2 in the fattening period, piglet PCV2 vaccination on top of sow vaccination in comparison to PCV2 vaccination in sows only induced a significant FCR improvement during the fattening period.

