

The evolution of medication costs over a 10 years periods (1999-2009) in French pig farms was analysed.

Materials and methods

Medication costs from the french technical and economic database (GTE):

- Total medication costs, preventive and curative costs,
- 4 sub-categories of costs: vaccine, orally administered medication, injections of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and livestock management products.

Analysis of the evolution of these costs for :

- Farrow-to-finish herds (n> 1400 farms),
- Fattening herds (n> 330 farms).

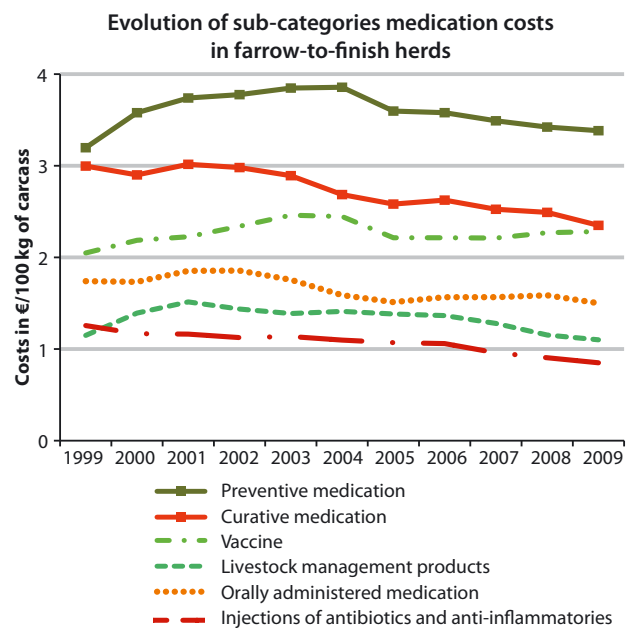
Results between 1999 and 2009

For farrow-to-finish herds:

- Significant decrease in total medication, orally administered medication, injections of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories and curative medication costs,
- Costs of livestock management products remain stable,
- Significant increase in vaccine and preventive medication costs,
- Over the 10 years, the level of preventive medication costs were higher than that of curative medication (3.38 €/100kg of carcass compare with 2.35 in 2009).

For fattening herds:

- Significant decrease in total medication and antibiotic and anti-inflammatory injections costs,
- Other sub-categories remain stable.



Evolution of medication costs between 1999 and 2009

Costs in €/100kg of carcass	Farrow-to-finish herds	Fattening herds
Total medication costs	- 0.70	- 0.44
Preventive medication	+ 0.18	=
Curative medication	- 0.65	=
Vaccine	+ 0.23	=
Livestock management products	=	=
Orally administered medication	- 0.24	=
Injections of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories	- 0.41	- 0.14

Conclusion

The decrease in health costs, associated with a decrease in the use of curative treatments and an increased use of vaccines, meets the expectations of society. This is due to improvements in the health status of farms, linked to connection with the development of vaccinations and the awareness of the need to reduce antibiotic use.