

Water medication with a dosing pump : motivations, obstacles and use practices

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The reliability of water medication with a dosing pump requires appropriate equipment and good use practices. This study aims to assess the situation in 2014 in terms of motivations and use practices of the dosing pump in a sample of equipped farms. It also aims to understand the obstacles in non-equipped farms.

Materials et methods

A phone survey was conducted in a sample of 109 French farms equipped with a dosing pump and 46 farms which were non equipped. Depending on the presence or absence of dosing pump in the farm, the survey focused on the reasons of the purchase and use practices, or what were the impediments explaining the absence of a dosing pump.



Results

Equipped farms

Tableau 1 – Reasons to buy a dosing pump

Motivations to buy a dosing pump	% of farmers
Short implementation of the treatment	46 %
High efficiency of the treatment	46 %
Ease of use	36 %
Flexibility of use	24 %
Decrease of antimicrobial usage	18 %
Decrease of medication costs	9 %

Tableau 2 – Use practices of a dosing pump

Use practices	% of farmers
Preparation of the tank solution for a use up to 24 hours	91 %
Complete water rinsing of the circuit at the end of the treatment	90 %
Correct calculation of the amounts of water drunk by pigs	66 %
- Water meter or graduations on the tank	26 %
- Theoretical rule (10 % of the live weight)	40 %
Calculation by farmers of quantities of water and drug to mix	93 %
Difficulties to perform this calculation	15 %
Control of the trough flow	47 %
Occasional solubilisation problems	41 %
No mixing tank	31 %
No solubility test for new drugs	59 %
Mixing of two drugs	18 %
No equipment maintenance	75 %
Malfunctions, starting problems	21 %
Water disinfection with oxidizing biocides	20 %

Non equipped farms

Tableau 3 – Obstacles to buy a dosing pump

Obstacles to buy a dosing pump	% of farmers
Constraint related to equipment: cost, set up, use	43%
Not necessary in the sanitary context of the farm	39 %
Preference for medicated feed	17 %
Plan to buy a dosing pump	11 %

Conclusion

This survey helps to better target communication routes to optimise the reliability of treatments administered by a dosing pump, as well as to assist the non-equipped farmers through the acquiring process.

