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Number: 151
Swine influenza IX

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Effect of vaccination on viral transmission

We still do not fully understand the effect of vaccination on transmission but it clearly depends upon the level of cross protection between the circulating and vaccinal strains of the influenza virus.

There are published reports that suggest that influenza A virus transmission may be reduced in vaccinated populations; others suggest that this might not be the case.

Transmission can still occur at a reduced rate in pigs, in which the vaccine only produces partial immunity.

There is a debate regarding the long term benefit of influenza A vaccination. The common protocols for the administration of influenza vaccines in pigs include the vaccination of replacement animals, and pre-farrowing or whole herd vaccination of breeding stock. The goal of these procedures is to transfer maternal immunity to the offspring and reduce influenza infection within breeding stocks.

Vaccination of weaned pigs is possible, although some would question the economic benefits of this. Also, the timing of this vaccination has its problems because of interference from maternal immunity.

The value of vaccinating herds that are experiencing diseases such as PCV is also questionable.

As the dominant influenza A virus strains differ between countries and regions, vaccination may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Treatment

There are no antiviral drugs for use in commercial pigs. However, viral or bacterial co-infections frequently occur. For viral entities, such as PRRS and PCV2, vaccination programmes against this should be in place.

For bacterial infections, including respiratory ones caused by *Haemophilus parasuis*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Streptococcus suis*, *Actinobacillus suis* and *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, appropriate antimicrobial therapy should be considered.

Biosecurity

Needless to say, high biosecurity standards should be maintained in parallel with the above procedures.