

Over 30 million pigs vaccinated against ileitis in Brazil

Present in 94% of Brazilian herds, *Lawsonia intracellularis* is extremely difficult to control, it negatively impacts the health and well-being of animals, leading to large financial losses for farmers due to the reduction, for instance, of the average daily gain (ADG) by up to 131g or the decrease of feed conversion rate (FCR), from 1.63 to 2.92 according to an experimental vaccination study.

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To demonstrate the impact that the prevalence of this disease has on swine farms, MSD Animal Health Brazil has partnered with universities to develop an innovative diagnostic solution to measure the impact of that prevalence.

In this scenario, and in line with MSD Animal Health's goal of improving the lives of people and the health and well-being of animals, the company developed Porcilis Ileitis, the first ever injectable vaccine against the disease, with the aim of helping their partners improve animal health and thus production.

Manufactured by MSD Animal Health, it is the first ever injectable vaccine against ileitis that also optimises production costs by increasing profitability for farmers.

With an exclusive formula and a precise dosage, Porcilis Ileitis is used to control the clinical and subclinical signs of ileitis. Its benefits include a long lasting protection for the animal's whole life and its ease of administration with a single intramuscular



dose (2ml). In just three years over 30 million pigs have been vaccinated with Porcilis Ileitis in Brazil.

According to Marco Gallina, Key Account Manager at MSD Animal Health, currently 40% of 49 million pigs produced annually (according to ABPA) have been protected with the vaccine. Clients talk about excellent productivity and return on investment with this solution, added Josiedi Silva, Swine Commercial Manager.

Facts and data about ileitis prevention

Swine production has made great progress over the years; one of the main drivers for those advances has been data analysis. Swine production includes a large amount of production indicators that must be followed and analysed to identify factors that may influence productivity increases, and therefore greater profitability.

We know that gut health is a very important factor for the productive performance of animals. Ileitis, being an enteric disease, damages the digestion process, causing negative consequences for animal growth and development.

Those consequences can be mitigated through control measures, such as antibiotic treatment, biosafety measures and, finally preventive control thanks to the use of the vaccine.

Vaccination is the most efficient and cost-effective method to control ileitis, also contributing to decreased use of antimicrobials.

Measuring the production benefits potentially achieved using the Porcilis Ileitis vaccine is one of MSD Animal Health's commitments and, thus, they assess and constantly monitor the results obtained in the field.

Proof of this follow-up is the work to be published by Ronaldo Risso et al. at IPVS 2022, that demonstrates an average daily gain increase of 31g per pig amongst animals vaccinated with Porcilis Ileitis.

In another yet unpublished study, the correlation between *Lawsonia intracellularis* infection prevention and the benefits in cold-rooms has been verified: vaccinated animals had a greater carcass weight (11.448kg more), larger amount of casings (12.4% more casing metres per gut) and bigger sausage production from the same amount of casing (11.8% more kilograms per metre of casing).

These improvements translate into an estimated profit of R\$22.44/animal (US\$ 4.12). ■

For more information on Porcilis Ileitis, please visit MSD Animal Health Swine: www.msd-animal-health-swine.com/diseases-solutions/pigcare/intestipig/ileitis