Traceability of animal treatment is key to improving productivity

When we refer to traceability on pig farms, this can conjure up many different things. We might be referring to the traceability of the sensors on the farms, the traceability of the diet that each animal has followed, traceability in terms of the biosecurity of all the items that pass through a farm, the individual behaviour of our animals or we might be referring to group traceability or individual traceability, etc.

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But we should not forget that the day when the final consumer demands to know the details of what he or she is eating has already arrived. The concept of Farm To Fork is increasingly gaining in importance in the sector.

Our focus is on offering our clients animal health solutions that protect the animals and generate a greater return on investment.

This is why it is so important to offer the best veterinary products and technological solutions that provide our customers with optimal control of the use of these products. For us, traceability of the process of animal treatment is key to improving our customers' productivity.

In a sector in which improving the operator's working conditions is more important than ever, it is crucial to offer intelligent devices that help our employees in the difficult task of treating the animals, including providing open devices that are safe and easy to use.

Our objective is to provide answers to:

- How many doses?
- Of which product?
- To which animals?
- When?
- Where?
- Correctly?

That is to say, to obtain all the data that we can on the four Ps: piglet, product, place and process. All this information is of great help in improving the daily control of veterinary processes. It must all be combined with productive data in order to improve decision-making and to see which actions deliver the greatest profit.

This is the concept of open traceability, which combines data from different sources in order to obtain results that help with decision making.

What is our vision of open traceability?

Keeping our focus on improving animal health, our vision is to keep control of the key elements in the treatment of animals. The most important points to bear in mind with regard to traceability are:

● **Product information:**
Product information can be: the name of the product, GTIN code, batch identifier, date of production and expiry date.

It is also important to provide tools that make it possible to determine the condition of the products and where they are located, both at the distributors and on the farm. Providing tools that help with stock management helps companies to optimise their stocks, thereby reducing costs. A major part of stock control is being aware of consumption on the farm and for this it is very important to obtain the information on what and how much is being used.

● **Monitoring of veterinary treatment:**
Linking each treatment to product, date and animal is a fundamental aspect, now and in the future. The traceability of treatment can help us to make a comparison of treatments and management processes and how these affect piglet performance.

In terms of process and treatment quality, monitoring of the administration of treatments is very important, and the devices that provide these data automatically as well as the possibility of consulting them are a reality and a necessity.

At the present time, it is not compulsory to certify the administration of treatment, but in the not too distant future it may be required by law.

Tools that provide this information in a structured manner will allow companies to save time and will bring added convenience.

● **Monitoring the animal's progress:**
Monitoring the clinical progress of the animals, in terms of productivity ratios, performance, health and protection against disease.

Each parameter will provide information on which parts of the process need to be changed or improved.

The generation of evidence and data on different changes in products, processes, feed, farm parameters etc. will help us to optimise investment and improve margins at such a critical time as the present.

This can be done at group and individual level.

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The greater the precision, the more control we will have over which actions are more efficient in terms of production and we will be able to determine better plans for improvement and optimisation.

Traceability is a supporting tool for producers to improve their management and performance indicators.

● **Having business intelligence tools:** Analytical tools are a key element today. They allow us to combine data from different sources and enable us to analyse data, carry out predictive analysis and identify patterns or trends, both positive and as warning signals.

Configuring dashboards through key indicators allows us to monitor the actions that we take on our farms and to identify if anything could get out of control or cause a future problem. Our control parameters must be both strategic and operational, in order to allow short, medium and long-term monitoring.

What is the role of Smart devices in open traceability?

Automatic vaccination devices are a very important tool for improving the working conditions of farm employees and have to ensure excellent quality of vaccination, but at the same time provide the maximum amount of information on treatment.

The devices have to minimise the impact of human error with sensors and algorithms, and have to always guarantee the correct application of treatments. They are a key tool to guarantee the efficacy of products in the animals.

Devices are the first element in automating the management of veterinary treatment data in animals. If possible, they should automatically provide information on the product, the process, the animal and the location of the farm.

Synchronisation of the data should have minimal impact on the operator process as otherwise their management would be complicated.

No device, no data

Management and analysis of treatment data combined with performance and diagnostic results provide total control over the health of our animals and improve productivity.

Reducing the number of data sources helps and simplifies subsequent data processing and facilitates their subsequent analysis. It is important to have reliable and structured data sources and that they are open. ■