Vaccination against Edema Disease in a Commercial Pig Farm

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Edema Disease caused by Shigatoxin Stx2e producing E. coli (STEC) is responsible for severe illness in pigs resulting in a high mortality during the flatdeck period and substantial economic loss. In a commercial sow farm the vaccine ECOPORC SHIGA was tested to evaluate the safety and efficacy as well as the reduction of oral medication to avoid edema disease.

In 2011, in the affected farm the mortality rate due to edema disease temporarily reached 15 % in the flatdeck despite extended oral antibiotic medication. From 2012 on, all farrowed piglets where vaccinated by one shot of 1 ml (i. m.) ECOPORC SHIGA (n = 5415) within first week of life. Mortality rate caused by edema disease, use of oral medication and growth performance where observed for vaccinated pigs till end of nursery phase and compared to historical data at the farm.No adverse reactions to the vaccine were observed. In the vaccinated groups, mortality due to edema disease was 0 to 1.2 %. Oral medication against edema disease where fade out completely. While in 2011 oral medication where given 3 – 4 weeks in nursery phase, in 2012 weaned piglets where only treated 1 – 1.5 weeks against Enterotoxin producing E.coli, causing diarrhea. With the control of edema disease by vaccination, the farmer increased energy and protein density in nursery feed to archive higher average daily weight gain. ▪