Preventing Swine Mortality Through Vaccination

ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Pork meat is one of the primary sources of global animal protein. The U.S. produces 11% of the world's pork, and in 2024, U.S. pork exports surpassed $8.6 billion in value. Furthermore, pork may overtake poultry as America's most exported meat by weight by 2033.

Respiratory infections are a significant cause of mortality in pigs and as they grow into hogs, and vaccination programs that address common viruses such as porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) are essential to protecting this vital food and trade product.

Oxford Analytica analyzed the impacts of respiratory disease on swine, including the implications of treated and untreated disease.

CONSEQUENCES OF UNTREATED RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN SWINE

Animal Welfare

100% EXPOSURE

Infected pigs (which can be asymptomatic) transmit PCV2 through direct pig-to-pig contact. The disease is known to be maintained within farms continuously, with some herds showing 100% exposure to the virus.

Lower Farm Efficiency and Higher Production Costs

$280 MILLION

Untreated respiratory disease could drive the cost of swine mortality to more than $280 million by 2030.

VALUE OF TREATING RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Animal Welfare

90% LESS MORTALITY RISK

PCV2 vaccines can reduce mortality rates in pigs from 8–10% in non-vaccinated pigs to 1–2% in vaccinated pigs

Economic Savings

$2.7 BILLION

Vaccination against PCV2 is estimated to result in production value savings of $2.7 billion by 2030, reflecting reduced loss of life and preserved production value.

Vaccination programs are cost effective, typically costing only one quarter of the economic losses associated with clinical disease in the absence of vaccines.

Environmental Benefits

12% REDUCTION

Vaccination programs can lead to a 12% reduction in CO_2 emissions due to improved feed efficiency and reduced resource use.

Anti-coccidiosis treatments, including synthetic drugs, ionophores, vaccines, and holistic farm management approaches, are essential to reducing mortality, improving animal welfare, and minimizing the ecological footprint of poultry production.

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