Effect of variation in oxytetracycline treatment of Lawsonia intracellularis diarrhea in nursery pigs on treatment-efficacy and resistance development

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The combination of lowered antibiotic consumption with improved production figures highlights the advantage of prophylaxis compared to treatment. Vaccination protects the pigs from onset of disease, thereby preventing damage to the intestinal mucosa, resulting in an increased growth rate of the vaccinated pigs compared to non-vaccinates (Bak and Rathkjen, 2009). Hence, vaccinated pigs perform better compared to non-vaccinated pigs, even if the non-vaccinated pigs receive antibiotic treatments after an outbreak of diarrhoea.

Conclusion

Preliminary results from the project are positive, indicating that it will be possible to produce at least 50% of the pigs without use of antibiotics. This is possible with herd relevant vaccination programs, including PCV2, Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae and Lawsonia intracellularis, and with continuous focus on caretaking and hygiene.

References

- DANMAP (2013): Use of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria from food animals, food and humans in Denmark. ISSN 1600-2032, p. 92.