

VACCINATION OF PIGLETS WITH PRRSV-MLV PROMOTES NURSERY STABILITY AND REDUCTION OF MORTALITY

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Background & Objectives

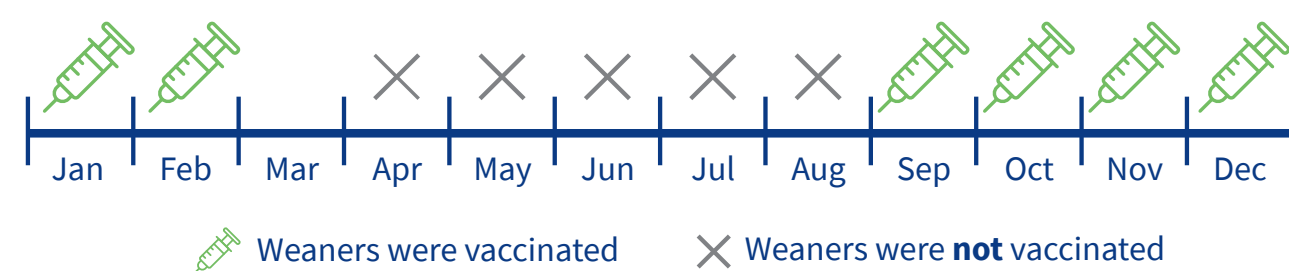
The aim of this report is to assess the effect of piglet vaccination over nursery mortality on a farm with an intermittent vaccination schedule.

Materials & Methods

Sow herd with 750 sows, Site I + Site II:

- Vaccinating with Unistrain[®] PRRS at 1 week after weaning

Vaccinating only the batches weaned between **August (week 32) and February (week 6)** of each year. (animals reared during winter months and with historically higher mortality)



Results

Vaccination of the piglets corresponded to lower levels of nursery mortality (3.1% versus 6.1%, $p < 0.001$). The average mortality rate was above 3% in only 8/20 months in which the piglets were vaccinated, whilst nursery mortality was above 3% in 9/11 of the months in which the piglets were not vaccinated.

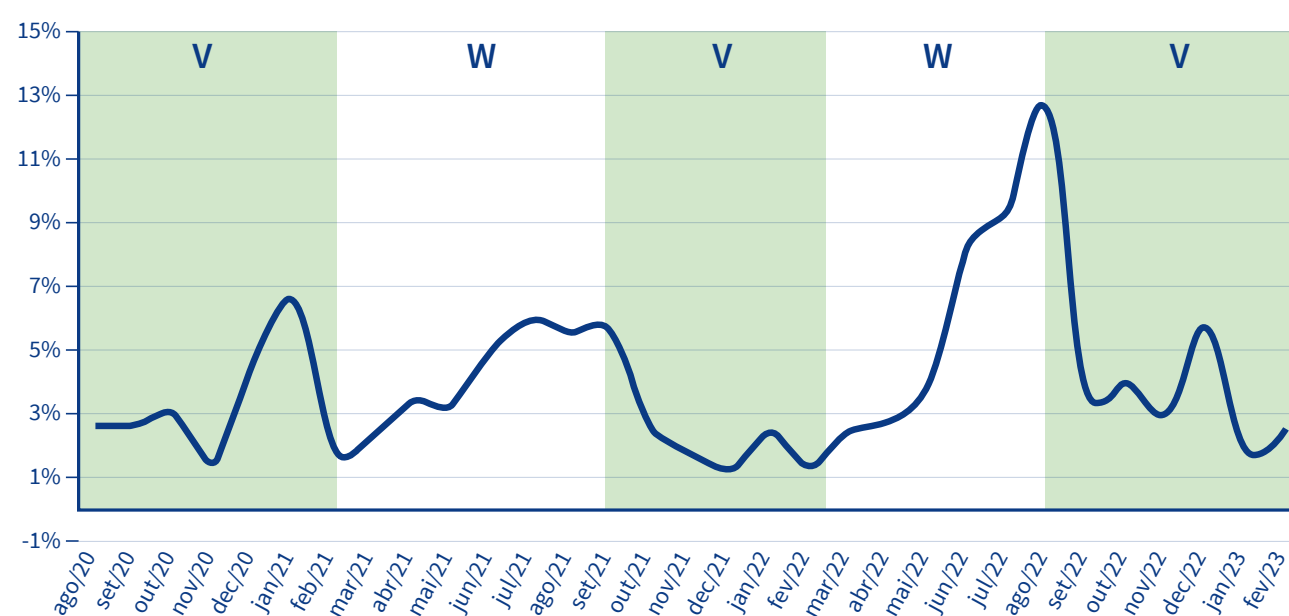
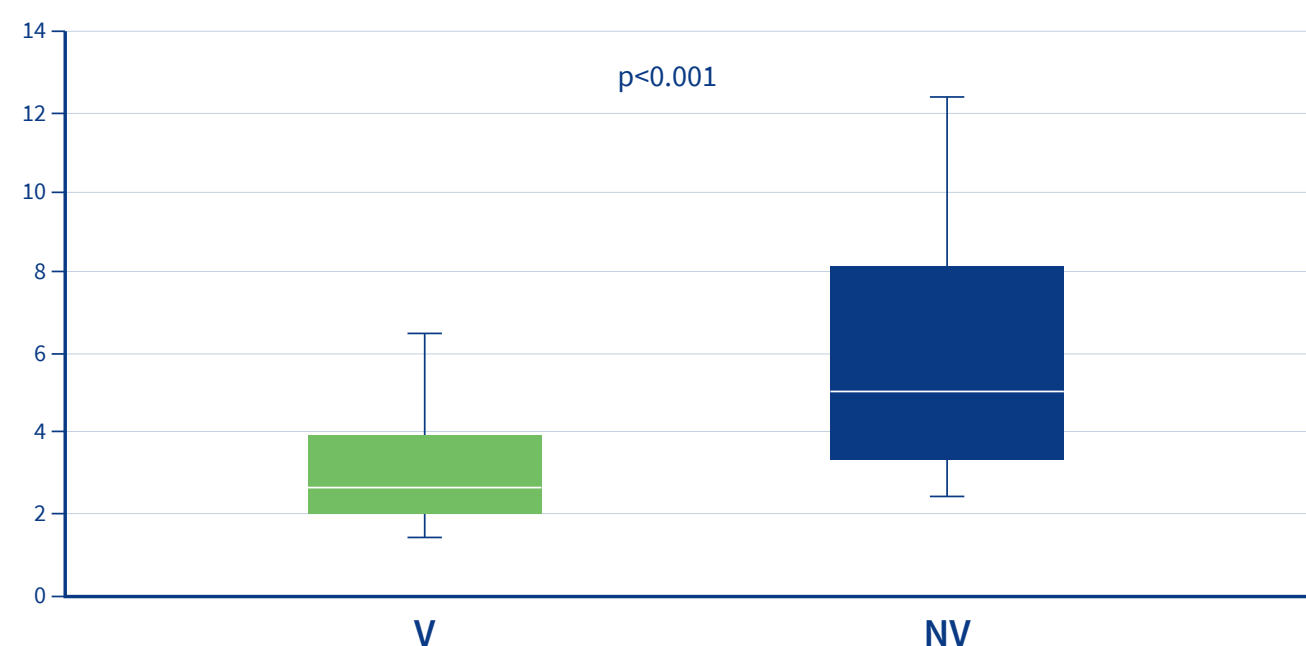


Figure 1. Monthly average nursery mortality between August 2020 and February 2023. In green the months when the piglets were vaccinated against PRRSV. In the summer of 2022, a peak of mortality was associated with a new PRRSV outbreak.

Figure 2. Average monthly mortality: 3.1% in vaccinated (V) versus 6.1% in non-vaccinated (NV), $p < 0.001$.



Discussion & Conclusion

The results suggest a relevant contribution of piglet vaccination (with a MLV vaccine) to the maintenance of lower levels of nursery mortality during the year. A continuous vaccination programme can provide long-term stability that intermittent vaccination programmes are unable to.

Code assign: HHM-PP-51