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GOOD VACCINATION PROCEDURES AND HIPRALINK® VACCINATION AS TOOLS TO OPTIMIZE PRRS VACCINATION MANAGEMENT

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Vaccines bring health benefits to pig herds, but their full potential cannot be achieved if they are not used *lege artis*[1]. The aim of the study was to demonstrate that the Good Vaccination Procedures (GVP) screening programme and HIPRALINK® are useful tools to assess the compliance of vaccination practices and identify critical failures of vaccine administration.

MATERIAL & METHODS

A PRRS positive-stable farm experienced a PRRSv outbreak, despite the vaccination programme established: piglet vaccination was performed at 12 days of age against *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and 2 days preweaning against PRRSv and PCV2; sows blanket-vaccinated against PRRSv every 4 months. Consequently, vaccination practices were assessed: HIPRA's GVP screening for intramuscular (IM) vaccinations, and HIPRADERMIC® screening and HIPRALINK® vaccination analysis for intradermal (ID) vaccinations.

RESULTS

Storage: fridge temperature exceeded 8°C and one expired bottle was used.

Hygiene (Table 1): syringes and needles for PRRSv-vaccine reconstitution were discarded only when no longer functional, bacterial and yeast/mould count for one of the piglet IM-syringes was 250,000 and exceeded 300,000 CFU/ml (respectively). Thehe HIPRADERMIC® devices were not always cleaned immediately after the end of a vaccination session.

Syringe	Total bacterial count at 37°C (CFU/ml)	Yeast and mold count (CFU/ml)
1	<10	<10
2	<10	<10
3	>300,000	250,000

Table 1.

Vaccination: PRRSv blanket vaccination in sows exceeded 4 months, sows were IM-injected too close to the ventral portion of the neck (Figure 1), the needles for piglet vaccination were too short and 28 out of 73 of the ID vaccination sessions were prolonged beyond the recommended time, exceeding 4 hours after reconstitution of the PRRS vaccine (2 vaccination sessions were only finished the following day).

Furthermore, the vaccination (for sows and piglets) was spread over several days, instead of finishing in one day. Hence, this approach implies that there is a higher probability that not all animals in a blanket-vaccination and/or production round are vaccinated, possibly influencing the PRRSv-instability in the herd.

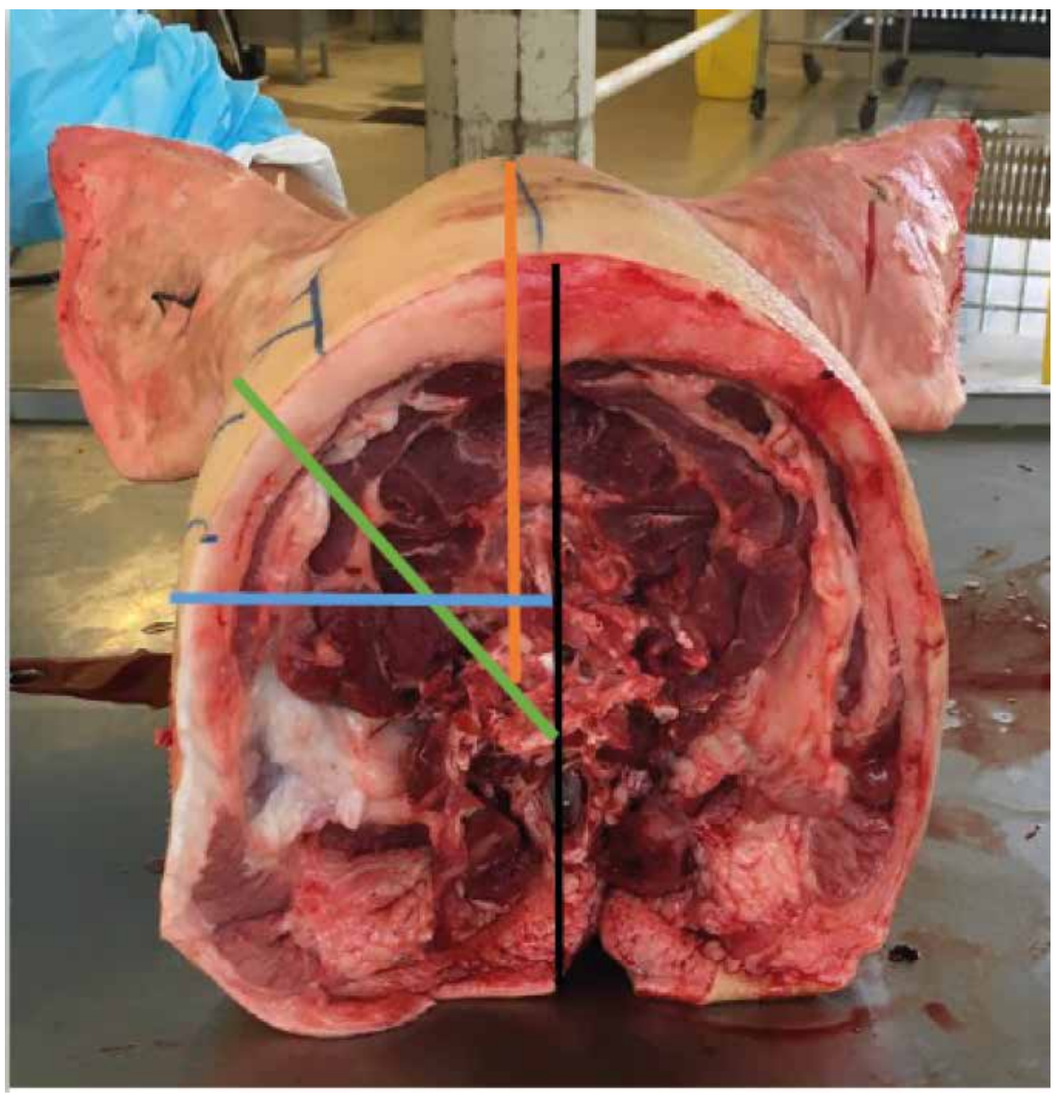

Figure 1. The IM vaccinations were administered below the green line, too close to the ventral portion of the neck.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Several failures were identified that can compromise vaccine effectiveness on the farm. The programmes presented were shown to have an additional value in investigating clinical problems in the herd, highlighting the importance of recording accurate data from vaccination procedures and the potential of the use of technology.

REFERENCES

1. Michiels A. Good Vaccination Practices in Pigs. Thesis in het kader van vakdierenarts varken. 2018-2019.