

# USING THE INDIVIDUAL PIG CARE (IPC) PROGRAM TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE HEALTH STATUS IN PIGS FROM HYPER-IMMUNIZED GILTS

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## INTRODUCTION

Increasing immunization in gilts will improve immunoglobulins transmission through colostrum to their progenies, resulting in growth performance and health status benefits.

Vaccination, especially against immunodepressive diseases such as postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS), might be a good strategy.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of intensive immunization of gilts on productive performance and health status of their progenies.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in a farrow-to-finish commercial farm in Mantova (Italy). Usual vaccination program of sows: Aujeszky, PRRS, Erysipela and Parvovirus.

### Experimental treatments:

- 8 multiparous (SOW): parities 3-6. Usual vaccination program.
- 8 gilts (GILT): usual vaccination program.
- 8 gilts (H-GILT): more intensively immunized adding Circovirus and colibacillosis vaccines.

### IPC program:

Health status of pigs was evaluated with the IPC program, based in daily keen observation of pigs, early detection of health problems and prompt reaction to them.

### Symptoms quantification:

#### A - pig



Mild signs

#### B - pig



Medium

#### C - pig



Serious

#### D - pig



Dying

### Type of disease:

- 1 - Digestive
- 2 - Respiratory
- 3 - Lameness
- 4 - Nervous
- 5 - Biting
- 6 - Other

It is based on fast electronic data collection and processing. Data were analysed as binary variables using the glimmix procedure of SAS (v 9.2).

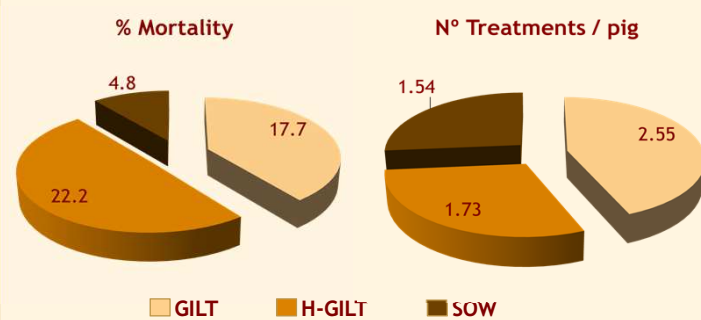


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## RESULTS

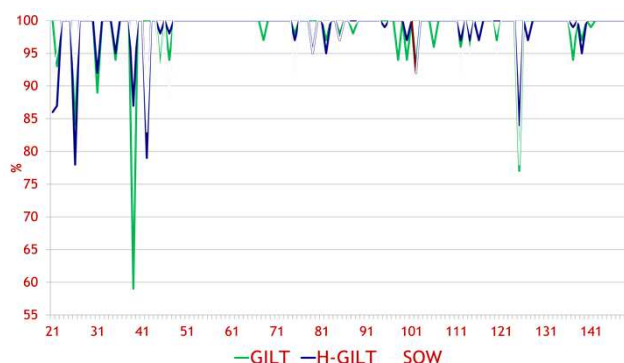
- Total % mortality was lower in the SOW group than in both gilt groups (Figure 1).
- Total number of injectable treatments applied per pig was lower in SOW and in H-GILT than in GILT group (Figure 1).
- Main causes of disease were:
  - o Digestive disorders after weaning: The SOW group showed lower incidence than both gilt groups
  - o Meningitis at the end of nursery period, which affected equally all three groups
  - o Respiratory disorders at fattening period, which mainly affected the GILT group

Figure 1- Percentage of mortality and number of antibiotic interventions per pig.



In Figure 2 is presented the health index of pigs in each treatment in nursery - fattening period. Health index is the % of healthy pigs at each moment, and was higher in SOW than in both gilt groups, and in H-GILT than in GILT group.

Figure 2- Health index in nursery and growing periods (21 to 150 days of age)



## CONCLUSIONS

- Intensive immunization of gilts decreased the incidence of disease, especially at the fattening period.
- The IPC program allows accurate clinical data information obtained in real-time.