



P.230

**Case control and management of virulent PRRS in a commercial farm in the Philippines**

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**Introduction**

For years, active PRRS infections in local swine farms have resulted in large economic losses for farmers because of poor breeding performances, high morbidities and medication costs and mortalities. In 2008, there were reports that PRRS strains similar to China were found in selected Philippine farms 2, which could have further increased the magnitude of this disease problem.

There are many approaches in stabilising herds with PRRS, however for farms located in areas with high density pig population, a good vaccination program seems to be the main and possibly the only option to take. We report here a case of a farm slowly getting back to profitability after months and possibly years of frustrating management of their PRRS problem.

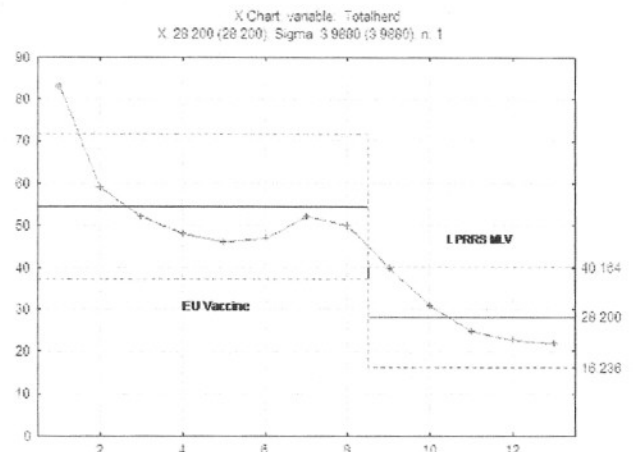
**Case description**

An 800+ sow level farrow to finish operation located in a farm estate in Bulacan Province Philippines have been experiencing the effects of an active PRRS infection. Mortalities in the pre-weaning and post weaning have been in alarming levels for months, and there was a reported 15 abortions per month observed. Farrowing rates have stayed in the 50 to 65% rates for sometime. Other pig farms are located in the same farm estate, one even located just a few meters away, many reporting their own problems in dealing with a respiratory and reproductive problems in their herds. The farm has had many control and management measures implemented, strict adherence to all-in all-out loading, breeding audits, farm personnel trainings, strategic medication programs and was already on a breeder mass vaccination and piglet vaccination program for PRRS Modified Live Vaccine (MLV) using a European strain vaccine. However, performances stayed at unsatisfactory levels. On September 2008, the farm decided to implement a shift to another PRRS vaccine (Ingelvac PRRS MLV®, Boehringer Ingelheim). They mass vaccinated the breeding herd and placed the piglet vaccination on day 21, improvements in piglet mortalities would be their major evaluation factor.

**Results**

A few months after the shift of PRRS vaccine used, the farm has reported a significant decrease in mortalities of piglets in both the pre-weaning and post weaning stages (figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Statistical Process Chart Data of Mortality showing the period of vaccinating with the EU strain vaccine as against Ingelvac PRRS MLV



Farm also reported a reduction in abortion cases by half after initiating the program in September and partly due to this, farrowing rates are now improving and already reaching the 80% level.

**Conclusion**

Despite dramatic improvements, the farm is still a case-control in progress, vaccinating with Ingelvac PRRS MLV just barely 6 months as of data availability. In spite of a virulent PRRS that hit the herd, which wiped out the piglets before weaning, the use of a VR2332-strain MLV showed that it can bring back the performance particularly livability to more acceptable levels.

**References**

1. Ballesteros, C. (2007). The 1st Asian PRRSpective, Shanghai, China. Pp. 52-54.
2. Philippine College of Swine Practitioners (2008). An Atypical PRRS Field Primer, p. 7.