20th International Pig Veterinary Society Congress

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We are delighted that the International Pig Veterinary Society Congress 2004, decided to select South Africa as the host country for the 20th IPVS Congress. The Pig Veterinarians of South Africa will ensure that this congress lives up to the best traditions of previous congresses; incorporating an interesting and topical scientific programme, fascinating accompanying persons tours and an excellent social programme, allowing delegates the opportunity to network with their overseas colleagues.

This, the first IPVS congress on the African continent, will undoubtedly be of enormous benefit in generating solutions to the emerging pig veterinary challenges, especially those related to exotic and changing viral diseases, decreased use of antimicrobials and nutritional advances. The congress is important to further pig veterinary science in South Africa, to encourage younger veterinarians to join the pig industry, as a vehicle to generate funds for research and to improve the pig industry in Southern Africa.

South Africa is a magnificent and beautiful country, and offers tourists value for money. Thus, pre and post congress tours will be a major attraction for delegates to come to South Africa. Durban, in KwaZulu Natal, is a vibrant multi-cultural city with magnificent beaches, easily accessible game parks, theme villages and a moderate winter climate making it an ideal tourist destination. We urge our colleagues throughout the world to use this opportunity to get a glimpse of the continent’s rich and fascinating wonders and to enjoy the hospitality of their African friends.

Dr Peter Evans
Chairman: Local Organising Committee: IPVS 2008
THE PREVALENCE OF LAWSONIA INTRACELLULARIS INFECTION IN CHINESE PIG FARMS

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Introduction

Enteric diseases in pigs have a substantial impact on the health related economic losses in pig farms. Especially Ileitis due to L. intracellularis infections increases the production costs considerably [1; 2]. Knowledge about the farm prevalence and the infections patterns in different age groups is essential for the development of efficient strategies for the prevention and treatment of Ileitis. Based on 2700 blood samples from 54 Chinese farms the prevalence of L. intracellularis infection has been investigated by using a blocking ELISA test [3].

Materials and Methods

The cross-sectional blood sampling included seven age groups to ensure that age dependent differences in the infection rate are considered adequately (Total: 50 blood samples per farm - 5 in sows ≤ 1st litter; 5 in sows > 1st litter; 5 in piglets at the start of nursery (3rd/5th week); 5 in pigs end of nursery (8th to 10th week); 10 in fatteners 13th, 18th and 25th week of age each). The farms were selected in the area surrounding two Mega-Cities (Beijing, Shanghai). The ELISA tests have been performed in accordance with the manufacturer's (Svanova) instructions at the China Agriculture University; at the Shanghai Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Station and in the laboratory of the Veterinary Medicine Institute, Swine Diseases Division, Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences. For each screened farm a detailed questionnaire describing the production management and clinical signs has been filled in.

Results and Discussion

The size of the farms included in the survey was between 150 and 7000 sows.

The average Chinese sero-profile for L. intracellularis shows the highest percentage of positive serum samples in gilts (83%) and sows (85%) (Figure 1).

The lowest prevalences were found in piglets at the start and at the end of the nursery and in fatteners 13 weeks of age. Nevertheless, each third pig is already seropositive at the end of the nursery. With the start of the fattening period a nearly linear increase in the prevalence from 33 % up to 51 % at the end of fattening is observed.

Compared to the average percentage of positive pigs within a farm, the percentage of positive farms is much higher. In 98 % and 74% of farms in China at least one fattener and/or breeding animals was diagnosed to be seropositive against L. intracellularis, respectively (Figure 2). About 70% of the Chinese pig farms are already positive at the end of the nursery. The comparison of seroprofiles from 342 European farms [4] with seroprofiles from 54 Chinese farms revealed considerably higher prevalences of L. intracellularis infection in Chinese piglets at the start and end of the nursery and in fatteners 13th week of life (Figure 2). At the end of fattening a lower seroprevalence was found in Chinese compared to European pig farms. Such pattern could possibly be influenced by differences in the antimicrobial feeding regimes.

References