



FACTSHEET

Vaccination for Pigs

With vaccines it is vital to follow the manufacturers recommendation, particularly with regard to the age of the pig and the possibility of maternal passive immunity. It is also important that the risk of each disease is assessed and the vaccine is only used if actually required (see table below).

With pet pigs and small units assessing the need for vaccination is equally important. In the author's opinion in the UK situation the only vaccine required by all pet pigs and in fact all commercial pigs as well, is against:

Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae

Vaccines to be given to sows to prevent abortion, and prevent vasculitis and death associated with infection.

***Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* + Parvovirus**

Pigs from 6 weeks of age should be given two injections 4 weeks apart of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* vaccine. A single injection of the combined vaccine should be given at least 2 weeks before mating. Then sows should receive a booster of the *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* vaccine every six months with the combined vaccine annually.

Porcine Parvovirus

Gilts and young boars over 6 months of age should be given a single dose two weeks before mating. Sows and boars require a booster dose annually.

PRRS

For a primary vaccination course gilts require two injections three to four weeks apart, at least three weeks before mating. Sows require two injections three to four weeks apart. Vaccination of all sows in the herd within a short period is recommended. Revaccination is one injection at 60 – 70 days of each pregnancy, starting from the first pregnancy following the primary vaccination course.

Vaccines to be given to sows to give passive immunity to neonatal piglets

Vaccination for Boars

Improvac

A 2 ml dose contains a minimum of 300 micrograms of GnRF analogue-protein conjugate. It can be used in male pigs from eight weeks of age to induce antibodies against GnRF to produce a temporary immunological suppression of testicular function (Figure 6.1). It causes a reduction in entire male pigs after puberty of:

1. Boar taint
2. Aggression
3. Mounting behaviour.

The onset of immunity can be expected one week after the second injection. 2 doses of 2 ml should be given sub/cut at least 4 weeks apart and at least 4 – 6 weeks before slaughter. There is in fact a zero meat withhold period. This vaccine should not be used in boars which are intended for breeding

Vaccination for Piglets

The piglet is born with no bacterial flora in its intestine and potentially damaging organisms will begin to colonise the gut from birth onwards. Vaccines given to the sow or the gilt prior to farrowing, aim to ensure that colostral antibodies are well targeted to combat these organisms.

Table of Vaccines

| Vaccine | Age of pig | Disease controlled | Importance | Extra details |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chemical Castration | Boars over 8 weeks of age | Boar taint, aggression and mounting behaviour | Only if slaughter is to be delayed | Not to be used in boars to be kept for breeding |
| Clostridial Disease | Breeding animals to protect piglets and to protect breeding animals | Neonatal scour due to <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> and sudden death in adults due to <i>C.novy</i> | Very important in outdoor pigs. Rarely required in indoor pigs | A vaccine linked with an <i>Ecoli</i> vaccine and a vaccine against Clostridial Disease on its own are both available in the UK |
| E coli | Breeding animals to protect piglets | Neonatal scour caused by <i>Ecoli</i> | Extremely important if piglets are becoming infected | Often linked with Clostridial vaccine. It is vital that the vaccine contains the correct K antigens |
| Erysipelas | All pigs over 6 weeks of age | All types of erysipelas | Vital for all pigs whether indoors or outdoors | Particularly important for smallholder pigs. Often linked with Parvo vaccination |
| <i>Lawsonia intracellularis</i> | All pigs over 3 weeks of age | <i>Lawsonia intracellularis</i> | Important where the disease occurs | Is given in the drinking water |
| <i>Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae</i> | All pigs over 7 days of age | Enzootic pneumonia | Extremely important | Can be given with <i>Haemophilus parasuis</i> vaccination |
| Porcine Circo Virus | All pigs over 2 weeks of age | PMWS | Extremely important | Careful consideration needs to be given to the timing of the vaccination |
| Porcine Parvovirus | Breeding animals to prevent reproductive problems | Parvovirus | Extremely important | Can be linked with Erysipelas vaccination |
| PRRS | Breeding animals to prevent reproductive problems | Prevent Blue Ear Disease | Very important | Vaccines used should be regularly monitored as new strains emerge |

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