

Comparison of fattening performances between castrated boars and immunized against GnRF ones.

Evaluation of the vaccination efficiency

Wavreille, J.¹, Boudry, C.², Romnée, J.M.¹, Froidmont, E.¹ and Bartiaux-Thill, N.¹

¹ Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, ² ULg, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech - Belgium - wavreille@cra.wallonie.be

Introduction

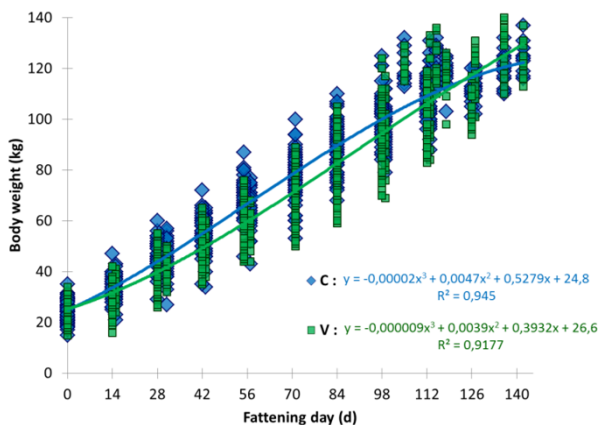
- In the medium term, surgical castration of pigs will be abandoned in Europe;
- Different alternatives are already being applied in and outside the EU such as rearing of males vaccinated to reduce boar taint;
- This alternative was studied to provide information to producers.

Material and methods

- 160 Piétrain x Belgian Landrace males: 82 pigs were **castrated** before 7 days of age (**C**), 78 pigs were **vaccinated** against boar taint with Improvac® (**V**);
- Both groups were housed under the same conditions and fed *ad libitum* during fattening period;
- The fattening performances were measured every 2 weeks and the behaviour observed around the second vaccination;
- At slaughter, the testis size and boar taint were evaluated

Results

➤ Body weight :



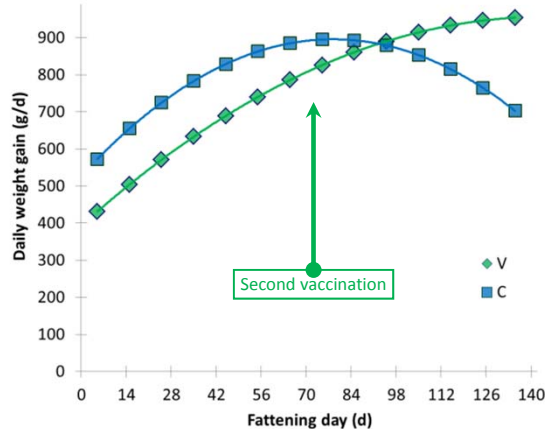
➤ Fattening performances :

	C	V	P-values
Initial BW (kg)	24,8	24,6	0,734
Final BW (kg)	120,4	122,1	0,169
Fattening period (d)	126	125	0,653
Daily weight gain (g/d)	771	790	0,113
Feed conversion ratio (kg/kg)	3,17	2,99	0,053

Conclusion

No effect on growth performance but evolution was different.
 Vaccinated pigs were more efficient resulting in a feed saving (~ 15 kg) during the fattening period.
 The vaccination efficiency was 100% for board taint.

➤ Daily weight gain :



➤ Behaviour :

After the second vaccination , the vaccinated pigs spent more time **lying** (74% vs 67% of time) and when they were standing, they spent more time at the **feeder** (12.6% vs 8.5% of time).

➤ Evaluation of the vaccination efficiency :

At slaughter, testis weight was 330 g. Only one exceeded 600 g. Human nose did not reveal any boar taint.