

INJECTABLE VACCINE PROVES GOLD STANDARD FOR ILEITIS CONTROL

Swine producers have many options for control of *Lawsonia intracellularis* (*L. intracellularis*), the bacterium that causes ileitis in pigs. If left unchecked, ileitis can cause significant economic impact in swine production units. Northeast Iowa pork producer Dietrich Johnson says that his reason for choosing to prevent ileitis with an intramuscular vaccine versus an oral vaccine or medicated feeds is simple — better pig performance.

For Johnson's 36,000 wean-to-finish operation, using an injectable vaccine provides him confidence and peace-of-mind that other ileitis control methods can't match.

"I don't need ileitis keeping me up at night," Johnson says. "I like the idea of using vaccines to help improve the health of our pigs, and I wanted a vaccine that was efficacious. One injection at weaning and I know every pig will be covered all the way to market. I no longer worry about the hassles of treating late-finishing pigs with antimicrobials — the cost, the withdrawal period, wondering if they all drank enough water to get a correct dose, and managing medicated feeds."

IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-MEDICATED WINDOW

Ileitis expert and Merck swine technical service veterinarian Greg Armbruster recommends that ileitis control methods be evaluated within the context of an operation's health and production issues. Armbruster also notes that some methods have limitations.

Oral vaccines, for example, limit when antibiotics can be used.

"Antibiotics are often used in the post-weaning phase of a pig's life to treat clinical and subclinical disease, which then establishes its health and performance throughout the finishing period," says Dr. Armbruster. "But producers should be aware that antibiotics cannot be given in the feed or water for several days before or after oral vaccines are administered or the vaccine organism may be rendered ineffective."¹

Studies have shown that the use of therapeutic antibiotics to treat underlying

one of the best products I've used. It's reliable, safe and consistently provides excellent control of ileitis."

With its 20-week duration of immunity, Porcilis Ileitis delivers 13 more weeks of protection than the competition.*

"Since switching to Porcilis Ileitis, I've seen an increase in average daily gain, improved feed conversion and decreased death loss," Johnson adds. "It delivers a reasonable return over the cost of the vaccine."

"PORCILIS ILEITIS IS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR MY OPERATION. IT'S RELIABLE, SAFE AND CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES EXCELLENT CONTROL OF ILEITIS."

— Dietrich Johnson, PAS, Iowa pork producer and consulting nutritionist

disease issues significantly improves a pig's performance.² "I value being able to use feed-grade antimicrobials during the nursery phase," Johnson says. "It has a lot of economic return, provides for judicious use of antimicrobials and sets the stage for extremely healthy pigs to go through the finishing stages. By giving up that non-medicated window, you could potentially lose out on important health benefits."

CONTROL WITH PORCILIS® ILEITIS

Intramuscular administration of the Porcilis Ileitis vaccine from Merck Animal Health enables the use of therapeutic antibiotics at any time necessary. Since viral infections like PRRSv or swine influenza commonly affect recently weaned pigs, appropriately chosen antibiotics are used to control other primary or secondary pathogens.

"Porcilis Ileitis is the gold standard for my operation," Johnson says. "It's been

The vaccine conveniently comes in a single bottle, which means no mixing or prepping.

"There's no reason for me to consider using anything else, I want to be a responsible producer who raises high-quality pork, and Porcilis Ileitis helps me achieve that goal."

ILEITIS FAST FACTS

- *L. intracellularis* resides primarily in the epithelial cells lining the ileum; thus, the common name "ileitis."
- Ileitis has three forms: subclinical, chronic and acute.
- The severity of the infection and clinical signs in individual pigs vary widely.
- A U.S. serological survey found that 96 percent or more of herds are exposed to *L. intracellularis*.³
- The subclinical form infects nearly 60 percent of U.S. swine herds between 10 and 26 weeks of age and can go undetected by producers, impacting weight gain and overall pig performance.³

¹ Boehringer Ingelheim. (2013, August.) Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns For Live Oral Vaccines. Retrieved from https://www.bivmedica.com/sites/default/files/dam/internet/ah/vetmedica/com_EN/documents/Disease%20Assets/Swine/Antibiotic%20Susceptibility%20Chart%20TB.pdf.

² Steidinger, et al. 2009 K-State Swine Day Report.

³ Bronsvort M, Norby B, Bane D, et al. Management factors associated with seropositivity to *Lawsonia intracellularis* in U.S. swine herds. *J Swine Health and Prod.* 2001;9(6):285-290.

* Frozen formulation; non-frozen formulation label does not include DOI.

For more information about the Porcilis Ileitis vaccine, talk to your local Merck Animal Health representative or visit www.merck-animal-health.com.

merck-animal-health-usa.com 800-521-5767

©2018 Intervet Inc., doing business as Merck Animal Health, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

SW-ILEITIS-ADVT-NHF-0419