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SDEC Partners Research Update

Project Update: Comparison of production losses between whole herd exposure programs to control PRRSv

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Funded by: Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc

Background

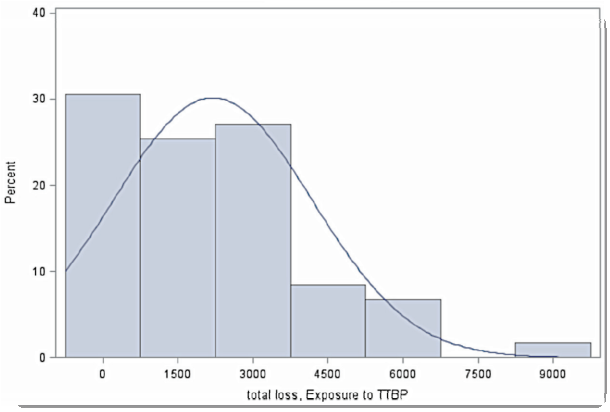
- PRRSv continues to cause significant pig production losses in North America and around the world.
- One common method to control PRRSv in acutely infected herds is the practice of Load—Close— Expose (LCE).
- In LCE, herd closure is combined with whole-herd exposure to either modified-live virus vaccine (MLV) or to the virulent resident virus inoculation (LVI).
- It is not known which method is most effective at reducing production losses.

Objective

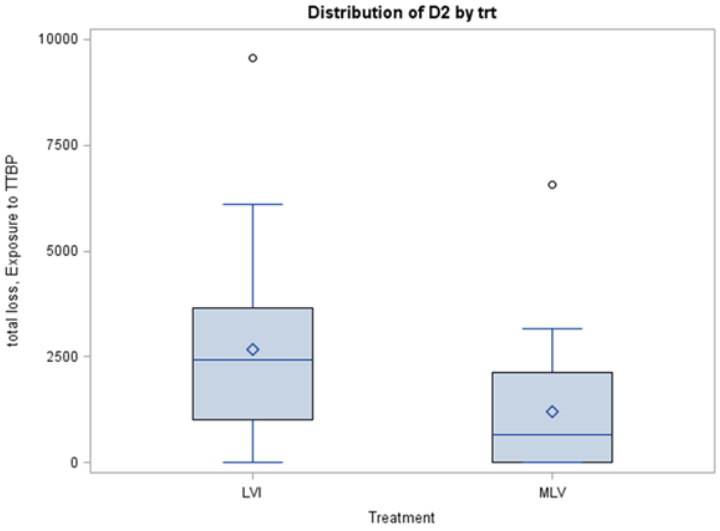
To compare the use of MLV and LVI exposure methods as measured by TTBP and total losses in herd closure PRRSv control programs

Distribution of total production loss:

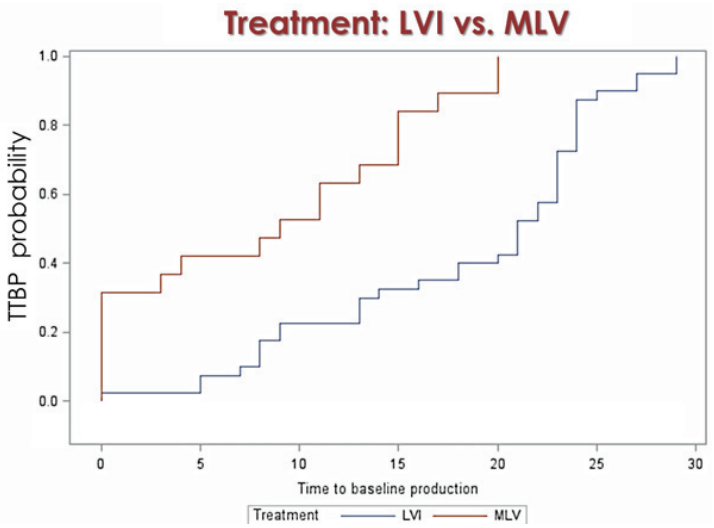
Substantial variation in total losses:
from 0 to over 9,000 pigs/1,000 sows



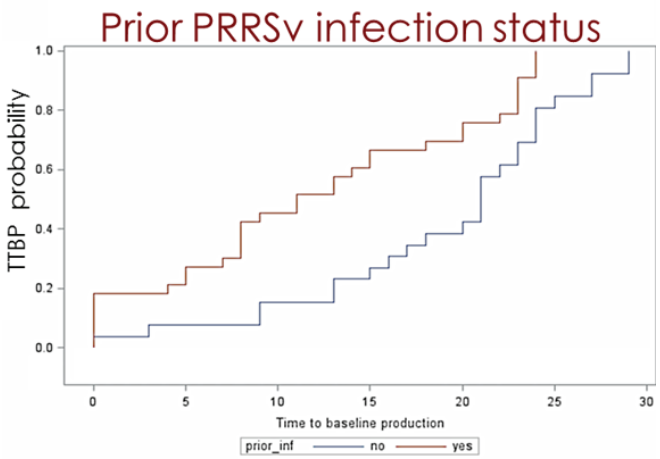
Results



MLV had less total herd losses
Difference of 1433 pigs per 1000 sows



MLV achieved TTBP sooner than LVI



TTBP was shorter for herds with "prior PRRS-infection"

Conclusions

- Herds treated with MLV recovered sooner and had a less severe production losses compared to LVI herds.
- Similarly, productivity was less impacted in herds with prior PRRSv-infection.

Implications

- There is a need to develop an economic model to balance the effects of TTNP, TTBP and total losses to help producers to make informed decisions between whole-herd exposure methods as part of herd closure programs.
- TTNP at weaning was not correlated with production losses or TTBP; therefore farms that have recovered productivity levels should keep biosecurity measures strict until there is diagnostic evidence to support that PRRSv is not circulating in the herd anymore.