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Circo virus Vaccines. Why We Do What We do.
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Unfortunately we can all remember the devastating financial and emotional impact circo virus associated wasting syndrome had on our industry. With the innovation of circo virus vaccine we saw the most influential animal health advancement of the last 20 years.

Due to the limited supply of vaccine creative ways to extend supply were implemented like using sow vaccine at lower doses on individual pigs and using circumvent at half dose.

Any vaccine intervention strategy at that point showed positive results. Once vaccine availability was adequate industry wide we saw a nursery death loss return to or even go below pre circo virus numbers. This showed us that even before the outbreak that circo virus was impacting our production.

Since then large numbers of trials have been done to see if different circo virus vaccine strategies will have different impacts on finishing pig average daily gains, feed conversion, and death loss.

First question to be answered: is there a financial benefit to using full dose vaccine over half dose vaccine.

Direct comparisons of the same vaccine at half dose to full dose or competing vaccines half dose to full dose consistently show an improvement of at least 1 % in death loss and an improvement in feed conversion amounting to a decrease of 4.5 kg of feed required to finish the same pig. At todays feed costs and expected value of the pig this spring that could amount to a difference of \$4 a pig to save half of the up front input cost.

Is there an advantage to a two shot vaccine vs. a one shot product?

In continuous flow, conventionally challenged herds a two shot program has been shown to increase returns by up to \$ 2.00 a pig. Although the predictability of this outcome is less than the half dose vs. full dose. Conventional immune science shows that a two shot vaccine always creates a stronger immune response.

Is there a difference in performance between different vaccine products?

We are confident with the products we have been currently recommending. Every farm and pig flow deserves specific vaccine recommendations. I always try to remember that small system changes can have unanticipated consequences. If we decide to make a change to save a dollar a pig input and it costs us a 0.05% in death loss and 0.05% in feed conversion it could be net loss of \$1.68.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Reg or I.

Yours truly,
Glenn Armstrong

