



135 Research paper

Effectiveness of alternative measures to reduce antimicrobial usage in pig production in four European countries

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In Significant Impact Groups:

Specific alternatives \ Other AMU reduction strategies

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;Adult;

Summary:

The reduction of antimicrobial usage (AMU) is in the focus in modern pig production. The objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of alternatives to reduce AMU at herd level. In a study, 68 farrow-to-finish pig herds located in Belgium, France, Germany and Sweden were recruited on a voluntary basis to implement tailor-made intervention plans to reduce AMU. Alternative measures included improvement of biosecurity, vaccination, changes of feeding schemes or drinking water quality, improved pig health and welfare care as well as changes in stable climate and zootechnical measures. Following tailor-made implementation of alternative measures, a substantial reduction of AMU in pig production was achievable without jeopardizing animal health. The AMU reduction in the youngest age categories (suckling and weaned pigs) and the reduction of group treatments via feed and water was in line with the recent European Guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine.

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Where to find the original material:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7050127/>; <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40813-020-0145-6>

Country: BE; FR; DE; SE