



328 Research paper

A 10-day vacancy period after cleaning and disinfection has no effect on the bacterial load in pig nursery units

by Luyckx, K., Millet, S., Van Weyenberg, S., Herman, L., Heyndrickx, 2016 BMC Veterinary Research 12: 326

In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Biosecurity \

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;

Summary:

Biosecurity measures such as cleaning, disinfection and a vacancy period between production cycles on pig farms are essential to prevent disease outbreaks. However, no studies have tested the effect of a longer vacancy period on bacterial load in nursery units. This study evaluates the effect of a 10-day vacancy period in pig nursery units on total aerobic flora, *Enterococcus* spp., *Escherichia coli*, faecal coliforms and methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Three vacancy periods of 10 days were monitored, each time applied in 3 units. The microbiological load was measured before disinfection and at 1, 4, 7 and 10 days after disinfection. Results show that prolonging the vacancy period in nursery units to 10 days after disinfection with no extra biosecurity measures has no impact on the environmental load of total aerobic flora, *E. coli*, faecal coliforms, MRSA and *Enterococcus* spp.

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