Anti-microbial reduction farmers view
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Pig Farmer – since 1970’s

Ifa north tipp county chairman

2 units

Breeding - 40kg
40kgs to finish on a separate site
How do I view anti-microbial’s

They are only been used where required and under WVD

While as an industry we are using antimicrobial's protocols by vets and farmers insures they do not enter the food chain
How do I view anti-microbial’s

- Significant cost
- Administration – labour associated with their use and recording
- Using for a reason – disease increase cost per kg pig sold
What have I done over the years to reduce usage of anti-microbial’s

- Prevention
- Biosecurity
- Staff & Training
- Facilities & Capital investment
Prevention
All in all out – no mixing of pigs

- More difficult to achieve than you think
- Difficulty in convincing staff of benefits
- All in all out – piglets weaned weekly remain in the same group until slaughter

- Slow stream – 10% pigs – these pigs are grouped together all the way to slaughter
Slow stream get an extra 4 weeks in grower phase – separate finishing accommodation
Health

• Comprehensive vaccine policy – review this regularly with vets

• Prrs eradication programme

• Regular visits from vets

• Flow of pigs through the unit
Disinfection

- All houses cleaned between batches
  - Hot wash
  - Foam
  - Disinfectant
Staff

• Shower in - clean clothes provided every day
• Foot ware provided
• Minimise movement between sections and foot ware changed and disinfected if staff have to move

Helps create awareness among staff of the importance of biosecurity
Staff

- Training provided by vets Nutritionist Teagasc, e.t.c

- Examples – explain why biosecurity is important
- Getting them to follow labels and vets instructions - carry out protocols and procedures correctly
- Administration of vaccines
Staff

• Provide them the facilities to do their job
Feeding regime - emphasis on getting a good quality, lively pig born, plenty of colostrum
Key areas-

• Sow condition at farrowing - actively monitor dry sow condition during the dry period

• Increasing feed in late gestation to get a better piglet born – 50mj from day 85
• Feeding post farrowing is ad-lib, dual climate control to maximise feed intake
Feeding regime at weaning - high risk time for disease outbreak

- Put a significant effort into feeding newly weaned pigs
  - Day 0 to day 7: 300g per day
  - Day 8 to 14: 500g per day
Buildings and facilities

- Significant investment in buildings and ventilation systems
- Important for the pigs but also staff
- Critical to pig health - difficult to justify investment given market returns
Recently invested in a new lairage facility –
Reduce risk of disease coming in to finishing houses via transport and drivers
Pigs are loaded into the lairage pens from here
9 pens 28 pigs

Driver takes the pigs from this section
Other Biosecurity measures

- No live animals bought in all AI – not without risk
- All lorries kept at perimeter
- No drivers allowed on site
Reducing microbial use into future

• Pig farmers can’t do it alone

• None of the problematic diseases originated in Ireland e.g. PRRS

• Significant threats - PED, swine fever, American PRRS
Reducing microbial use into future

• Novel diseases cause significant issues on pig farms that have other diseases – mixed infections
Reducing microbial use into the future

- Voluntary code for importation of animals - all island approach ????

- Factory monitoring of pig health with information back to farms

- Proper diagnostics – Backweston

- Is there potential for eradication of some diseases example PRRS???
Reducing microbial use on the future

- TAMS – schemes to upgrade facilities—good facilities have a significant impact on disease

- Will the market pay enough to pay a return on investment
Thank You