

Cost effectiveness of fattening of Improvac® vaccinated versus surgical castrated boars under German field conditions

Sattler, T.¹, Rausch, R.² and Schmoll, F.^{1,3}, ¹University Leipzig, Large Animal Clinic for Internal Medicine, Germany, ²Veterinary Practice, Priestewitz, Germany, ³AGES, Institute for Veterinary Disease Control, Austria; tasat@vetmed.uni-leipzig.de

Vaccination of boars with Improvac® is a proven and animal friendly alternative to surgical castration to prevent boar taint. An improvement of both growth performance (daily weight gain) and carcass quality is well known, but calculations of profitability in large fattening farms are still needed. Objective of the study was to determine the economic impact of fattening Improvac® vaccinated boars compared to surgical castrated boars under German field conditions. In the study a total of 660 Improvac® vaccinated boars and 755 surgical castrated boars were assigned to three fattening groups. Daily weight gain, number of days to marked, carcass weight, lean meat percentage and price per kg carcass weight and per carcass were recorded and evaluated. Daily weight gain in Improvac® vaccinated boars was significantly higher than in surgical castrated boars (1,013 g versus 978 g). Improvac® vaccinated boars reached a significantly higher carcass weight (98.6 kg) in 99 fattening days and had leaner meat percentage (55.6%) than surgical castrated boars (97.6 kg, 101 days and 53.5%). At slaughtering general price per kg carcass weight (56% lean meat) was between 1.50 € and 1.56 €. Results presented in this study showed that Improvac® vaccinated boars realised a significantly higher average price per kg carcass weight and per carcass (1.52 €, 150.55 €) compared to surgical castrated boars (1.47 €, 143.99 €). In consistence to previous studies better growth performance and better carcass quality were reconfirmed at our study under field conditions too. An equal payment at slaughterhouse provided, the economical impact of vaccination with Improvac® compared to surgical castration is relevant (6.56 € per carcass at our study) and will compensate and mostly exceed the costs for the vaccination.