

Irish pig units control ileitis with new vaccine

Irish field trials have produced promising results for Enterisol Ileitis, the new vaccine against porcine ileitis (PIA). Three pig units in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland were selected for the trials, each of which had previously been using antibiotics to try to keep ileitis at bay. The vaccine was used in piglets and, according to the vaccine manufacturers, the benefits gained by the herds from using the vaccine included "an end to scour, the removal of in-feed medication, faster growth, improved feed efficiency and more uniform pigs for the processor."

One of the producers involved, Mark Adams from Northern Ireland, says the use of the vaccine has had other surprising benefits, including a reduction in tail biting in his second-stage pigs. "I was suffering pig losses from tail biting, and if I had gained no other benefit apart from curing this problem it would still be worth using the vaccine," he said. Mark now vaccinates his pigs individually at three weeks old (right). "It is a little more labour intensive, but the results make the effort worthwhile," he said. "The change in the pigs is amazing. They have a nice bloom, finished groups are more uniform and reach slaughter weight days earlier. The absence of ileitis and tail biting makes them nicer to manage."

