

# Up to date survey on *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* acclimation of gilts in the Spanish swine industry



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## INTRODUCTION

The introduction and management of replacement gilts is an important topic with regard to the control of *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (*M. hyo*) in the farm<sup>1,2</sup>. Improper acclimation may result in *M. hyo* colonization of the suckling piglets and increased *M. hyo* related respiratory disease in growing pigs<sup>3,4</sup>. This survey is the second part of a previous one on the same subject whose objective was to about procedures and methods of the *M. hyo* gilt acclimation protocols in Spanish swine farms<sup>5</sup>.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey includes 16 questions designed to identify which gilt acclimation methods for *M. hyo* are currently being used in Spanish farms nowadays. The survey covers different farm related factors, demographics and details structure of health protocols:

- Source Status
- Age of exposure
- Gilt Flow
- Exposure procedure
- Timing
- Final status verification Vaccination
- Sow herd *M. hyo* stability

## RESULTS

The survey was completed by 116 production systems representing 639.695 sows from different regions in Spain. The average production system size was 5.515 sows. The most important findings were:

- 42% Receive Naive gilts into positive farms.
- 60% of farms have a replacement rate higher than 50%.
- 75% of farms practice late age acclimation, beyond 15 weeks of age.
- 79% of farms do not acclimate to the herd specific strain.
- 53% of farms use vaccines against *M. hyo* during the acclimation.
- 77% of farms do not perform diagnostics to verify an adequate acclimation
- 63.4% of farms use antibiotics during the acclimation process.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

While a high percentage of the producers or veterinarians (88%) are convinced that a proper gilt acclimation program plays a major role in the *M. hyo* stability of their farms. 54% of the respondents did not rely on their methods. The majority of them do not have a clear definition of sow herd stability and the time needed for a proper acclimation and consequently start the process too late. Besides, 77% do not verify the acclimation process of the gilts. Therefore, the survey reveals some opportunities to improve the acclimation process such as the followings:

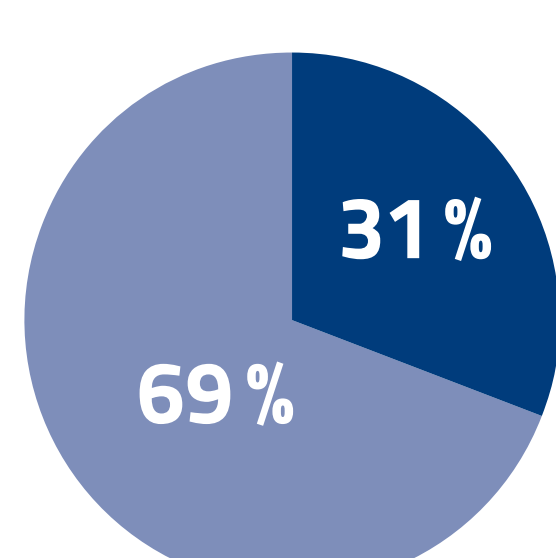
- The implementation of an early and efficient exposure method is needed.
- A "Best practice" for *M. hyo* diagnostics has to be developed.

## REFERENCES

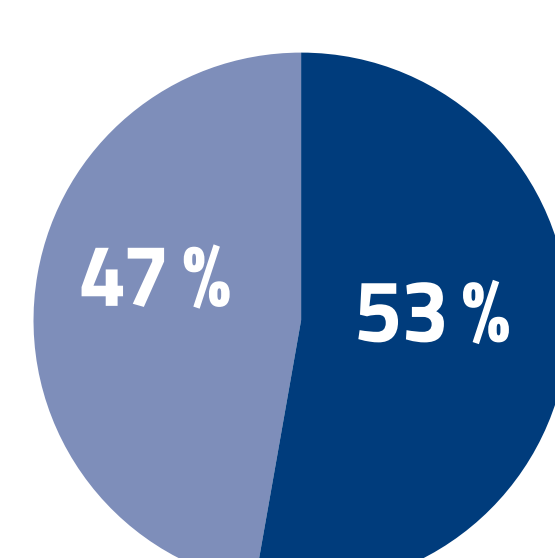
1. Maes, D et al (2000) *Vet Res* 31 (3): 313-327
2. Centeno, N et al 2016 *IPVS PO PF3* 304
3. Fano, E. and Payne, B. 2015 *ESPHM P2015*
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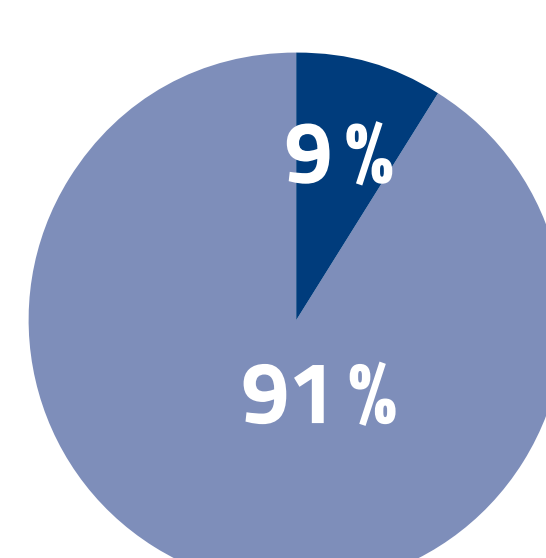
Continuous Flow  
Acclimation



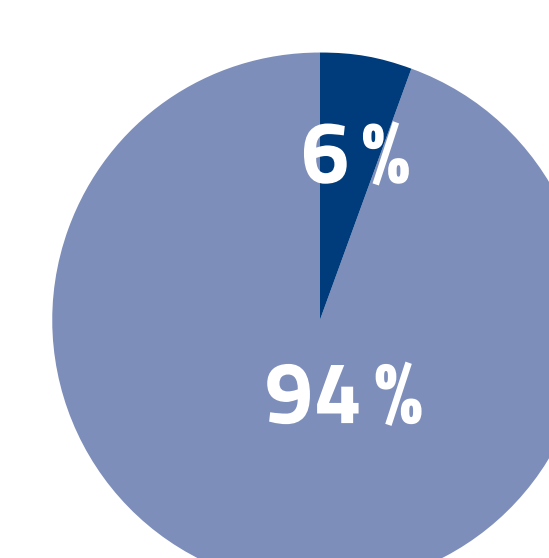
*M. HYO*  
vaccine in gilts



Cull Sows Used  
to Acclimate



Young Pigs Used  
to Acclimate



Lung Homogate  
Acclimation

