

Field observation: No adverse reactions after ReproCyc® PRRS EU mass vaccination of sows



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INTRODUCTION

As part of the Dutch Aujeszky Disease eradication program it was obligatory to mass vaccinate sows 3 times a year (Elbers 2011) until the end of vaccination program in December 2007. Because of (presumed) side effects, farmers were often unwilling to vaccinate sows in first month and in the last weeks of gestation. This history made a lot of the Dutch farmers to disapprove any advice on mass vaccination of the sows ever since.

In 2015 a new PRRS vaccine for sows is introduced for the Dutch market (ReproCyc® PRRS EU, Boehringer Ingelheim). Mass ReproCyc® PRRS EU vaccination of the sows 3 to 4 times a year is recommended by the manufacturer, which led to questions from the field on the safety of the vaccine in all stages of the sow cycle.

The objective of this field observation was to evaluate adverse reactions after mass vaccination of sows with ReproCyc® PRRS EU under field circumstances.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

On a Dutch 1,300 sow herd, with a weekly rhythm, pregnant sows are housed in 3 dynamic groups of 350 sows. Sows enter the groups within 5 days after being inseminated.

The sows were mass vaccinated with ReproCyc® PRRS EU on 30 June 2015 and 5 October 2015. For one week before to one week after the October mass vaccination daily records were kept of sows that did not consume their daily feed ration at the Electronic Sow Feeders (ESF) (Manibeck, Pigtek). The following parameters were obtained from the management system (Agrovision): percentage of re-breeders (weekly) from 4 weeks before to 4 weeks after mass vaccination, and the percentage of pre-weaning piglet mortality per month (year to date) (this was assumed to be a reflection of the sow's wellbeing).

RESULTS

After the mass vaccinations no adverse reactions were seen by the farmer and his staff. See figure 1 to 3 for the evaluated parameters.

Figure 1: Sows not eating their daily ration (as percentage of all sows at ESF), *introduction of new animals in the groups (30 sept and 7 oct, orange bars), **mass vaccination ReproCyc® PRRS EU (5th of oct, green bar)

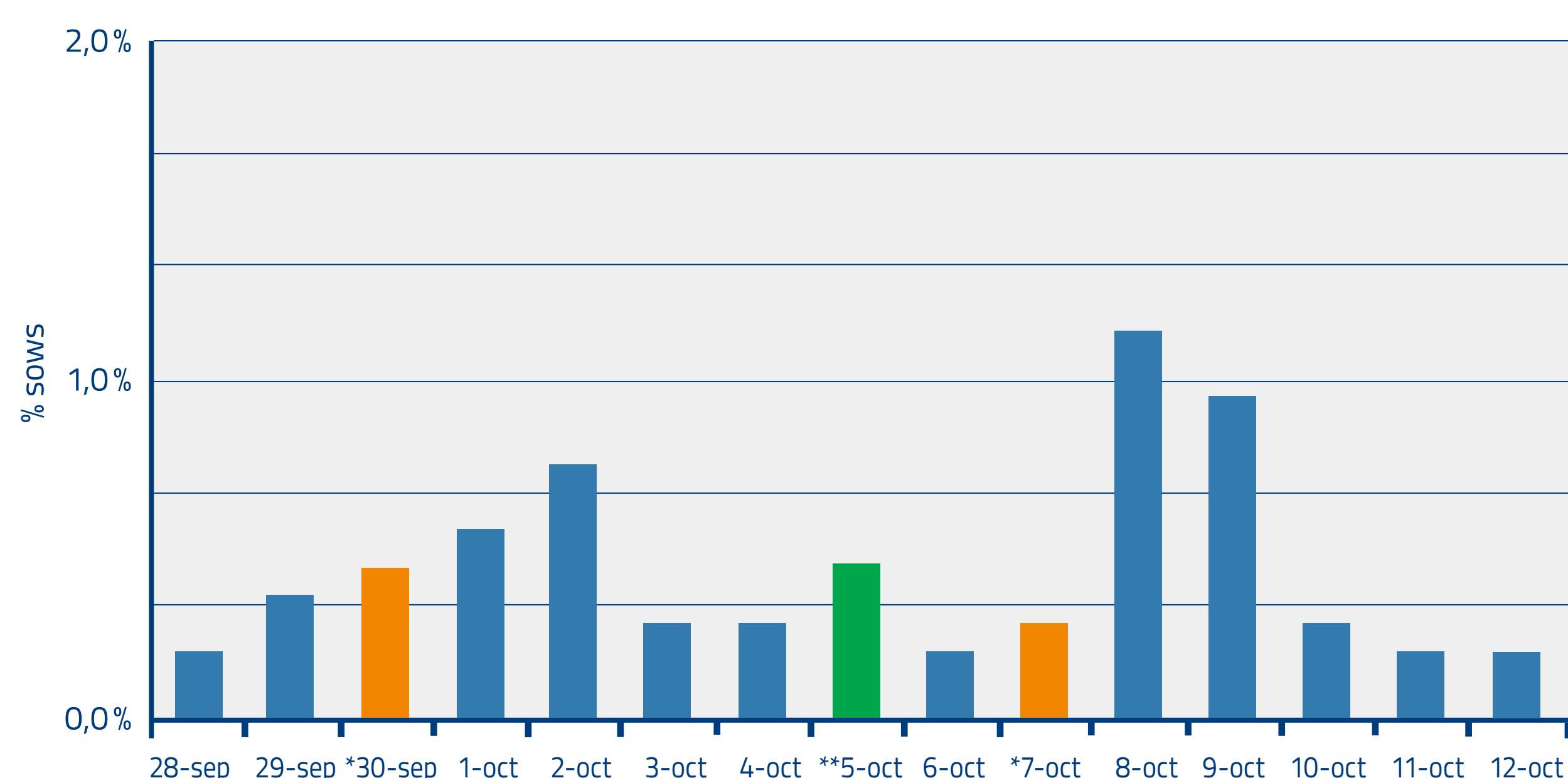


Figure 2: Rebreeders (%) per week; 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after mass vaccination at 5 October

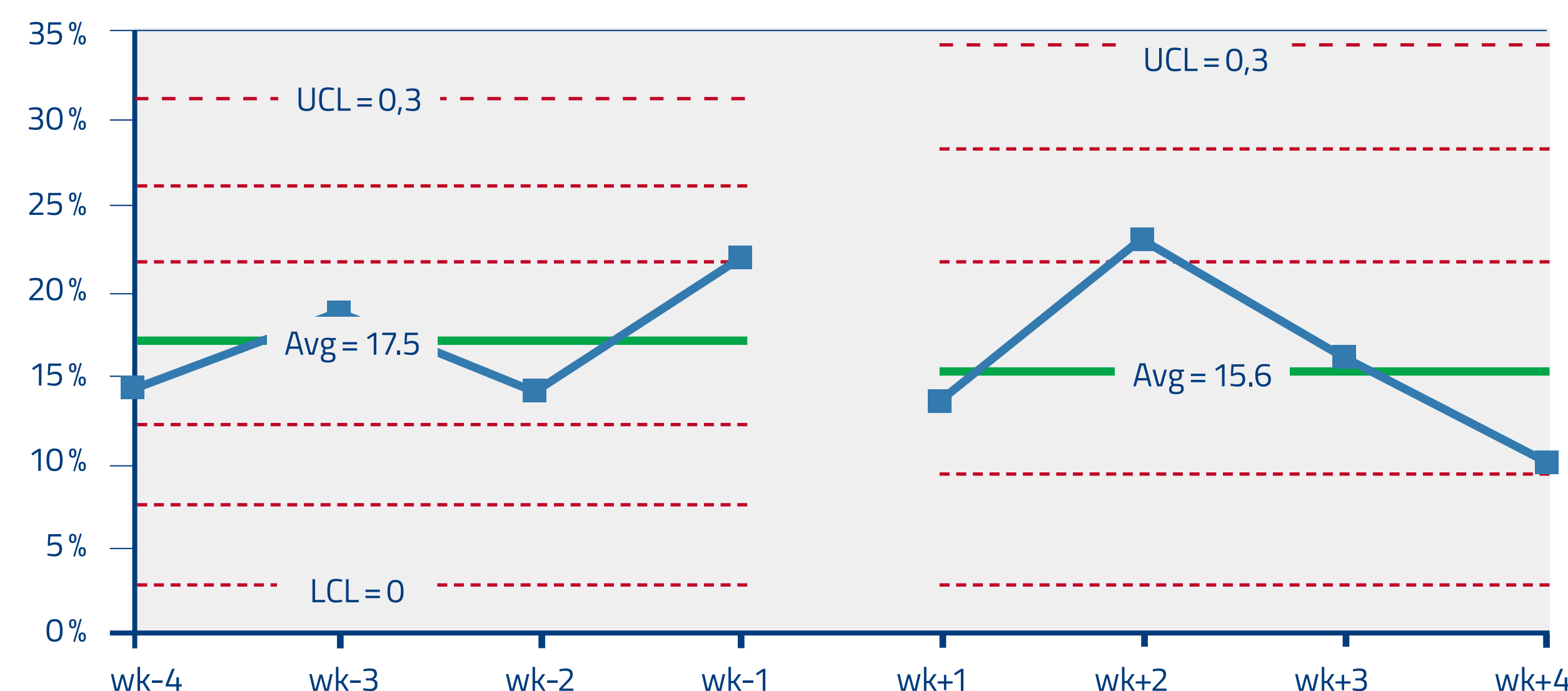
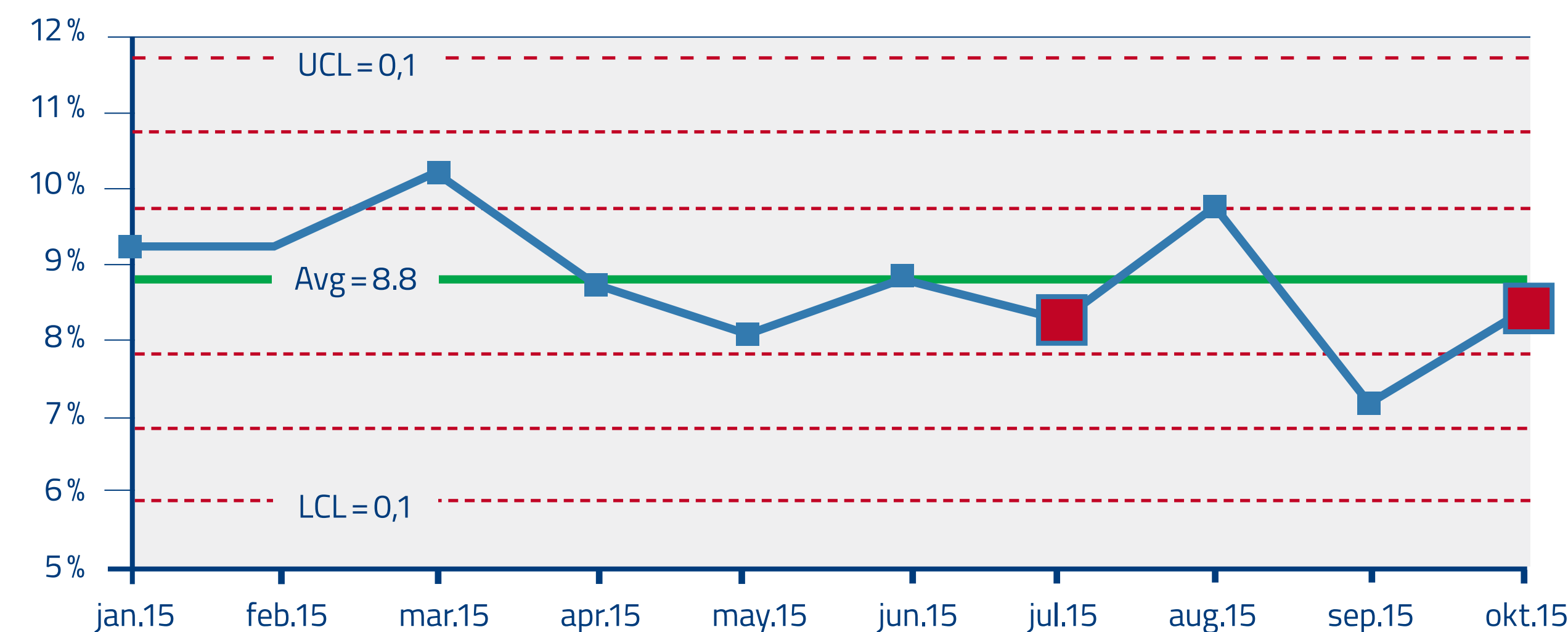


Figure 2: Pre-weaning mortality (%) per month. Red markers show the months following mass vaccination.



DISCUSSION

Any effects on feed intake can be expected within two days after vaccination, this was not observed after mass vaccination at 5 October. The observed negative effects on feed intake seems to be a result of newly introduced sows in the groups at 30 September and 7 October, which is a common finding at this farm.

We assumed that effects of re-breeding could be expected in the weeks following vaccination. The percentage of re-breeders in the weeks before and after mass vaccination at 5 October was 17,1% and 15,6% respectively, so no increase of re-breeders was observed.

When sows do not feel well we assumed the sows to have more problems fostering their piglets, leading to an increase in pre-weaning piglet mortality. No increase of mortality after vaccination could be observed.

The results of this evaluation show a good safety of ReproCyc PRRS EU used in mass vaccination in sows, which is in line with other studies (Kraft 2015, Stadler 2015).

REFERENCES

- Elbers *et al* (2011) *Veterinary Quarterly*, 22:2, 103 – 107
- Kraft (2015) *Int.PRRS Congres, Ghent Belgium 2015*; P. 37
- Stadler (2015) *Int. PRRS Congres, Ghent Belgium 2015*; P. 47

