BEYOND THE HELIX

RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PRRS PERSISTENT INFECTION IN SOW FARMS

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In a recent study aimed at understanding the risk factors associated with Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) persistent infection in breeding herds undergoing closure, DNA Swine Genetics highlighted the significance of the animal's age at the time of infection and breed as critical determinants. Results indicated that younger animals at the time of infection had higher odds of becoming persistently infected, emphasizing the importance of strategic gilt loading practices to mitigate this risk.

Along with the age of the animal, the breed also played a role. It was found that Meishan pigs exhibited a greater likelihood of persistently carrying the virus compared to Landrace or Duroc breeds. Given their frequent movement around farms for heat detection purposes, Meishans could serve as a continuous source of virus shedding, risking re-exposure to other animals on the site.

The study further explored innovative test and removal methods using tonsil scrapings, which significantly shortened herd closure times compared to traditional practices. These findings advocate for timely identification and culling of infected animals, suggesting that implementing these measures could potentially improve control efforts and herd health in PRRS management.

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