

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO TESTIMONIAL

Dr Hans Verhoeven
Veterinarian
The Netherlands

In August 2008 Dutch Veterinarian Dr Hans Verhoeven began a five-month trial using IMPROVAC®*.

In April 2009 he told us of his experience:

“The most positive effect of IMPROVAC is the welfare, there is no need to castrate anymore; I think that is the most important benefit of IMPROVAC.

The main problem is not at the moment of the surgical castration, but it is later when you put the piglet back in the pen – then the pain starts. With IMPROVAC there is no scar, there is no nothing, so I think that is the main thing. It is a major step forward in the welfare issue; it is a step forward in feed conversion and carcass quality.

The streptococcus infection goes down, there's less work for the farmer, so I think we've got an enormous benefit there.

Later on in the chain we've got another benefit – that is fattening boars. And by fattening boars we've got a better feed conversion and a better carcass at the end in the slaughter house. We found in our trial that the feed conversion is about 10% better than in untreated animals, and especially in the Dutch case, there is also a huge benefit because 10% less feed in general means 10% less manure as well.

The support I received from Pfizer [Animal Health] was absolutely fantastic because they got it already in other parts of the world – they've got so much experience with it, so if I've got any questions about what's going on, they knew already the answer and they knew already that the question was coming!

IMPROVAC is easy to use because it comes in a ready-to-use solution, it comes with a safety syringe, and I'm quite convinced we can give the farmers training so they can safely supply the vaccine into the pigs.

In summary, for me, the key subject is welfare is much better with IMPROVAC, the feed conversion is better with IMPROVAC, and the carcass quality is better with IMPROVAC, so I think those are absolutely the main three issues for me in the practice.”

* Originally introduced in 1998 as IMPROVAC®, regulatory considerations have required different names for the same product in other parts of the world. Thus, IMPROVAC may appear in other markets as VIVAX*, IMPROVEST® and INNOSURE®.