

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO TESTIMONIAL

Seeing is Believing
Hans Breitenmoser
Swine Producer
Appenzell, Switzerland

In many swine markets around the world, vaccination is replacing physical castration as the method of choice for avoiding boar taint. The technology has now been licensed in over 50* countries and was recently introduced in Switzerland, where Hans Breitenmoser runs a swine production unit in Appenzell.

Hans is always interested in developments that could benefit his operation, but admits to being sceptical towards new ideas.

However, the promise of improved feed conversion efficiency, and an end to physical castration, was too good to ignore.

“In Switzerland feed costs are extremely high, so yield and economy has to be adjusted to our specific situation. Sometimes feed is 30, 50 or 100% more expensive than, for example, in Germany.”

So when Mr Breitenmoser was offered the opportunity to see how IMPROVAC®** was being used in the commercial setting, he jumped at the chance. Many of Brazil’s biggest pork producers have been using IMPROVAC for more than a year, and over two million pigs have been vaccinated. What better place to see the new production method in action.

“I was allowed to visit several pig fattening and slaughtering operations in Brazil together with Pfizer [Animal Health], and I was able to receive information from all areas of operations.”

“These visits convinced me that vaccination could also be adopted in our operational setting without any problem.”

Pfizer [Animal Health] also gave Mr Breitenmoser the unique opportunity to meet influential specialists and scientists, who confirmed the safety of IMPROVAC. This gave him peace of mind with regards to the commercial use of the product, especially on the issue of consumer safety.

After the visit to Brazil, Mr Breitenmoser decided to put vaccination to the test in his own business with the help of Pfizer Animal Health.

“So far with these tests we have vaccinated 700 animals against boar taint. The vaccination has been executed twice and they have already been slaughtered. The test results were, without any exception, very good for all the stakeholders and for the animals.”

“Tainted meat was not found in one single animal that had been slaughtered. We can really say that no single animal smelled – so no tainted meat.”

The experience has convinced Mr Breitenmoser that IMPROVAC can be adopted in place of physical castration without any major costs to the business.

“I now am convinced that castration is no longer necessary.”

* 22 at the time of recording.

** 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®.