



PIG HEALTH

UPDATE

PIG PRODUCTION NEWSLETTER FROM MSD ANIMAL HEALTH

ISSUE 11 | SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Celebrating 5 years of Porcilis Lawsonia



The last five years have certainly been eventful and just before the world went in to lockdown in 2020, MSD Animal Health launched Porcilis Lawsonia, Europe's first intramuscular ileitis vaccine. Followed shortly by the intradermal version, it has transformed the management of post-weaning diarrhoea on many Irish farms.

Lawsonia intracellularis is found on nearly every pig farm in Ireland and this common bacteria is known to cause permanent damage to the gut lining of infected piglets. As a result, feed absorption is affected for the remainder of the pigs' lives, long after any scouring has passed.

"We knew that this was a very effective vaccine at controlling the transmission and signs of disease, but talking to farmers that are using the vaccine we've heard some great first-hand stories regarding behavioural benefits around aggression and tail biting, as well as improvement in the evenness of batches of pigs at finishing," explains Maureen Prendergast, MSD Animal Health Swine Technical Manager.

Porcilis Lawsonia can also be mixed with Porcilis PCV M Hyo for intramuscular use and with Porcilis PCV M Hyo ID for intradermal administration, making it convenient to slot into existing farm vaccination protocols. Always speak to your vet about vaccination.



In this issue of Pig Health Update we're delighted to introduce our latest intradermal vaccine, Porcilis PCV M Hyo ID. The result of many years of research and development, it can be administered alongside other intradermal vaccines to protect against four diseases in a single vaccination event.

MSD Animal Health has always sought to support high-welfare pig production, not only through ground-breaking Porcilis vaccines like PCV M Hyo and Lawsonia, but also through IDAL intradermal technology and more recently through Lee-O tagging and management systems. We have combined these pillars into Porcilis Protect & Connect to improve our business offering to vets and farmers for the future.

Of course, the personal relationships, technical support and practical help that we offer the industry here in Ireland won't change. I look forward to meeting many of you at IPHS on 8th April at the Curragh.

Thomas Gallagher,
Swine Business Unit Director

Porcilis®  **Ery + Parvo + Lepto**
The efficacy of a triple protection

Use medicines responsibly.

Legal Category: RoI: LR NI: POM-V

*Caused by pathogens contained in the vaccine, see SPC.

TURN ON THE TRIPLE PROTECTION AGAINST REPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS*





Introducing Porcilis[®] PCV M Hyo ID

The newest, ready-to-use combined vaccine from MSD Animal Health. This intradermal vaccine can protect your herd against disease caused by porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) and *Mesomycolasma hyopneumoniae* (M. hyo) and be used from 3 weeks of age.

This innovative vaccine has been proven to be highly effective at controlling both PCV2 and *M. hyo*. Against PCV2 it demonstrated a reduction in viraemia and viral load in lungs and lymphoid tissues, faecal virus shedding and the loss of daily weight gain during the finishing period as a result of infection.

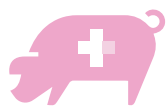
There was a reduction of severity of lung lesions and loss of daily weight gain during the finishing period caused by *M. hyo* infection.



Protects against PCV2 and *M. hyo*



Can be administered in all pigs from 3 weeks of age



Onset of immunity:
PCV2 – 2 weeks post-vaccination
M. hyo – 4 weeks post-vaccination



Licensed for use with Porcilis Lawsonia ID and Porcilis PRRS



Duration of immunity:
PCV2 – 26 weeks post-vaccination
M. hyo – 18 weeks post-vaccination



Smaller 0.2ml intradermal dose (compared to intramuscular vaccines)



Creating a stable, combined vaccine is challenging, but MSD Animal Health has an excellent track record in this area across all species, and specifically with innovative piglet and sow vaccines like Porcilis PCV M Hyo and Porcilis Ery+Parvo+Lepto

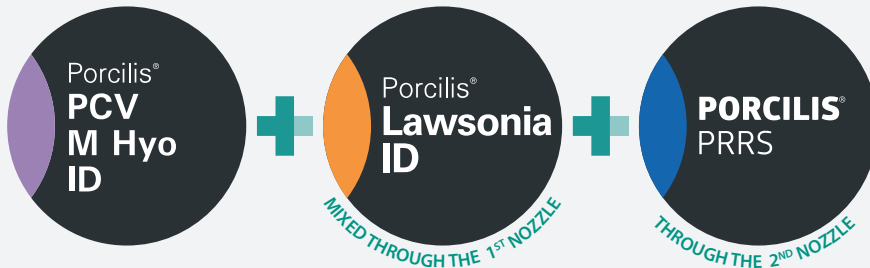
*The new vaccine is the result of years of research and development and harnesses the most suitable strains of the pathogens to provide effective protection in the field. It utilises a next-generation, non-mineral oil adjuvant that addresses the needs of both PCV2 and *M. hyo* and delivers a long-lasting depot in a single 0.2ml intradermal dose.*

The result of this unique formulation is to support the immune response to both antigens, whilst ensuring optimal safety and efficacy.

Maureen Prendergast, Technical Manager, MSD Animal Health



Vaccinate your pigs against **up to 4 diseases** in **1 vaccination event**



“ For the last 20 years, the popularity of IDAL has continued to grow in Ireland with well over 200 farms using it to vaccinate every week. The number of compatible vaccines continues to grow and so does the flexibility of their use in combination. As well as the welfare and safety benefits for the pigs, needle-free vaccination improves carcass quality, increases food safety and reduces trim losses at slaughter. Energy, transport and waste are all reduced when using low-volume Porcilis ID vaccines, benefitting your farm’s environmental credentials, too.

Recent developments to both the single and double-head IDAL devices have made it even easier to use – lightweight, more ergonomic and improved user experience with haptic feedback and multiple language options. And of course, it’s fully compatible with the Lee-O identification tags for a fully connected farm management system.



Laura Boyd, Account Manager, MSD Animal Health

THINKING ABOUT MAKING THE SWITCH TO IDAL?

Changing the way you vaccinate on farm is a big decision, so contact your vet to discuss whether intradermal vaccination might be right for you.

The team will be happy to visit your farm to fully demo the device and answer any practical questions you may have about IDAL to support your decision.

Once you have decided to make the switch, we’ll come back to deliver your IDAL device and run through the set-up and maintenance requirements. Training will be provided for your whole team and extends to vaccine storage, mixing and correct administration and safety. We’ll check in with you and your vet regularly to make sure everything’s running smoothly and offer any follow-up support you might need.

There are many benefits to IDAL vaccination: for farm staff, for pigs, for welfare and the environment.

Contact the MSD Animal Health Swine Team to learn more or scan the QR code to sign up for more info.



Aidan Byrne
Account Manager



Laura Boyd
Account Manager



Maureen Prendergast
Technical Manager



Thomas Gallagher
Business Unit Director

DISEASE UPDATE: The economic importance of empty days in sows

Maureen Prendergast MVB, PhD, MRCVS, Technical Manager Integrated Livestock, MSD Animal Health



Teagasc estimates that the currently calculated cost of empty days in the Irish breeding herd is **€2.96 per day**, based on the direct cost of feed, housing, healthcare, and all other costs associated with keeping non-productive sows. For a 600-sow unit this could potentially be **€156,270 per annum**.

Tackling the problem of "Non-productive days" (NPDs) caused by factors like "not in pig" sows, repeat breeders, and environmental conditions can improve herd efficiency and profitability. Repeats should ideally be less than 10% of females served.

Regular repeats occur on the cycle; 19-23, 40-44 days after service and should account for two thirds of total repeats and are often service related. Irregular repeats occur outside these times after service and are usually associated with sow failure i.e. embryonic mortality.

In Ireland 32% of sows are culled before 3rd parity, the point at which they breakeven in terms of cost. Health problems, especially lameness and infertility are the usual causes of involuntary culling of sows. Infertility often presents as abortions, irregular returns, stillborn or weak piglets and can be caused by a variety of pathogens.

Parvovirus, PCV2 and PRRS are the most significant viral causes of reproductive issues on Irish pig farms. Erysipelothrix and Parvovirus vaccines have been available for many years and are commonly used.

If NPDs are increased or any adverse observations such as a purulent discharge from sows and gilts, other infectious causes such as Leptospirosis, PRRS, PCV2 should be considered and blood tested by your usual farm vet who will be able to interpret the results and work with you tackle any underlying causes.

Infection with *Leptospira* may not cause obvious signs of illness, but the bacteria can remain in the kidneys and reproductive organs for up to two years. Groups of gilts or sows housed together are then at risk of further infection from urine or reproductive discharge. Vaccination, good biosecurity and management including hygiene will reduce the significant losses associated with this disease.

PIGS R US, COOKSTOWN

MSD Animal Health was delighted to be part of the recent Pigs R Us event organised by Parklands Veterinary Group. The whole MSD Animal Health pig team and our colleague, Friedericke von und zur Mühlen, Veterinary Territory Manager from Germany were in attendance. Friedericke gave a presentation on ileitis and *Lawsonia intracellularis*. She also presented farm data and case studies from Germany and Ireland. The event was very well-attended with a lot of interest and positivity from the pig industry in Northern Ireland. Many thanks to John Grant and the team at Parklands for an enjoyable and informative evening.



Use medicines responsibly.

Prescription decisions are for the person issuing the prescription alone.

Please refer to the product packaging and leaflets for information about side effects, precautions, warnings and contra-indications. For further information see your veterinary practitioner or contact MSD Animal Health, Red Oak North, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland.

Tel: +353 (1) 2970220. E-Mail: [vet-support.ie@msd.com](mailto:veter-support.ie@msd.com)

Web: www.msd-animal-health.ie