



# PIG HEALTH

# UPDATE

PIG PRODUCTION NEWSLETTER FROM MSD ANIMAL HEALTH

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## NEW FACES, SAME PASSION FOR PIGS



MSD Animal Health has welcomed some new faces to the pig team this year.

Emma Sargent has joined as Technical Manager, following the retirement of Maureen Prendergast. Emma was previously working with the company as a Ruminant Technical Advisor for the southern counties.

Emma graduated from UCD Vet School and spent 8 years practising in New Zealand before returning to Ireland. She has been spending the last few months visiting vets and farmers across the country. "I've been lucky to be able to get out and meet lots of farmers and their staff, offering vaccination training and taking diagnostic samples. I'm really looking forward to meeting even more at IPHS next month," explains Emma.

Cian Maguire has joined the team as Key Account Manager covering NI and the border counties. Cian previously worked for Devenish Nutrition and Rosderra before going to Australia where he worked on a stud bull farm.

"It's great to be back home and working with pigs again. This is a very exciting time to be joining MSD Animal Health as they expand their range of IDAL vaccines," Cian adds. "I enjoy working on-farm with producers, offering support and practical advice to make a difference at farm level. I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with some old contacts in the pig industry and meeting some new faces as well."



Recent global instability and the rise in energy prices has impacted the economic outlook in most sectors. Prior to that, EU pork exports were projected to reach 2.75 million mt CWE in 2026, slightly lower than 2025 levels as the sector adapts to market shifts, ASF-related restrictions in Spain, and Chinese duties on selected products.

In 2025 we saw noticeable strategic protein substitution from higher cost proteins resulting in relatively affordable pork helping to sustain strong domestic consumption, especially in the UK, Central and Southern Europe. Let's hope Ireland also benefits from this trend.

No doubt there will be plenty of discussion at IPHS about the future of our industry and ways that farmers can optimise production. MSD Animal Health will be attending and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Curragh and introducing my new colleagues, Emma and Cian.

**Thomas Gallagher,**  
Swine Business Unit Director



## WIN 5 PERSONALISED BOILERSUITS FOR YOUR FARM

ENTRIES CLOSE 31st MAY 2026

SCAN



TO ENTER

# EFFECTIVE VACCINATION: BETTER TOGETHER?

Keeping pigs healthy is one of the most important parts of running a successful pig enterprise. With pressure on labour, tight margins and increasing focus on welfare and sustainability, many farmers are looking for ways to make routine jobs quicker and simpler without compromising on animal health. Every handling event, every injection and every hour of labour comes at a cost. Combination vaccines and vaccines licensed for mixed or concurrent use offer a practical way to save labour, reduce stress and keep pigs well protected.



## Flexible vaccination schedules to suit you

A healthy pig's immune system can generally cope with more than one vaccine at once – it is designed to handle complex disease challenges every day.

The introduction of combination, mixed and concurrent vaccines allows for a simplified vaccination plan with fewer lifts per pig. These vaccines have been tested and proven safe and effective when given at the same time as each other. Your vet will be able to advise you on the best options for your farm.

### Combination

Combination, or multivalent, vaccines deliver protection against several diseases with just one dose, often in a single ready-to-use vial.



### Mixed

Some vaccines are licensed for mixed use, where individual vaccines are mixed together into the same bottle for simple administration.



### Concurrent

Some vaccines are licensed for concurrent use. This means that they can be given at the same time as other vaccines, at separate injection sites.



The product datasheet (and your vet) should always be consulted to determine what products may be mixed together and/or given at the same time at separate sites. The complex nature of vaccine formulations means that only products licensed for mixing together can be mixed; incompatible vaccines are at risk of being inactivated if they are mixed with each other.

## Saving time, money and stress

The true cost of vaccination is more than just the price per dose. Labour, needles, syringes, equipment, handling time and disruption to the regular workload all add to the overall cost of a herd health plan.

Handling pigs of any age causes some level of stress, so by using multivalent and concurrent vaccines you can speed up the process, reducing the number of handling events and injections needed.

Fewer disturbances mean calmer pigs, better welfare and quicker return to normal feeding and behaviour, which contributes towards improved daily gains and productivity. Lower stress levels can support a stronger immune response to vaccination and make handling easier and safer for everyone involved.



## Your trusted partner

Our company has a long-standing track record in developing and delivering successful multivalent vaccines across multiple species over 30+ years. This includes well-established combination products that have helped control important livestock and poultry diseases, such as Heptavac P Plus for sheep, Bovilis Bovipast RSP for in cattle, and Nobilis RT+IBmulti+ND+EDS – a multivalent poultry vaccine protecting against four viral diseases in just one dose.

Making an effective multivalent vaccine is far more complex than mixing different antigens together. The compatibility and stability of each component



depends on the other elements in the vaccine, including the type of adjuvant used to stimulate the immune system. Our latest intradermal combination vaccine for pigs, PORCILIS® PCV M Hyo ID, took over seven years of research and development and uses a new SVEA adjuvant to provide proven, strong, long-lasting immunity against both PCV2 and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*.

## THE IDAL® WAY

### Needle-free vaccination

Unlike traditional intramuscular vaccination, needle-free intradermal vaccination with IDAL uses high pressure to deliver a precise dose of vaccine through the skin in a fraction of a second.



#### Farmers using IDAL report:

- Calmer, quieter pigs and smoother handling events
- Quick, safe and simple, with no risk of needlestick injuries for staff
- Fewer injection site lesions, less carcass damage or condemnation at slaughter
- Large numbers of pigs can be vaccinated in a short time, reducing labour

**CASE STUDY:** One small, 300 sow family-run farm in Germany, farrowing every third week moved to Porcilis PCV M Hyo ID using the IDAL device instead of using multiple injectable vaccines. The father and son team reported a saving of four hours per vaccination event. This made a big difference to their enterprise and greatly reduced the time the farmer's wife was needed to help on-farm, improving work-life balance for the whole household.

Visit our new website [ieswineprotectandconnect.com](https://ieswineprotectandconnect.com) or scan the QR code to contact the Swine Team



This newsletter is intended to supply useful information for the pig industry and we endeavour to ensure all information is accurate. It does not replace the need for farm-specific advice given by your veterinary practitioner.

## DISEASE UPDATE: African Swine Fever creeps closer

Emma Sargent MVB, Technical Manager Integrated Livestock, MSD Animal Health



African Swine Fever (ASF) has already been detected in 16 European countries in 2026, with over 2,000 cases reported between January and February alone. Most recent outbreaks are in wild boar across Central and Eastern Europe, but the disease is getting closer: Spain confirmed its first cases of ASF since 1995 in wild boar found dead in the Catalonia region late last November.

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic pigs and wild boar. It causes severe illness that is often fatal. Clinical signs appear within one week of infection and include fever, reddened or blotchy skin (especially on ears, snout and legs), bleeding, vomiting, diarrhoea and sudden death.

Ireland remains ASF-free to date, but we are still at risk. The virus can spread in several ways: through direct contact with infected pigs or their bodily fluids, or indirectly via contaminated food, clothing, footwear, equipment or vehicles. ASF is a tough virus and can survive for months, or even years, in both fresh, frozen or cured pork products.

On Irish farms, risk management should focus on maintaining high levels of biosecurity. Key guidelines from DAFM to protect Irish pigs from ASF include:

- Do not bring meat products into Ireland from outside the EU and never bring home pork or pork products from ASF-affected regions.
- Do not bring pork or pork products onto pig farms where they might accidentally be eaten by pigs. Never feed food waste to pigs.
- Always use secure, covered bins for food waste so that farm animals, wildlife and birds cannot access.
- After visiting an ASF-affected region, avoid all contact with pigs and pig farms for at least 72 hours.

An ASF outbreak in Ireland would be devastating. It would lead to widespread culling of affected and in-contact pigs and could seriously damage trade and exports of pigs and pig products.

MSD Animal Health is making important progress towards developing an ASF vaccine. For now, Ireland's best defence is to remain ASF-free, and that depends on strict biosecurity and hygiene, strong prevention measures and ensuring that all members of the farm team are aware, informed and constantly vigilant.

ASK YOUR MSD ANIMAL HEALTH ACCOUNT MANAGER ABOUT

## Porcilis® DISPENSING GUIDES

To support the correct mixing and administration of Porcilis vaccines, we have produced a range of Dispensing Guides for use on-farm.



### Use medicines responsibly.

Prescription decisions are for the person issuing the prescription alone.

Withholding periods: zero days. Legal Categories: RoI **POM**; NI **POM-V**, Bovipast RSP RoI **POM-E**; NI **POM-V** and Heptavac P Plus RoI **LR**; NI **POM-VPS**.

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.

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