INDUCTION AND SYNCHRONISATION OF ESTRUS IN PROBLEMATIC SOWS AFTER WEANING USING FERTIPIG® IN COMPARISON WITH ANOTHER GONADOTROPIN PRODUCT

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Introduction
Reproductive efficiency of sows in the summer season may be significantly decreased due to the phenomenon of summer infertility. A long photo-period together with high daily temperatures affects the reproductive performance mainly in countries with the hot summer season, such as Spain. Prolonged weaning to estrus interval over 7 days, anoestrus and disruption of pregnancy are the mostly seen problems in sows. Gonadotropin treatment at weaning induces the fertile estrus in summer-weaned sows. However, not all gonadotropin products licensed for sows exhibit the same efficacy in overcoming seasonal infertility. Fertipig® is based on the combination of 400 I.U. of PMSG and 200 I.U. of hCG. The aim of the study was to compare the efficacy of Fertipig® with the local product (“G”) of similar composition in several farms in Spain during the summer season.

Materials and Methods
Six conventional farms participated on the study. Sows that did not exhibit signs of estrus within 7 days after weaning were always randomly divided into two groups according to parity. A total of 123 sows were treated with a single 5ml dose of Fertipig® within the period of 7-12 days after weaning. At the same time another group of 113 sows were treated with product “G”, which was routinely used in the farms previously. Sows were artificially inseminated in the same way and kept in gestation in the same conditions until farrowing.

Results
After treatment with Fertipig®, 57,7% of sows came into heat within 7 days, compared to 49,6 % of sows treated with the product “G” (Figure 1), however the difference was not statistically significant (p>0,05) due to the low number of animals included. The distribution of the intervals between treatment and estrus revealed the highest concentration of the heats on the third day post treatment in the Fertipig® group (Figure 2). Pregnancy rate and farrowing rate were calculated as the percent of pregnant or farrowed sows out of the all initially treated animals. The differences in pregnancy and farrowing rates corresponded to the difference in the estrus rates.

Conclusions and Discussion
Fertipig® has proven higher potency to treat the sows affected by the summer season compared to Product “G” with the difference of 8,2% in the estrus rate with the highest concentration of heats in 3-5 days post treatment. There was also the tendency for higher farrowing rate of the inseminated sows in the Fertipig® treated group .

References