

# PREVENTION OF IBR CIRCULATION USING A gE-/tk- DELETED VACCINE WITH A DOUBLE PRIMOVACCINATION IN TWO BELGIAN FARMS POSITIVE DESPITE YEARS OF VACCINATION

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## OBJECTIVE

In the process of eradication of IBR in Belgium, vaccination with marker vaccines is recommended since 2010. In this process, farmers use a registered mandatory vaccination protocol with available commercial vaccines with single shot primovaccination. Our objectives were to show that a double primo vaccination could successfully cut the circulation of IBR in youngstock.

## METHODS

We followed 2 farms located in Luxembourg province of Belgium, having high serological titres in youngstock despite 5 and 7 years of vaccination for IBR. The official eradication plan requests a serological picture of the farm on animals between 0 and 24 months, after the initial serological profile of the farm. In 2014, we visited two farms of more than 420 beef animals Belgian Blue breed. Farm 1 shown a serological picture of 45% positives gE animals below 24 months, Farm 2 had 67% positives. We began vaccination in January 2015 in farm 1 and November 2014 in farm 2 with a double deleted gE-/tk- live vaccine, with a double primovaccination at 3 months, including also the fattening bulls.

Animals between 0 and 24 months were sampled every 6 months randomly.

## RESULTS

In April 2015, the serologic prevalence was tested using a legal random sample of 8% of the animals below 24 months showing a prevalence of 37% gE positives animals in Farm 1 and 57% animals in farm 2. In December 2015, prevalence dropped to 0% in farm 1 and 27% in farm 2 (Fig. 1). By December 2016, both serological pictures were negative in both farms. The average drop in serological positive animals was 3.65% prevalence per month.

## CONCLUSIONS

We struggled with IBR enzootia in these two large farms using conventional live vaccines, and we believe that the double primovaccination with gE/tk deleted vaccine permitted a drastic diminution of the circulation. Both farms are now heading toward negative for IBR certification, and kept the double primovaccination protocol.

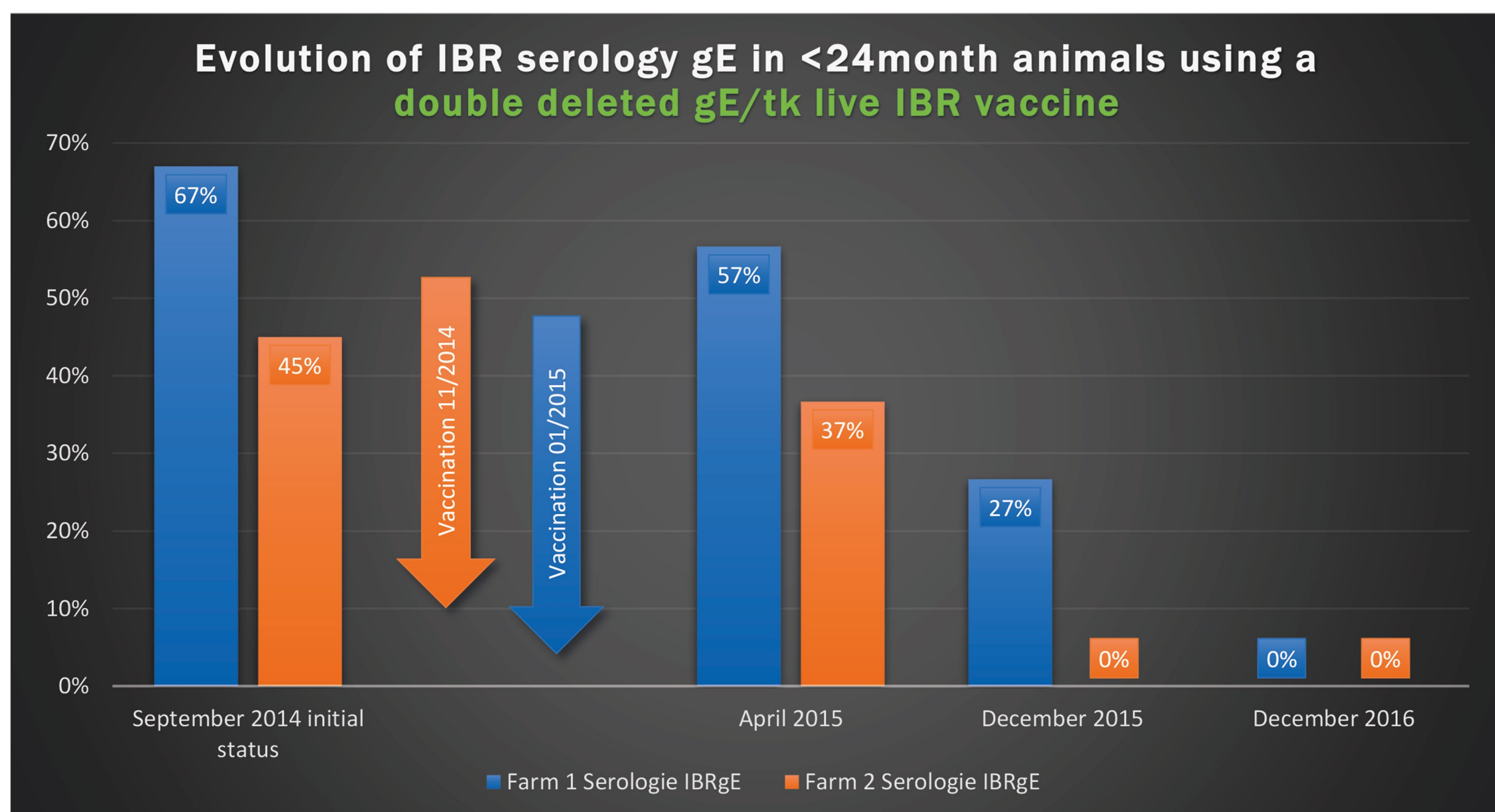


Figure 1. Evolution of Serological results in both farm along sampling campaigns.