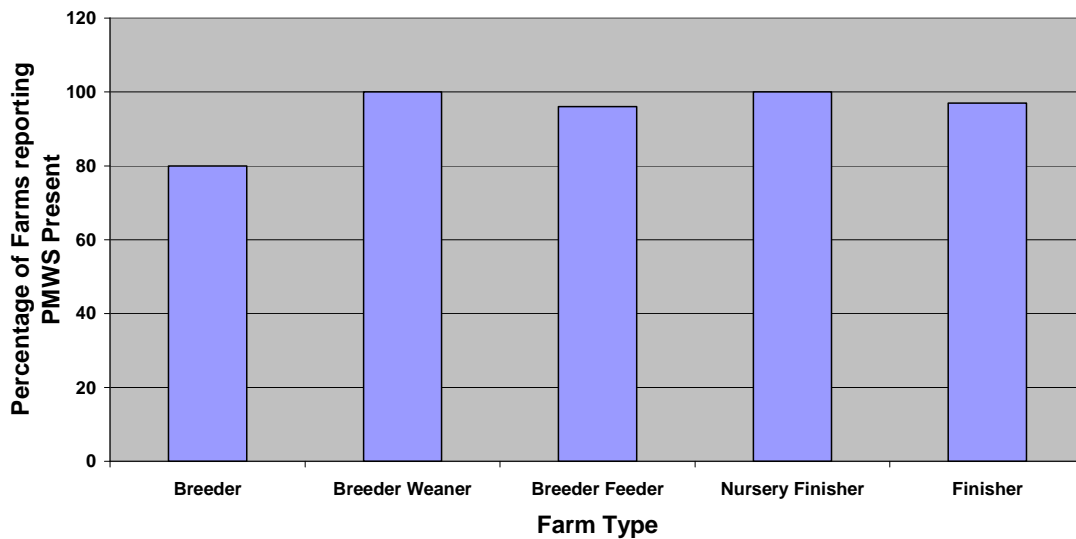


# NADIS BPEX Commentary – May 2010

It is now more than ten years since Post Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Disease and Porcine Dermatitis and Nephropathy Syndrome arrived in the UK causing devastating losses to many pig herds. Over that time the disease has evolved into a less specific though equally damaging syndrome now referred to as Porcine Circovirus Associated Disease (PCVAD).

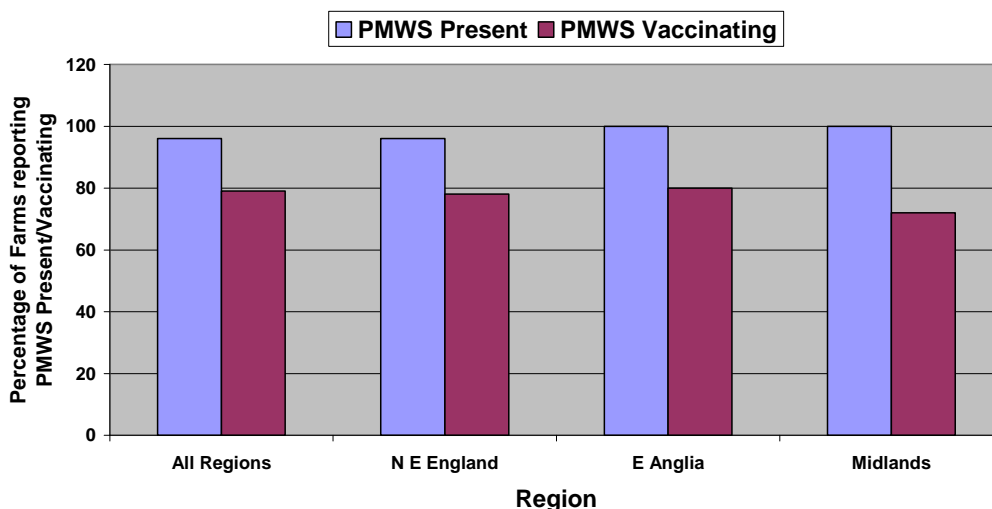
In the last few years vaccines against PCV2 – the principal cause – have become available and are now widely used although anecdotal reports from NADIS reporting veterinary surgeons suggest that adverse environmental challenges can lead to disappointing results from vaccination. Vaccines are available for use in either the breeding herd – to protect piglets via colostrum – or for direct use in young piglets i.e. each herd adopts the protocol best suited to their needs. The few herds reporting absence of disease are unsurprisingly mostly breeding only herds which obviously lack susceptible stock (Graph 1).

### Graph 1 - PMWS Presence by Farm Type



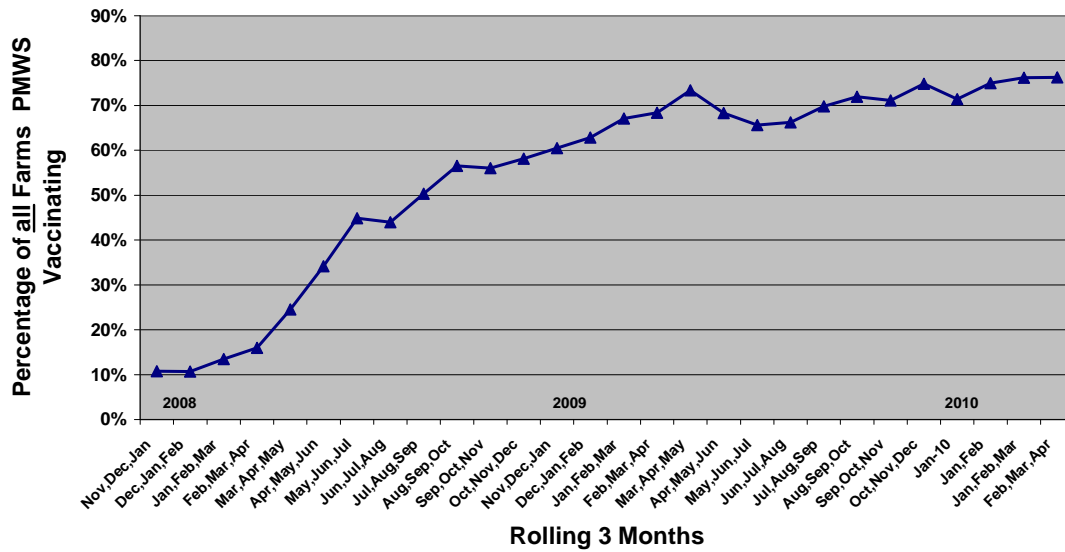
The disease is seen consistently across all regions with approximately 80% of affected farms now vaccinating (Graph 2).

### Graph 2 - PMWS by Region (Disease presence and vaccination)



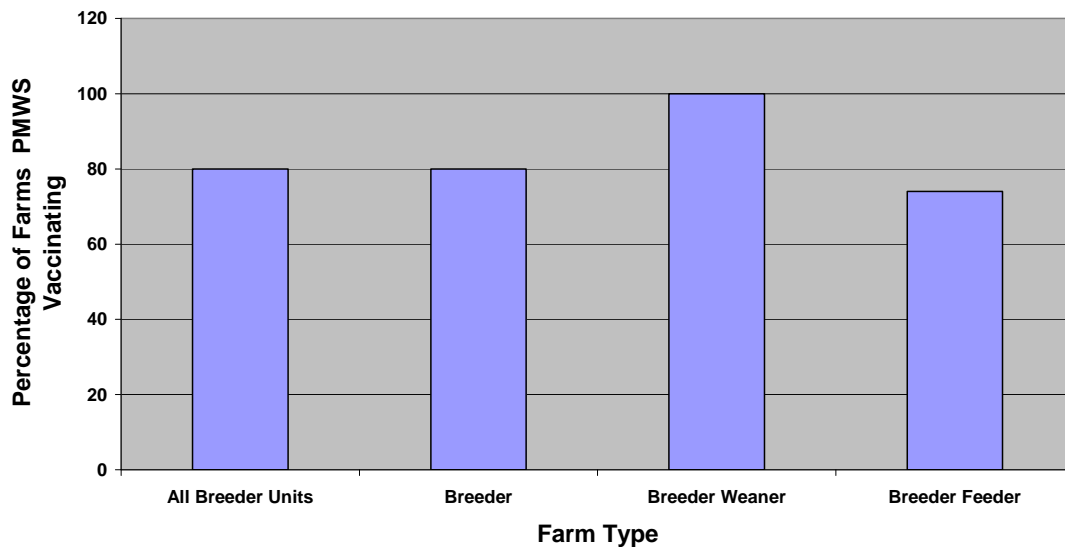
The proportion of herds vaccinating (whether it be sows or piglets) has steadily risen since their introduction – helped considerably in the early stages by the BPEX funded research project, which effectively subsidised the cost of vaccine to levy payers (Graph 3). Use of vaccine has plateaued in the last twelve months.

**Graph 3 - PMWS Vaccination since January 2008**



Vaccine is used in all types of herds although the difference in use between breeding only herds and breeder weaners is worthy of note (Graph 4).

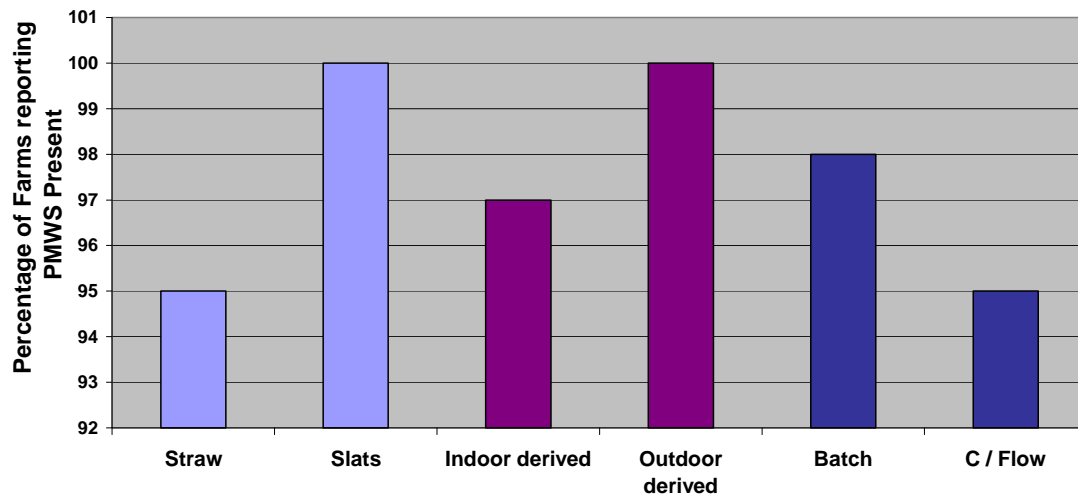
**Graph 4 - PMWS Vaccination by Farm Type**



In the former, the opportunity is available for the purchasers of weaned piglets to vaccinate themselves – rendering use in the breeding only herd unnecessary as sow vaccination is not deemed necessary. Weaners purchased at 10-12 weeks of age from a breeder weaner supplier are too old to vaccinate and thus it is consistent that in order to be able to sell the pigs, the breeder weaner must vaccinate himself.

With such a ubiquitous disease any differences in proportion of farm reporting its presence when measured against management systems is negligible (Graph 5).

## Graph 5 - PMWS (Management System)



The intensively monitored NADIS population provides a window into the wider picture of disease and its control and two conclusions are self evident:

- PCVAD is now virtually ubiquitous throughout the commercial pig population of England (no data is available for smaller backyard/hobby farms)
- Vaccination is widely applied and provides substantial benefits to the control of one of the most damaging diseases seen in pigs

*Mark White BVSc DPM MRCVS*

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