THE EFFECTS OF MISTRAL™ APPLICATION ON PIGLET PERFORMANCE IN THAILAND

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Introduction
The purpose of this experiment is to measure the effects of Mistral™ application in piglet performance, that is, body temperature after farrowing, duration of drying and dropping of umbilical cord, incidence of diarrhoea and and total bacterial count in farrowing crate.

Material and Methods
Place and animals:
The experiment was conducted in a commercial breeder farm of 8,000 sows in Ratchaburi province in 2003. One farrowing house in a unit of 2-breed (Largewhite x Landrace) sows was selected to set the experiment.
A total of 456 piglets (crossbred Landrace x Largewhite x Duroc) from 43 sows was randomized into two groups. Group Mistral (Treatment), the piglets were dipped from neck to bottom with Mistral™ powder immediately after birth; while Group C (Control), no application of Mistral™ on the piglets.
Measurements:
1. Skin body temperature using laser temperature instrument at 0, 5, 10, 20, 30 minute, 1, 2, and 3 hour after birth.
2. Duration of drying and dropping of the umbilical cords.
3. Incidence and time of recovering of diarrhoea.
4. Total bacterial count in the farrowing crates

Results
Skin body temperature
Fig. 1 Graph showing skin body temperature of piglets at 0, 5, 10, 20, 30 minutes, 1, 2 and 3 hour after birth

Duration of drying and dropping of the umbilical cords
Fig. 2 Graph showing percentage of umbilical cord drying in the piglets

Incidence and time of recovering of diarrhoea
Fig. 3 Graph showing percentage of umbilical cord dropping in the piglets

Fig. 4 Effect of Mistral™ application on piglet diarrhoea in the first weeks of life.

Fig. 5 Effect of Mistral™ application on total bacterial count in the farrowing crates

Conclusion
Using MISTRAL™ from birth in the pig farrowing pens affects significantly piglets temperature after birth, the duration of drying and dropping of the umbilical cords, the incidence and duration of diarrhoea in the first week of life, and the total bacterial counts in the farrowing crates.