CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for ~~reducing or lessening the severity of clinical symptoms associated with PCV2 infection, lessening the overall porcine circovirus load of an animal, and/or reducing the immunosuppressive effect of porcine circovirus infection in pigs~~preventing nasal shedding, reducing mortality, or increasing average daily weight gain comprising administering a porcine circovirus type 2 antigen to a pig.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said antigen comprises a protein encoded by a DNA sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with ORF2 of a porcine circovirus type 2 virus.

3. The method of either of claims 1 and 2, wherein said porcine circovirus type 2 antigen is a recombinant baculovirus expressed ORF2 antigen.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said porcine circovirus type 2 antigen is formulated and administered in one (1) mL per dose.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said clinical symptoms are selected from the group consisting of lymphadenopathy, lymphoid depletion, and multinucleated or giant histiocytes.

intraperitoneal, oral, intrathecal, subcutaneous, intracutaneous, intracardial, intralobal, intramedullar, or intrapulmonar.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the administration of said porcine circovirus type 2 antigen does not show adverse events or injection site reactions.

13. A method for improving the level of general disease resistance of pigs comprising administering a porcine circovirus type 2 antigen to a pig.

14. A process for the production of a medicament for ~~reducing or lessening the severity of clinical symptoms associated with PCV2 infection, lessening the overall porcine circovirus load of an animal, or reducing the immunosuppressive effect of porcine circovirus infection,~~preventing nasal shedding, reducing mortality, or increasing average daily weight gain, said process comprising the steps of obtaining a porcine circovirus antigen, and combining said antigen with veterinary-acceptable carriers, pharmaceutical-acceptable carriers, or immunomodulatory agents.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein said antigen comprises a polypeptide encoded by ORF2 of porcine circovirus type 2.

16. The use of a porcine circovirus type 2 antigen for the preparation of a medicament for ~~reducing or lessening the severity of clinical symptoms associated with PCV2 infection, lessening the overall porcine circovirus load~~

~~of an animal, and/or reducing the immunosuppressive effect of porcine circovirus infection in pigs~~preventing nasal shedding, reducing mortality, or increasing average daily weight gain, wherein said medicament is administered to a pig.

17. The use according to claim 16, wherein said antigen comprises a protein encoded by a DNA sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with ORF2 of a porcine circovirus type 2 virus.

18. The use according to either of claims 16 and 17, wherein said porcine circovirus type 2 antigen is a recombinant baculovirus expressed ORF2 antigen.

19. The use according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said porcine circovirus type 2 antigen is formulated and administered in one (1) mL per dose.

20. The use according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein said clinical symptoms are selected from the group consisting of lymphadenopathy, lymphoid depletion, and multinucleated or giant histiocytes.

21. The use according to claim 20, wherein said lymphadenopathy, lymphoid depletion, and/or multinucleated or giant histiocytes is in combination with another symptom selected from the group consisting of interstitial pneumonia with interlobular edema, cutaneous pallor or icterus, mottled atrophic livers, gastric ulcers , nephritis, pia like lesions, and reproductive disorders.