**Plasmid or strain Description Reference**

pNZ8048 *E. coli*- *L. lactis* shuttle vector containing PnisA promoter, CmR (chloramphenicol resistant) (1) pG9*-*apuA pGhost+9 derivative containing 3020 bp of *apuA* locus and *spc* (spectinomycin resistant) (2)

*S. suis* S10 Virulent serotype 2 strain S3881 (3)

*S. suis* mut1 Isogenic *apuA::spc* mutant of strain S10 (2)

*S. suis* mut2 Isogenic *comX::spc* mutant of strain S10 This work

*S. suis* mut3 Isogenic *comR::spc* mutant of strain S10 This work

*S. suis* pNZ *S. suis* strain 10 harboring pNZ8048 plasmid This work

*S. suis* 7

*S.* suis S10 (XIP 7)

Serotype 7 strain S8039

Isogenic *comR/S S10::comR/S 7 spc* mutant of strain S10

(4)

This work

**Table S3 Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study**