

Investigation of pathological findings in organs and of financial loss due to confiscates from pigs in Swiss slaughterhouses and their correlation with farm- and management data

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Key words

pig, organ lesions, slaughterhouse, farm- and management data

Aim of the study

Organ lesions of slaughtered pigs can be used effectively to assess the herd health status on preharvest level. The aim of this study was to provide an overview of the prevalence of organ lesions in fattening pigs at slaughter in Switzerland and to determine whether there is a significant relationship between farm management and pathological findings during meat inspection.

Material and methods

Data were collected over the period of June 2008 until May 2009 during meat inspection from 34'706 fattening pigs in four different slaughterhouses in Switzerland. Each lesion was recorded within a code system.

Out of 639 pig farms 82 farms were selected to analyze whether certain farm factors can be linked to the pathological findings in slaughtered pigs. The farms were splitted into 44 „case farms“ and into 38 „control farms“. On the basis of a questionnaire and a farm visit the potential risk factors for organ lesions were detected..

Results and significance

In total 24'276 plucks were analyzed. 91.2% of the lungs, 94.4% of the hearts and 95.5% of the livers didn't show any lesions. A total of 3'101 out of 24'276 organs were confiscated. Out of 14'850 inspected carcasses 72.9% of the kidneys and 97.7% of the skin were free from any lesions. Over 99.00 % didn't show any lesions in muscles and joints.

Label and non-Label pigs were compared, as well as pigs attending pig health service (PHS) and pigs not attending. Label and PHS pigs showed significantly less bronchopneumonia and liver lesions due to parasites. Most organ lesions correlated with detected risk factors.

Publications, posters and presentations

de Vries V., Funke J., Stephan R., Sydler T., Sidler X. (2010) Prevalence of organ lesions in fattening pigs at slaughter recorded in different slaughterhouses in Switzerland. 21th IPVS Congress Vancouver p. 926

Funke J., de Vries V., Schüpbach G., Sidler X.: (2010) Correlation off farm and management data with findings in organ and confiscated remains of slaughtered pigs in Swiss slaughterhouses. 21th IPVS Congress Vancouver p. 928

de Vries V. (2010) Schlachthofdaten zur Überwachung der Tiergesundheit, Fortbildungsveranstaltung für SGD-Vertragstierärzte (Januar 2010 in Olten)

de Vries V. (2010) Erhebung von Organbefunden bei Schlachtschweinen, Suisseporcs News, Juni Ausgabe 2010

Sidler X (2010) Der Schlachthof als Datenlieferant zur Überwachung der Tiergesundheit. Fortbildung Schweinehalter (März 2010 in Hohenrain)

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