Biosecurity measures on Finnish pig farms have become more common
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Two independent questionnaires (in 2002 and 2011) with questions concerning biosecurity on pig farms were analyzed. The first one was sent to 910 pig farmers and the response rate was 24%. The latter one was sent to 1000 pig farmers and the response rate was 42%. Altogether 47 pig farmers answered both questionnaires and their responses were used for this study. Application of six biosecurity measures was studied: (1) protective footwear is provided to and used by visitors; (2) protective clothes are provided to and used by visitors; (3) a separate loading space holding all the animals for loading is in use; (4) the loading space is washed after use; (5) control of rodents and birds on animal premises; (6) control of rodents and birds in feed storage facilities. There were 20 farrowing farms, 13 farrow-to-finish farms and 14 finishing farms in this study. Average farm size had grown significantly (10%) during this nine year period. Two out of six biosecurity measures had become significantly more common: the use of a separate loading space had increased from 45-70% and visitors’ use of protective clothing increased from 70-90%. The implementation frequency of other studied biosecurity measures did not change significantly in the study population (McNemar test). In conclusion, these results indicate that the implementation of certain biosecurity measures has become more frequent on Finnish pig farms.