

Characterizing pig fattening farms by combination of farm and lab data

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Reg. (EC) No. 854/2004, more precisely Reg. (EC) No. 1244/2007, opened the possibility of risk based meat inspection for pigs raised under controlled conditions. But type of information and required tests for such a condition are still under discussion. In this study, we investigated the information value of farming systems ('controlled conditions'). Data from 296 farms of 2 farming associations and elements of their management system (yes/no answers) including 11 *post mortem* results regarding the hygiene were gathered for 2005 to 2009. In addition, 3.346 meat juice samples (a maximum of 10 samples for each farm) for ELISA tests for *Trichinella*, *Salmonella* and *Yersinia* were brought together. All samples were negative for *Trichinella*, three farms were negative for *Salmonella*, *Yersinia* and *Trichinella*. Most of the farms (193) were positive for *Salmonella* and *Yersinia*. Using management parameters of these positive and negative farms, no significant differences were found between and in both associations. In consequence, the cut off levels for *Salmonella* and *Yersinia* were raised. 22 farms had high levels for *Salmonella* and *Yersinia*. Comparison of management parameters of these farms with negative farms did not show any significant difference, too. In a next step, p. m. findings with potential hygiene background were used from these 22 farms. 3 farms showed suspicious results, their management parameters were compared again. This time management parameters were identified, which could be associated with high antibody titres and frequent p. m. findings. It was concluded that a stepwise approach may identify conditions which had not been noted before. It was concluded, too, that 'controlled conditions' serving as an opener for risk based meat inspection may be farm specific.