

TITLE

ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENTS IN SWEDISH PIG HERDS AS NUMBER OF TREATED DISEASE CASES IN RELATION TO HERD PRODUCTION DATA

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CONTENT

In Sweden, the usage of antimicrobials in pig herds is strictly regulated and a veterinary prescription is required for any antibiotic treatment. The aim of this study was to analyze antibiotic treatments at herd level, as number of treated disease cases in relation to herd production data, to achieve a comprehensive picture of health status in Swedish pig herds.

Veterinary records on antibiotic treatments for 2017 was collected from 147 herds with fattening pigs and 73 piglet producing herds. Antibiotic usage was studied for four age categories: suckling piglets, weaners, finishers and sows. Treatment data for the different age categories was merged with herd production data and related to yearly number of live born, weaned, slaughtered and farrowings.

A large variation was observed between herds in number of treated disease cases. For suckling piglets, the median number of antibiotic treated cases per 1000 live born was 245 [interquartile range, (IQR): 120-358]. For weaners the median was 78 cases per 1000 weaned pigs (IQR: 34-166). The median for treated cases on sows was 307 per 1000 farrowings (IQR:176-538). For finishers, the median was 46 antibiotic treated cases per 1000 slaughtered pigs (IQR:24-98). For suckling piglets and weaners, the diagnoses causing the highest proportion of antibiotic treatments were arthritis and diarrhea. Among sows, the most common diagnoses were PDS and mastitis and for finishers arthritis, lameness and tail biting.

By analyzing antibiotic usage as number of treated disease cases in relation to number of live born, weaned, slaughtered and farrowings we provide new insight to the health status in, as well as the variation between, Swedish pig herds. The results of this study confirm a prudent use of antibiotics in Swedish pig herds where only diagnosed sick animals are treated.