



## WELFARE & NUTRITION

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### **PREVALENCE OF STOMACH LESIONS IN FINISHER PIGS AND SOWS AT SLAUGHTER IN THE NETHERLANDS (2017 COMPARED TO 1990 AND 2010)**

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#### **Introduction**

Mucosal lesions of the stomach are quite common in pigs. The squamous epithelium of the pars oesophagea has no mucus-secreting glands, which makes this part more sensible to the damaging effects of acid and pepsin and hence more predisposed to ulceration. Risk factors described most frequently are finely ground feed and stress. Severity of the lesions can range from slight parakeratosis with little or no clinical relevance, to a fatal bleeding ulcer. At recovery of the lesions, scar tissue can cause stenosis of the stomach entrance, which hinders feed intake. In 1990 and 2010, GD Animal Health (NL) studied the prevalence of stomach lesions in sows and finishers at slaughter. To gain insight in possible trends, in 2017 a similar new study was done.

#### **Material & Method**

After slaughter, stomachs of pigs were opened, washed and scored from 0 to 5 according to the following protocol: intact mucosa (0), some parakeratosis (1), extensive parakeratosis (2), parakeratosis with some small erosions (3), parakeratosis with extensive erosions (4), severe lesions / ulceration / stenosis of the stomach entrance (5). Samples were examined from at least 30 finisher farms and from at least 30 sow herds.

#### **Results**

At slaughter stomachs were assessed of 682 finishers and 184 sows. The prevalences of the respective stomach scores in finishers were: 7.2% (0), 35.6% (1), 33.9% (2), 18.0% (3), 4.3% (4) and 1.0% (5).

In sows it was 10.3% (0), 33.2% (1), 24.5% (2), 24.5% (3), 7.1% (4) and 0.5% (5).

#### **Conclusion**

Compared to investigations done in 1990 and 2010, results of the latest study were fairly similar. No distinct trend was observed since 1990. The number of pigs with an intact stomach mucosa (code 0) is quite low, but so is the number of pigs with severe lesions (code 5).