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DEVELOPMENT OF GB PIG DISEASE SURVEILLANCE DATA IN AN INTERACTIVE FORMAT FOR PIG VETERINARIANS AND OTHERS USING PRRS AS AN EXEMPLAR

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Introduction

An interactive tool displaying pig diseases diagnosed through the GB surveillance network was recently made available on-line. Development to allow more detailed interrogation of surveillance data is in progress and this study uses data from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) diagnoses as an exemplar.

Material & Methods

Data associated with diagnoses of PRRS were extracted from the GB Veterinary Investigation Diagnosis Analysis (VIDA) database from 2012 to 2017. This included clinical and premises details from diagnostic submissions to the GB surveillance network, and diagnoses confirmed according to strict diagnostic criteria with the associated clinical syndrome. Software ("Tableau") was used to display the data in a "dashboard" format to provide users with the ability to filter the diagnoses by pig age, clinical sign, sample type, geographic region and time period.

Results

From 2012 to 2017, over 320 diagnoses of PRRS were made, mainly in post-weaned pigs. The most common clinical signs reported were respiratory disease, wasting and pigs being found dead. Concurrent diagnoses in addition to PRRS in the same submission were added into the dashboard; streptococcal disease (mainly *Streptococcus suis*), *Pasteurella multocida*, swine influenza and salmonellosis were amongst the commonest, with sample type clearly affecting the likelihood of diagnosing additional diseases. The diagnostic rate of PRRS showed a tendency for a seasonal increase in the cooler winter months.

Discussion & Conclusion

Displaying features of PRRS outbreaks from across GB helps veterinary practitioners in recognition of disease. The seasonality trend supports anecdotal field reports and likely reflects better virus survival and transmission in colder, damper and darker conditions. The concurrent diagnoses in part reflect the immunosuppressive nature of PRRS and emphasise the importance of full diagnostic investigations in disease outbreaks. The pig disease surveillance dashboard and this PRRS study provide a user-friendly means of accessing information on disease outbreaks.