



BACTERIAL DISEASES

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RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR PROLIFERATIVE HEMORRHAGIC ENTEROPATHY (PHE) ON DUTCH FINISHING PIG FARMS

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Introduction

PHE can be a frustrating problem for a finishing pig farmer and knowledge on PHE risk factors is limited. To have more knowledge, a survey was conducted across 30 different finishing pig farms in The Netherlands.

Material & Methods

A questionnaire was developed containing possible risk factors related to PHE, based on empirical and previously published findings. The survey covered aspects of management, technical performance, biosecurity, climate control, feed and water management. In total 30 farms were selected based on PHE history: severe (sPHE, n=10) mild-to-moderate (mPHE, n=9) and control farms without PHE (C, n=11). The farms were visited and interviewed by the same person.

Results

For the analysis of PHE-related risk factors, sPHE and mPHE farms were combined in the data set. Significant ($p < 0.05$) odd's ratio's (OR) for PHE could be attributed to: specialized finishing pigs farms compared to farrow to finish sites (OR 5.77); less floor surface per finisher pig (0.8 m² vs 1.0 m²; OR 9.33); deworming more than once (OR 9.9).

Tendencies ($0.1 < p > 0.05$) could be attributed to: having more than one piglet supplier (OR 1.92), less cleaning and disinfection of boots (OR 4.86).

Pigs on PHE farms had a higher average daily gain (833 vs 822 gram/day) and fed larger amounts of starter and grower feed compared to control farms. Antibiotics use was higher in sPHE compared to mPHE and C (DDDy 11.5 vs 3.2 and 5.1 respectively).

Discussion & Conclusions

PHE seems to occur more on farms with higher growth and better biosecurity. Deworming more often and higher antibiotic use could be related to the fact that PHE-affected farms implement counter measures to control the disease. Further data gathering is needed to confirm the results of this survey since only a limited number of farms were involved.