

## **REP-PP-11**

### **TITLE**

TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION OF THE OVARIES OF CULLED SOWS TO DETECT THE REASON OF THE CULLING - A FIELD STUDY

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### **CONTENT**

#### Introduction

Most of the sow farms in Hungary utilize hyper prolific breeds, and they usually have high culling rates. Sometimes the sows, which are culled due to reproductive failures, have functional ovaries, but the farm cannot detect this with data analysis, physical examinations or stimulation, albeit the animals just do not have strong enough estrus signs.

#### Materials and Methods

A Hungarian farm with 2.000 sows turned to the MSD AH Swine Team for help to reduce the number of culled sows and to avoid the disposal of sows with good genetic background. The examinations were done in the end of August 2018. After they chose 40 sows and sent them to the slaughterhouse, transabdominal ultrasound examinations (USG) and macroscopic pathological examinations of the ovaries were performed on of the culled animals. Before slaughter the ear tags numbers of the sows were recorded and their reproductive data analyzed. This data was compared with the results of the macroscopic and USG examinations.

#### Results

We found functional ovaries with USG despite of the reported anestrus of animals. We identified many different macroscopic changes on the ovaries by pathological examination: acyclic ovaries, corpus luteum cysts. We recommended the farm veterinarians use appropriate hormonal treatments, used protocols to avoid the “anestrus” problems, and synchronize ovulation especially, in the younger high genetic potential females because their ovaries are able to produce healthy follicles.

#### Discussion and Conclusions

USG of ovaries is a useful method to check sows selected for early culling due to reproduction failures so that culling of valuable sows can be avoided.