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TITLE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON HUNGARIAN PIG FARMS

Levente Hudák¹, László Búza^{2,3,4,1}, László Ózsvári¹

¹ *University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest*

² *MSD AH CERG Swine Business Unit - HUNGARY*

³ *Szent István University Doctorial School*

⁴ *Hungarian Pig Health Management Association*

CONTENT

Introduction

Environmental hygiene becomes more significant in intensive pig production, since manifestation of several diseases is influenced by housing conditions. These diseases can cause deterioration of production indicators, resulting in reduced profitability. Therefore, the goal of our research was to survey the current environmental conditions on Hungarian farrow-to finish swine farms.

Material and Methods

In our study we surveyed 14 large-scale pig farms between October 2016 and August 2018. 3 farms were rechecked, thus, altogether 18 farrowing and nursery units, 15 fattening units and 8 breeding sow units were involved. We measured the environmental conditions by using equipment to evaluate the environmental hygiene and ventilation in the farm units. During farm visits we used digital devices to measure the following environmental parameters: temperature, humidity, CO₂ concentration, lighting, airflow and airspeed.

Results

The results show that on most of the surveyed farms the environmental conditions were not ideal. The CO₂ concentration was the least ideal for fatteners, just in 6% of the surveyed fattening units was optimal. Temperature was the least favorable in the breeding sow units, it was optimal on 12% of the farms. The humidity level was sufficient in 22% of the surveyed nurseries. The lighting was mostly optimal, however, just on half of the surveyed breeding sow areas was ideal.

Discussion and Conclusions

In many cases settings and maintenance of ventilation systems on the Hungarian pig farms cannot fulfil the environmental requirements. The continuous monitoring of environmental conditions and the regular checks of ventilation would be essential for farm managers to receive proper and actual information which would largely contribute to make well-established decisions regarding future technology changes and investments.