



Work of the Subgroup on the welfare of pigs of the EU Platform on animal welfare

K. Zafeiropoulou, DG SANTE/G.3
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Work of the Subgroup

4 meetings since last EU Platform

- 5.7.2022 – pig castration
- 19.9.2022 – space allowances & floors for weaners and rearing pigs
- 17.10.2022 – animal welfare indicators
- 07.11.2022 – screening of current legislation

Future meetings

- 13.12.2022 – space allowances & floors (other categories)
- January 2023 – genetic selection
- February 2023 – tbc
- Other 2023 – on a need basis

Pig castration

Presentations

- Denmark
- UECEBV
- Copa Cogeca

Anaesthesia for surgical castration

- Local – procaine
- General – isoflurane / CO₂ / ketamine

Alternatives to surgical castration

- Keeping entire males
- Slaughter at a very young age
- Immunocastration

Pig castration

Age for surgical castration

- Set a minimum age
- Increase maximum age (for farmer)
- Implications of change

Boar taint

- Weight / age of slaughter & breed
- Methods of testing
- Immunocastration

Constraints of alternatives

- Role of slaughterhouses
- Market barriers

Pig castration – policy options

Present

- Prohibition of surgical castration unrealistic at the moment
- Obligation of anaesthesia and analgesia

Steps

- Awareness on surgical castration
- Communicate immunocastration
- Harmonise detection method for boar taint
- Involve slaughterhouses and retailers

Future

- Prohibit surgical castration
- Exemptions for heavy pigs
- Transitional period

Space allowances & floors – weaners and rearing

Presentations

- EFSA opinion – chair of WG
- Space allowances for weaners and rearing pigs – Independent expert

Space allowance

- Pig needs
- Indoor climate
- Different k values based on tail condition

Floors

- Slats & drainage
- Solid area
- Link -slurry system/emissions/enrichment

Space allowances & floors – weaners and rearing

Weight categories

- Expand for heavier pigs
- Alternatively, use of formula
- Fixed category 90-125kg

Impacts

- Need for investments
- Production/export
- Meat price

Animal welfare indicators

Presentation

- Italy
- Types & characteristics of indicators
- Experience with legislation & Classyfarm

Purpose

- Improve welfare
- Enforce legislation
- Policy decisions

Who monitors

- Farm vets
- Official vets
- Farmers

Animal welfare indicators

Where to monitor

- Slaughterhouse - standardised
- On farm - checkpoints

What to monitor

- Mortality
- Lameness
- Tail condition / shoulder ulcers

Policy indicators

- Farms raising pigs with intact tails
- Number of non-confined sows
- Number of farms going beyond EU minimum requirements

Animal welfare indicators

Legislation aspects

- Voluntary vs mandatory indicators
- No exceptions for small farms
- Member States obligation for a database

Training

- Mandatory
- Repetitive

Screening of Council Dir.2008/120/EC

Definitions/terms

- Enrichment
- Pig categories
- Unobstructed floor area

Housing construction

- Floor categories & drainage limit
- Pen side for grouped sows

Feeding and drinking

- Maximum number of pigs per feeder/drinker
- Unlimited access of roughage to pregnant animals/addition to usual ratio

Screening of Council Dir.2008/120/EC

Nesting material

- No derogation for provision

Enrichment

- Access for all pigs

Sick pens

- Number/percentage
- Design, space allowance, bedding
- Location

Weaning age

- 28 days
- Deviation due to 'all in all out' principle
- Derogation for 21 days

Screening of Council Dir.2008/120/EC

Competences

- Training / certification
- Beyond farm manager
- Agenda of topics/frequency

AW requirements on imported products

- Desirable, however WTO conditions apply

Possibility to go beyond EU rules

- Important

*Thank you for your attention
& to Subgroup members for their work*

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European
Commission