



Euthanasia Training

As many of you will be aware Red Tractor regulations state; that on every unit at least one member of staff must be assessed as competent, to euthanase pigs, at a veterinary visit. They are then able to train junior members of staff. However these junior members of staff must be initially assessed by the vet and certified competent.

These competencies should be reassessed every three years. The senior member of staff will be reassessed by the vet at a visit, new certificates can then be issued or recorded in the health plan. We are also able to reassess any and all members of staff if you prefer.

On units where only the manager was reassessed by the vet, the manager needs to reassess their own staff and make a record of it. This should be retained in the health plan. Guidance on what is required and appropriate can be sought in "PVS – The Casualty Pig" which is readily available online

www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/files/document/192/Casualty%20Pig%20-%20April%202013-1.pdf.

Assessments fall into three distinct categories and a certificate of competence only covers one area. These areas are blunt force trauma, captive bolt and free bullet/shotgun. It is possible to assess a member of staff in multiple areas on the same day or it may be more appropriate for staff to hold certificates appropriate to their duties.

In summary all staff who are to euthanize pigs must be assessed as competent, using the method intended and a certified member of staff must be available throughout the working day. Generally it is advised that the majority of staff on a unit performing the role of a stockman are assessed in at least one area.

Topical Talk



BPHS scheme is due to end

The BPHS scheme provides a wealth of excellent information to all farmers who are signed up. It not only provides regular information on respiratory health but also on other conditions such as pericarditis and milk spot. It is also the **only** scheme of its kind in the UK.

The bad news is that the scheme is due to end in March 2017 and there is no clear plan to replace this scheme. Information will still come from the meat inspectors in the abattoir under the Collection and Communications of Inspection Results (CCIR) system. This system is not known for its robustness and although efforts are going to be made to improve it, it is generally doubted that it will come up to the same standard as BPHS.

If you as a producer would like to see BPHS maintained then now is the time for action. The best way to oppose this move is to contact AHDB directly to express your views at <http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/health-welfare/health/safe-traceable-pork/bphs/>

Staff training

We are currently organising staff training in the following categories:

- Correct use of veterinary medicines
- Gilts selection and management to first farrowing
- Service, boar and dry sow management
- Farrowing house management
- Weaner and grower pig management
- Finisher pig management
- Stockmanship and welfare

A letter detailing the courses and reply form is enclosed should you/your staff be interested in attending any of these courses, we urge you to take this valuable training opportunity.

Leptospirosis



The diseases that affect the reproductive system of the sows are probably the most important group of diseases because they cause a big economic loss and because they jeopardize production from the very beginning. Among this group of diseases there is one that we have not observed for a while, we are talking about Leptospirosis. Recently we spotted a case of Leptospirosis in which we saw an increase of stillborn, early farrowings, bad quality piglets and mummified piglets. It seemed a classics case of Parvovirus but in fact *Leptospira* was identified by PCR diagnostics.

Leptospira bratislava and *Leptospira muenchen* are the most common subtypes in pigs and they can be found worldwide. Infection can enter the herd in one of three ways: Introduction of infected gilts and boars, infection brought into the herd by other animals (rats, mice and dogs can be reservoirs of infection), and exposure of the herd to indirect sources of contamination, e.g.: contaminated water.

Once these organisms are introduced into a herd, the pigs become permanent carriers with infection of the kidneys and intermittent excretion of the organism into the urine. When the disease is caused by *Leptospira bratislava*, a reduction in farrowing rates and numbers of live pigs born per sow are normally observed. Other clinical signs are late term abortions, premature piglets, increase in stillbirths, increase in mummified pigs, increase in repeat breeding animals and reproductive failures.

Antibiotic treatment with Oxytetracycline or Chlortetracycline at the right dose is effective and this must be done as soon as the disease is diagnosed.

The control and prevention in your farm is the most important aspect to avoid the introduction of the disease in your herd. Hygiene, cleaning, disinfection and removal of possible contaminants must be a priority at all times. Also checking the water quality is a

process that needs to be done as a routine. Last but not less important is to keep a good pest control program in place as it is known that vermin are the most common vector for *Leptospira bratislava* in the farms. All the possible measures must be taken to ensure that the rodent activity in your unit is nonexistent.

If the infection occurs, there is the possibility of using a vaccine and this needs to be discussed with your veterinarian.

Staff news

New Vet



After graduating in 2011, Diana Macovei started as a veterinary surgeon in small animal practice working in various clinics in Romania and UK.

Her passion for pigs started after a period of work experience on a pig farm in Denmark. She is now delighted to be working with pigs again having a particular interest in pig medicine and disease control.

Student Study

We have had a request from a student who is doing a research study on foodborne zoonotic pathogen control systems, the link is below if any of you have time to help:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CR2C5H3>

Great Yorkshire Show and Drifffield Show



Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th July



Wednesday 20th July

We shall be attending both shows so please come along to meet with Garth staff who will be more than happy to provide you with refreshments at what we hope will be busy shows.