



Up and coming....

Project on tail-biting TailTech⁹

Garth are teaming up with SRUC, Innovent Technology Ltd, Agri-EPI as well as industry partners to work on a 3-year project looking at early indicators of tail biting.

Tail biting is an unpredictable, costly, multifactorial problem for the pig industry with no simple solution.



This project aims to develop and validate the prototype of an automated system based on 3D video to detect tail position to alert farmers to when an outbreak of damaging tail biting is imminent, so they can act to prevent it (for example, lowered pig tails, rather than the normal raised tails are a sign that damaging tail biting will soon begin).

How are we going to go about it?

We will:

- Collect continuous 3D video from pigs at a high risk of tail biting to capture the changes in tail posture pre-tail biting.
- Provide a detailed behaviour analysis of tail posture changes
- Develop software algorithms to automate this (see diagram)

As well as the veterinary expertise provided by Garth, the project partners provide expertise in pig behaviour and innovative technologies in precision livestock farming. We also have a consortium made up of various commercial companies involved in the pig supply chain.

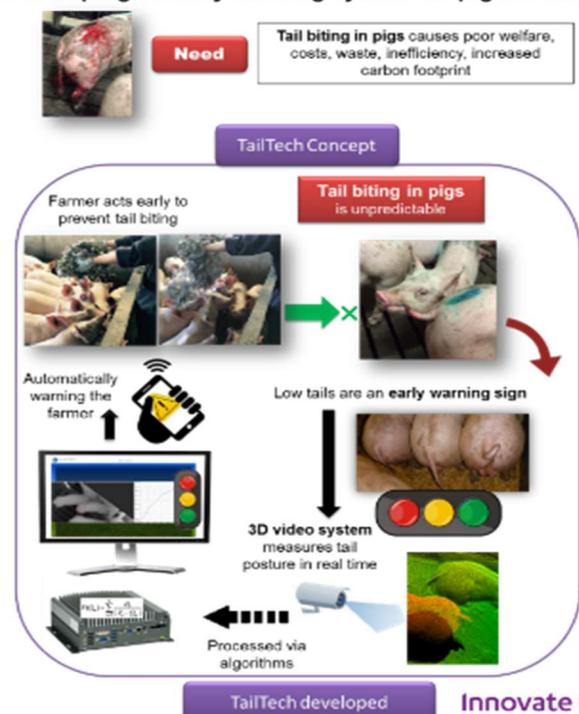
Where do you come in?

If you have a tail – biting outbreak, Nicola wants to know about it! She will be the main link between Garth and the project, and to build the best picture that we can, any incidence of tail biting needs recording. This is some preliminary ground work before moving on to the second stage of the project.

Then, for those that are interested, there is potential opportunity to have the new technology installed on farm. The wider the selection of systems that we use to develop the software, the more accurate it will be. So, we are looking for both slatted and straw production systems as well as docked and undocked pigs. Nicola will come out and visit the farms regularly for monitoring and maintenance.

Please get in touch either with Nicola via the practice on 01262 488323, mobile 07894 462455 or email nicola@garthvet.co.uk. [Alternatively, you can speak to your usual vet.](#)

TailTech: Developing an early warning system for pig tail biting



Keep African Swine Fever (ASF) out of Britain

The warning comes after the risk level of ASF entering the UK was raised following spread of the disease in Eastern and Central Europe. The disease has spread from Russia to the Ukraine and Belarus and has now been carried by wild boar into Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Estonia in the European Union.

ASF has not – yet – been confirmed in Great Britain. The most likely route of entry is via infected meat products getting onto a pig unit. African swine fever can survive for many weeks, even months, in raw, cured and cooked meats, and on objects such as vehicles, equipment and clothes. African swine fever will survive for 15 weeks in putrefied blood, 70 days in blood on wooden boards, 11 days in faeces held at room temperature, 18 months in pig blood held at 4C, 150 days in boned meat held at 4C and 140 days in salted dried hams (NPA).

Pig keepers are being reminded that it is illegal to feed catering waste of any description or domestic food waste to farm animals in the UK, including pigs kept as pets. No pig products should be allowed on pig farms. If returning from a holiday in Europe allow three days pig freedom before re-entering your farm. Specific unit clothes and footwear should be worn at all times.

Symptoms of the disease are namely sudden death affecting large numbers. Other symptoms can be variable but include vomiting, diarrhoea, haemorrhage, reddening of the skin, laboured breathing and coughing, weakness, abortion, stillbirths and weak litters.

Treatment = Notification, movement restrictions, slaughter and incineration!

Suvaxyn Circo+MH RTU and Suvaxyn PRRS



Zoetis hosted a night of CPD and go-karting at York Motor Sports Village on the 23rd November. We had a good group in

attendance including the Zoetis team, Garth vets (Ian and Christina) and a number of Garth clients. Laura (Zoetis National Veterinary Manager) presented a refresher on three important diseases:

- 🐷 *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*
- 🐷 Porcine Circovirus
- 🐷 PRRS

Laura also presented the key features and benefits of two vaccines: Suvaxyn Circo+MH RTU and the newly launched Suvaxyn PRRS MLV.

Suvaxyn® Circo+MH RTU

- 🐷 Longest protection for M.hyo and PCV in the one shot market
- 🐷 One dose minimises vaccination time and handling stress for pigs
- 🐷 Filtered vaccine with non-mineral oil adjuvant

Suvaxyn® PRRS MLV - Use from 1 day old!

- 🐷 Earliest immunity possible for piglets providing protection for the critical risk period around weaning
- 🐷 Protection right through to slaughter
- 🐷 Protects piglets, gilts and sows: Same product, same bottle, same dose.

Please contact any of the vets at the practice if you would like to know more about either or both of these vaccines.

Topical Talk – new scanning service

We are continually looking for new ways to improve our clients.

As of January, we are pleased to be able to offer ultrasound scanning as a new service.



This can be as a one off whole herd scan or as a regular routine visit for pregnancy diagnosis, using either Garth's scanner or one belonging to the farm.

