



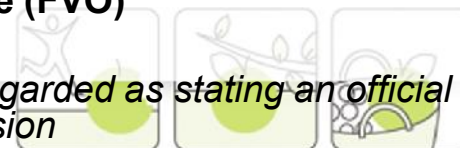
“Efficient inspections at farm level”



TRAINING COURSE ON WELFARE OF PIGS ON FARM.
Pescara-Italy, September 2011

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The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission





Summary of the presentation

- The FVO: who we are and what we do.
- Selection of farms: inspection programme.
- Key points found on pig welfare:
 1. Manipulable material.
 2. Group housing of sows
 3. Bulky feed for dry sows.
 4. Sick and injured animals
 5. Castration of male pigs.
- Verification and enforcement.
- What is needed for better compliance
- Practical example from FVO reports.



The FVO

Health & Consumers Directorate-General



Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office
Michael Scannel- Director



Unit F1

Country Profiles, Coordination of Follow-up

Unit F2

Food of Animal Origin – Mammals

Unit F3

Food of Animal Origin - Birds & Fish

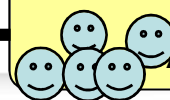
Unit F4

Food of Plant Origin, Plant Health,
processing and distribution

Unit F5

Animal Nutrition, Import Controls, Residues

Unit F6



Animal Health and Welfare



FVO audit missions:

- An assessment based on sampling the performance of the Competent Authority (CA).
 - CA procedures dealing with animal welfare.
 - The practical implementation of the EU legal requirements:
 - General on protection of animals on farms are in Directive 98/58/EC
 - Specific on protection of pigs are in Directive 2008/120/EC.

FVO missions to all MSs over the last 10 years.



Selection of farms

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A statistically representative sample of holdings

- The CA annually checks a statistically representative sample of pig holdings.
- Random inspections ensure that certain types of production are not missed due to assumptions made when risk analysis is carried out.



Selection of farms

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- Targeting of certain categories of pig farms based on
 - Analysis of previous inspections.
 - Farms with no significant investment in the last 10 years.
 - Information from slaughterhouses.



Manipulable material(1)

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BTSF
Better Training for Safer Food



Provision of manipulable material (Directive 2008/120)

- Pigs must have permanent access...
- to a sufficient quantity of material...
- to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities...
- such as straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such...
- which does not compromise the health of the animals.

Why?

- investigation and manipulation activities such as rooting are ethological and behavioural needs for pigs,
- tail-docking or reduction of corner teeth should not be carried out routinely,
- other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices,
- such as to change inadequate environmental conditions or management systems.



Manipulable material???



Group housing of sows(1)

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- Lengthy transitional period.
- Holdings newly built or rebuilt after 1 January 2003
- Existing stall systems must cease to operate by 1 January 2013
- Group housing of sows is well established where national provisions pre-dated the EU.
- On going collection of data in all MS to have state of play at EU level.



Group housing of sows(2)

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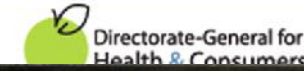


- “A sufficient quantity” of bulky or high-fibre food for all dry pregnant sows and gilts (to calm hunger and the need of chewing).
- Certain CAs have adopted a more specific definition (6 to 14% roughage materials).



Care of sick and injured animals

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Directive 98/58/EC:

- Where necessary sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.
 - Is isolation necessary?
 - Is there dry comfortable bedding?
- Appropriately care without delay and, where an animal does not respond to such care, veterinary advice must be obtained ASAP.
- Emergency killing as a critical control point?
 - Culling of individual animals on large scale pig farms is inevitable to prevent “unnecessary suffering”.
 - The training of stockpersons on welfare aspects should include guidance on when and how to do it.



Directive 2008/120/EC Article 3(8).

Castration of male pigs

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- Why?, because is one of the choices to have meat without board taint.
- Some alternatives: “early” slaughter, immunocastration, standard effective detection of board taint.
- Picture in EU varies between MS.

EU requirements (Annex I of Directive 2008/120):

- Without tearing of tissues,
- Age:
 - before 7 days old, by veterinarian or person trained and experienced.
 - After 7 days old, under anaesthetic and prolonged analgesia by a veterinarian.

In general castration is performed at 3 days of age, not always without tearing of tissues, by trained person with experience.



Conclusions on key points

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Progress has been slow in implementing issues such as

- bulky food for sows,
- the avoidance of tail-docking and
- the provision of rooting materials
- Group housing of sows is well established in certain MSs.
 - *Farms with no significant investment in the last 10 years certainly a risk of non-compliance.*





- At regional or district level
- On the quality of OC (joint inspections) and quantity (planned vs performed)
- Analysis of results to identify irregularities
- Ensure that deficiencies are correctly identified, follow-up inspections are carried out timely and appropriate actions are taken by OV



Enforcement

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- Effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions (Art 54 of Reg 882/2004) are the only ones working.
- Written warning.
- If corrective measures not taken: sanction imposed directly or case reported to body responsible for enforcement.
- Other type of sanctions such as reduction or better distribution of animals.



What is needed for better compliance?

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At Competent Authority level

- Higher priority
- Adequate planning, target setting and analysis of outcomes
- Better execution – inspections recorded, reported and audited
- Improved training for inspectors
- Better co-ordination between MS

At farm level

- Sharing of solutions/ best practice.
- More information/training for staff.





Programme of inspections:

- Controls on farm are being carried out regularly according to the National Plan for Animal Welfare.
- The CAs have put in place satisfactory systems for the organisation and reporting of checks on animals kept for breeding or farming purpose.

Documented procedures

- There were some deficiencies in the farm checklists.
- in both regions visited were not sure where to obtain specific guidance on interpretation of the EU Directives for the welfare of pigs.





Verification

- The CCA is working with the regional authorities to put in place audit systems at regional levels,
- and has undertaken satisfactory verification inspections on animal welfare controls at local level as part of increasing the scope of its audit strategy.





Findings in farms visited:

- ❑ In general the conditions of the animals were satisfactory.
- ❑ Sufficient level of fibre and high energy feed for pregnant sows and gilts:
 - OV's did not know what constituted a sufficient level, as there is no CCA guidance available on this.



FVO report practical example(4)



□ Justification of tail docking and teeth clipping:

- There was a requirement to issue the declaration justifying tail docking and teeth grinding listed on **the CA checklist**.
- In neither region was the CA attempting to **assess** if owners had taken all steps necessary to improve environmental conditions prior to permitting tail docking and teeth grinding.
- Some premises had provided some **types of manipulable material** (pieces of wood, chains and tyres - the last two of which are unsuitable) for some categories of pigs.
- OV's are **interpreting** the need for manipulable material only when animals are aggressive or when groups are mixed.



Conclusions

- The CCA has not provided sufficient guidance and interpretation on certain requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC to enable OV's to effectively enforce official controls relating to:
 - fibre and energy requirements for pregnant sows and gilts.
 - the provision of enrichment material.
 - and the practice of routine mutilations.



Recommendations

The CCA should ensure that:

- staff receive appropriate training to ensure that effective checks are performed,
- staff receive clear guidance and interpretation to enable them to effectively enforce legislative requirements.
- that documented procedures are revised to provide sufficient guidance to inspectors to assess certain requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC.





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

FVO reports can be found in:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.cfm

