

SEPTEMBER 2017

PIG FAIR 2017

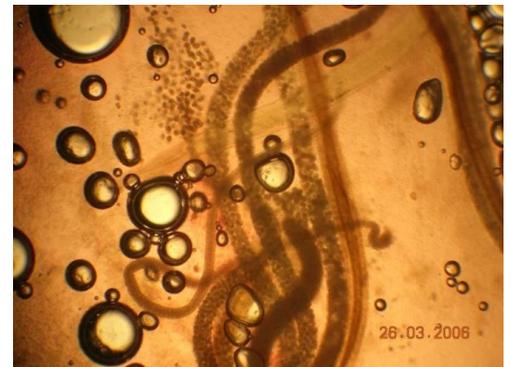
This year's Pig Fair saw record attendance at both Wincanton and Exeter – apologies to anyone who couldn't get a seat! Thanks to all that attended and made each event a great success. We will try to deliver a brief summary of the presentations in this and the next Talkshop so those unable to attend can still benefit from some of the key messages.

WORMY ISSUES

Over the last couple of years we have been examining the parasite burdens on some of our farms more closely and finding some interesting things. In the past I think we have been guilty of making too many assumptions about issues concerning pigs, worms and anthelmintic (wormer) resistance. Many of you will be aware that anthelmintic resistance is a very serious issue for both the sheep and cattle sectors such that cross sector bodies such as SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) have been set up, to assume such issues just wouldn't be a problem for the pig sector may well turn out to be a trifle naïve.

Recent investigations by faecal egg counting within the practice have suggested worm burdens on some of our farms are actually quite considerable. Further in depth investigations with APHA colleagues on one affected farm has confirmed a very heavy level of infection with a large intestinal worm called *Oesophagostomum*, virtually every single sow showing evidence of significant burden. Sow treatment using *ivermectin* injection completely failed to control these infections with counts in treated sows actually increasing over the following 4 weeks.

The same protocol was then applied to a subsequent batch of sows but an oral *Fenbendazole* treatment (Pigfen) was also used. On this occasion treatment appeared completely successful. Worm larvae from this farm have been sent up to the Moredon Research Institute in Scotland where AHDB Pork are funding extensive trial work aimed at demonstrating *ivermectin* resistance in this parasite. If confirmed, this will represent the first proven case of *ivermectin* resistance in pig worms in the UK.



We are now conducting a wider survey of breeding herds to try and gain a better understanding of worm burdens in relation to other features such as farm size, type and worming history. This work is currently being funded by Elanco Animal Health. If you wish to benefit from the FOC testing, please let us know.

OTHER ISSUES

FOREST OF DEAN

The feral boar population in the forest continues to increase and APHA having recently raised the ASF (African Swine Fever) threat level from “very low” to “low”, this is a growing concern. A recent article in the Vet Record estimated the boar density in the Forest to now exceed 10/Km². For comparison the boar density in Estonia, which has unfortunately been affected by ASF, is reckoned to be <0.5/Km². NPA continue to try and highlight the threat here with government and land owners, especially the Forestry Commission.

MEDICINE RECORDS

New Red Tractor rules came into force at the beginning of this month covering, amongst other things, medicines recording. It is now mandatory for all RT producers to enter their antibiotic usage onto eMB. As an absolute minimum, usage for quarters two (April – June) and three (July – September) must be uploaded by 11th November. If you are struggling, let us know and we will try to help out.

NATIONAL PIG AWARDS

We are absolutely delighted to have been nominated and shortlisted as one of the finalists in the “Allied Industry” category for this year’s awards. The team will be represented at the awards on 6th November and we have our fingers crossed. Thames Valley are also finalists – Please take the time to vote for one of us using this link: - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G2XFVQX>

All the best

Richard B Pearson BVSc MRCVS