

APRIL 2018

Confirmation of Ivermectin Resistance in Oesophagostomum Worms

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We have been working with APHA vets to investigate possible Ivermectin resistance in one of the major worm species in pigs over the last year. Oesophagostomum is the cause of “Thin Sow Syndrome” and can also be a cause of poor weaning weights. Recent trial work at the Moredun Institute in Scotland has now unfortunately confirmed Ivermectin resistance in these worms. This is the first confirmed case of Ivermectin resistance in pig worms anywhere in Europe and is potentially serious for all sorts of reasons, not least because Ivermectin is one of only two classes of wormer available to use in pigs. I suspect we are going to have to pay more attention to parasite control and wormers over the coming years with “sustainability” more of a key concept. Many of you will be aware of the serious problems with wormer resistance in other farmed species, especially sheep, and these sectors responding with initiatives such as SCOPS – Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep.

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We are grateful to Elanco Animal Health for funding worm egg count survey work on our breeding herds across the south. The results of this survey work will be presented at our Pig Fairs in October but I already know they are very interesting. If you haven’t yet had your herd checked, please let us know as the survey work closes at the end of May.

ASF Threat

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The last week has seen the first reported cases reported by Hungary on top of more recent cases in Moldova, Romania, the Czech Republic and Poland. Re-visiting unit biosecurity arrangements is always time well spent. Just a couple of reminders:

- No staff or visitors should be allowed to bring any food of porcine origin (ham, sausages, salami etc) onto any pig farm.
- Staff, visitors, hauliers etc returning from affected areas (particularly Eastern Europe) should be particularly careful in terms of downtime and not bringing pig meat products back into the country.

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Endemic wild boar populations are a significant reservoir of, and propagator for ASF in these areas. Against this background we are all very concerned to note the steady increase in, and geographical spread of, the Forest of Dean feral boar population. The Forestry Commission (the major landowner in the Forest) has been attempting to control the boar but cull targets have been consistently missed for the last few years, and the population continues to grow. Concerted multi agency action is now needed

and to me that basically means some government support and coordination. If you get chance to lobby your MP or APHA, please take it.

eMB Reminder

T The deadline for submission of Q1 2018 antibiotic use onto eMB is 12th May. Please try to get your returns in promptly. We continue to fight the corner for responsible use in the pig sector and submission of accurate usage figures by all pig farmers is essential here – never mind it being a Red Tractor requirement.

On-Farm Mill/Mixers

A On-farm mill/mixers with a Category 6 Licence (ie licensed to include medicated
L interpretations of legislation at recent inspections. All Cat 6 premises must have a re-registration visit by VMD every 3-4 years. More recently, producers have been asked for both dispersion and carryover testing results for antibiotics, carried out since the last inspection visit. It seems likely this reflects a general hardening of attitude by all regulatory bodies with regards antibiotics.

Fridges

K Recent survey work by MSD has highlighted significant problems with either storage
S or administration of vaccines on many farms. Bear in mind just how important the vaccines you use on your farm are, especially as we all strive to lower use of antibiotics. An interesting exercise on many farms is to compare the value of the vaccines in the pig farm fridge with the value of the food (and drink!) in the domestic fridge, and then to compare the value of the 2 fridges themselves. Food for thought!!

H Hoping for some sunshine soon!



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P Richard B Pearson, BVSc, MRCVS