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Agenda

Animal Welfare in pig production

Malmö, 11-14 April, 2016

*Training activities on Animal Welfare mainly for EU Member States
under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' Initiative.*

Service Contract N. 2012 96 04



Contractor:

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"

Sub-contractors:

Aarhus University (DK), Scotland's Rural College (UK), Università degli Studi di Milano (I)

Introduction

There is ongoing work at the Commission in order to improve the welfare of pigs and to increase awareness on this issue among stakeholders and consumers.

Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 lays down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. This Directive repeals Directive 91/630/EC and consolidates the standards which are already in force in a single text.

The text provides details for improving several aspects of the welfare of pigs e.g. housing, painful operations.

Minimum standards apply to all categories of pigs kept for rearing and fattening e.g. piglets (from birth to weaning), weaned piglets (from weaning to 10 weeks old), fatteners (more than 10 weeks old), sows, gilts and boars.

These animals are, apart from some exceptions (farrowing sows, sows from weaning and until four weeks after service, boar), to be raised in groups. Farmers must implement measures aimed at fulfilling basic needs and preventing aggression within the group. In particular, pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of enrichment material in order to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities.

Pregnant sows and gilts must, if necessary, be treated against external and internal parasites. Tethering sows and gilts has been prohibited since 1 January 2006.

One week before farrowing, sows and gilts can be isolated. An unobstructed area must be available for natural or assisted farrowing. Boxes must be equipped with piglet protection systems.

No piglets shall be weaned from the sow at less than 28 days of age unless the welfare or health of the dam or the piglet would otherwise be adversely affected. However, they may be weaned up to seven days earlier if they are moved to specialised all-in-all-out units.

Measures shall be taken to ensure that the animals do not fight. Pigs are to be kept in groups with as little mixing as possible (if necessary preferably before weaning or during the week following weaning). Aggressive animals are to be kept away from the group (as are injured animals). Tranquilising medicaments are to be used only to facilitate mixing in exceptional conditions and after consultation with a veterinarian.

A veterinarian or “carer”, trained in aspects relating to animal welfare is authorised to carry out the following:

- ✓ reduction of piglets’ corner teeth,
- ✓ docking of tails (before the seventh day of life or after this age if carried out by a veterinarian and under anaesthesia and with additional prolonged analgesia),
- ✓ castration of males (before the seventh day of life or after this age if carried out by a veterinarian and under anaesthesia and with additional prolonged analgesia),
- ✓ nose-ringing in outdoor husbandry systems.

Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows’ teats or to other pigs’ ears or tails have occurred. Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities.

For this reason inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed.

The Directive also provides for standards concerning feeding in “sufficient quality” and “permanent” access to drinking water. All pigs must have access to food at the same time as other animals in the group. Animals must be fed at least once a day.

Standards concerning floor area are set according to the weight of the animal: between 0.15 m² for pigs weighing less than 10 kg and 1 m² per animal over 110 kg, 1.64 m² per gilt, 2.25 m² per sow, 6 m² for a boar (10 m² if the boar is used for natural service).

Floors must be smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to the animals.

The lying area must be comfortable, clean and dry.

Continuous noise as loud as 85 dB is to be avoided. Light intensity is to be at least 40 lux for eight hours.

Member States must carry out inspections each year on a statistically representative sample.

The Commission may send veterinary experts to make on-the-spot checks in the farms with the assistance of national inspectors.

Member States may apply stricter provisions on their own territory than those laid down in this Directive. In this case, they shall inform the Commission of any such measures beforehand.

Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes has provisions on e.g. daily inspection of animals, isolation where necessary of ill or injured animals, record keeping and freedom of movement.

Specific learning objectives

The course will allow participants to achieve the necessary skills to:

- interpret relevant EU legislation;
- apply scientific basis for proper housing, management (including provisions of enrichment material, group housing of sows and gilts, feeding practices for dry pregnant sows and gilts, mutilation procedures such as tail-docking, tooth clipping and castration) and handling of pigs;
- assess compliance of existing farming systems (including requirements for manipulability and rooting materials, flooring types, etc.) with the current EU legislation;
- monitor animal welfare outcomes, throughout practical experience on the farm;
- carry out efficient inspections at farm level, including practical guidance on how to verify compliance of farming systems and management practices with the EU legislation;
- be aware on how a strong cooperation between competent authorities and stakeholders in the production chain can improve the welfare conditions of pigs at farms.

The course will also provide practical training on welfare inspection of pigs in farms, focused particularly on the assessment of the housing conditions and management practices.

Agenda

Scientific Coordinators: Dr. Birte Broberg and Dr Lotta Nordensten

<i>Chairman: S. D'Albenzio</i>				
Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
11 April	Morning	Arrival and transfer to the hotel	----	----
	13.30	Light lunch	----	----
	15.00	Welcome addresses	Swedish NCA delegate	10 m
	15.10	Course background, objectives, expected results	S. D'Albenzio IZSAM	20 m
	15.30	OIE general principles and future challenge to develop outcome based standards	L. Stuardo OIE	20 m
	15.50	Measures to fulfill basic needs and preventing aggression within the groups	S. Turner SRUC	20 m
	16.10	Coffee break	--	20 m
	16.30	The outcome from three Commission study visits on keeping pigs with intact tails	T. Cassidy DG Health and Food Safety	30 m
	17.00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Introduction: Welfare of intensively kept pigs - EU legislation in force</p> <p>Forum (Questions & Answers): Options envisaged to ensure proper enforcement of Council Directive 2008/120/EC and international perspectives</p>	<p>Chairman B. Broberg (DK)</p> <p>T. Cassidy DG Health and Food Safety L. Stuardo OIE B. Broberg Danish NCA Delegate P. Leon Spanish NCA Delegate L. Nordensten Swedish NCA Delegate</p>	1h 30 m
	18.30	End of the first session and free time	---	---
20.00	Dinner	---	---	

Chairman (morning session): S. Barbieri

Chairman (afternoon session): P. Leon

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
12 April	09.00	Biology and behaviour of pigs in natural and semi-natural conditions	S. Turner SRUC	45 m
	09.45	Relevance of animal based indicators for pig welfare assessment (part 1)	A. Dalmau IRTA	45 m
	10.30	Morning tea and coffee break	---	15 m
	10.45	Relevance of animal based indicators for pig welfare assessment (part 2)	A. Dalmau IRTA	45 m
	11.30	Case studies (Working groups)	All tutors facilitate	1 h
	12.30	Presentation of the group activity results: plenary session	WGs leaders	30 m
	13.00	Lunch	---	1 h 30 m
	14.30	Welfare assessment protocol on farm	A. Dalmau IRTA	30 m
	15.00	Relevance of resource based indicators for pig welfare assessment	P. Ferrari CRPA	30 m
	15.30	Mutilation procedures: welfare implication and new strategies	D. Sandercock SRUC	30 m
	16.00	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m
	16.15	Animal health and welfare aspects of different housing and husbandry systems for pig production	S. Barbieri UNIMI	30 m
	16.45	Group housing and feeding strategies for sows and gilts	S. Turner SRUC	30 m
	17.15	Open forum: Questions and answers	Discussion coordinator: P. Leon	45 m
	18.00	Free time	---	----
	20.00	Social Dinner	---	----

Chairman: P. Ferrari

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
13 April	09.00	Environmental enrichment to improve pig welfare focusing on legislative requirements and practical solutions	S. Barbieri UNIMI	20 m
	09.20	Panel discussion: stakeholders' perspective and related issues on AW in pig production	Chairman: P.Ferrari	1 h 20 m
		- <i>Social and economic aspects of animal welfare concerning farming of pigs</i>	P.Ferrari (CRPA)	20 m
		- <i>Keeping pigs with intact tails: good practices and lessons learnt</i>	K. Kaaro	20 m
		- <i>The experience of animal welfare inspection as perceived by danish farmers</i>	I. Anneberg (Aarhus University)	20 m
		<i>Debate</i>	Chairman: P.Ferrari	20 m
	10.40	Introduction to the in-field exercise	L. Nordensten Swedish NCA Delegate <i>(all tutors facilitate)</i>	20 m
	11.00	Brunch	---	1 h
	12.00	Departure from the hotel	---	30 m
	12.30	In field exercises (Working groups)	All tutors	3 h
	15.30	Departure for the hotel	---	30 m
	16.00	Free Time	---	---
	18.15	Dinner	---	---
19.15	Social programme	---	---	

Chairman: B. Broberg

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
14 April	08.30	Group activity. Discussion on the in-field exercise and preparation of ppt presentations	Working groups facilitated by tutors	1 h 30 m
	10.00	Plenary session to present the in-field activity reports describing animal welfare assessment and compliance with the EU legislation. Final comments	Working groups rapporteurs	1 h
	11.00	Course major outcomes and final conclusions	B. Broberg Danish NCA Delegate	15 m
	11.15	Brunch	---	---
	12.15	Departure for international airports	---	----

Training course methodologies

The course aims at improving participant practical skills to be applied in their daily work. They focus on developing the abilities of participants identifying critical points and solutions to main problems encountered in the everyday work.

Training methodology, drawn upon the experience of the trainees, takes into consideration that the trainee is in most cases already quite informed on the issues related to animal welfare standards.

On the basis of previous DG SANTE experiences and taking into account adult learning styles, the training methodologies will be the following ones:

Methods
Lectures by experts
Group works/facilitated group discussions
Study and discussion of typical cases
Structured exercises and simulations
Individual reading assignments and individual exercise
Demonstrations in field activities

A half-day visit to farms complying with EU legislation, will be organised for practicing simulation exercises.

Participants

Official veterinarians belonging to the National Competent Authorities of EU Countries, candidate and Third Countries, involved in:

- official controls on animal welfare aspects concerning the farming of pigs;
- development of best practices to improve the application of European norms and/or international standards (where appropriate).

Location

Accommodation

Malmö Arena Hotel

Hyllie Boulevard 2

215 32 Malmö, Sweden

<http://www.malmoarenahotel.com/>

Conference venue

MalmöMassan

Mässgatan 6Web

215 32 Malmö, Sweden

<http://www.malmomassan.se/>