



134 Research paper

Profile of pig farms combining high performance and low antimicrobial usage within four European countries

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In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Biosecurity \ Pathogen management

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;Adult;

Summary:

Pig farmers have been advised to reduce their antimicrobial usage because of the threat of antimicrobial resistance. This study investigates the profile of 'top-farms', which combine both high technical performance and low antimicrobial usage. A study was conducted among 227 farrow-to-finish farms in Belgium, France, Germany and Sweden. Within this study, 44 top-farms were compared with the 'regular' farms in terms of farm characteristics, biosecurity and health status. Top-farms had fewer gastrointestinal symptoms in suckling pigs and fewer respiratory symptoms in fatteners, which could partly explain their reduced need for antimicrobials and higher performance. They also had higher biosecurity and were located in sparsely populated pig areas. However, 14 farms of the top-farms group were located in densely populated pig areas, but they had higher internal biosecurity and more extensive vaccination against respiratory pathogens. These results illustrate that it is possible to control infectious diseases with low antimicrobial usage.

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Where to find the original material:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29051316>; <https://dx.doi.org/10.1136/vr.103988>

Country: CH; FR; SE; BE; DE; DK