



160 Research paper

Relationship between biosecurity and production/antimicrobial treatment characteristics in pig herds

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In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Biosecurity \

Species targeted: Pigs;

Age: Young;Adult;

Summary:

The biosecurity status of 95 breeder–finisher pig herds was quantified using the Biocheck.ugent scoring system. Data relating to herd-, farmer- and production-characteristics and to the preventive use of antimicrobials were also collected. The average external biosecurity score (measures to prevent pathogens from entering a herd) was 65 (range, 45–89) and the average internal score (measures to reduce the within-herd spread of pathogens) was 52 (range, 18–87). Scores indicated that biosecurity is generally better implemented in larger herds, in more modern facilities and by younger farmers. External and internal biosecurity scores were positively associated with daily weight gain and negatively associated with feed conversion ratio of fattening pigs. Internal scores were negatively associated with disease treatment incidence, suggesting that improved biosecurity may help reduce preventive use of antimicrobials. This study demonstrates and quantifies a clear link between biosecurity and both production- and antimicrobial treatment-related criteria in pig herds.

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Where to find the original material:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24268483>; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2013.08.029>

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