
PERCEPTION OF IMPORTANCE OF BIOSECURITY MEASURES BY VETERINARIANS AND FARMERS ON SWINE FARMS

SIMON⁽¹⁾ M.; GARCIA⁽¹⁾ I.; ALLEPUZ^(1,2) A.; CASAL^(1,2) J.

(1)Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA)_

(2) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

Introduction

Effective application of different biosecurity measures in swine farms is determined by the importance that farmers attribute to them, and this fact is usually influenced by the opinion of the veterinarians. The objective of this study is to analyze the influence of the opinion of the veterinarians on the importance that farmers attribute to the different biosecurity measures.

Animals, Material and Methods

In this abstract, we present the preliminary results because data collection is still ongoing. At the moment, 118 farmers and 68 veterinarians responsible for swine farms located in Spain have been questioned. Questionnaire included data related to the most relevant biosecurity measures according to farmers and veterinarians, as well as a biosecurity score, on a scale of 0–10. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS package v14.

Results

The mean score given by farmers to their biosecurity measures was 6.7 \pm 1.6. On the other hand, veterinarians gave a lower score (5.4 \pm 1.6) to the biosecurity measures of the farms they visited often. The biosecurity measures related to the control of the entrance of people and vehicles to the farm were considered as important by both farmers and veterinarians, while those related to the health status and quarantine application in replacement stock were mentioned as relevant only by veterinarians.

Conclusions

These results are interesting given that introduction of animals in a farm has been considered the most common way for introduction of new diseases.

References

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