Information from the Commission on actions to prevent tail biting and prevent routine tail docking of pigs

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PAFF July 2018
Commission Project to reduce tail-docking of pigs - Objectives

• Reduce animal suffering by improving the application of Council Directives 2008/120/EC & 98/58/EC over a three year period (17-19)

• Specific focus on the avoidance of routine tail docking and the provision of enrichment material
WORK PROGRAMME MILESTONES

- Audits finalised
- Assess MS APs
- Policy options
- TAILS visits
- Audit APs
- Council discussion
- RESULTS WP

- 17/18
- July 18
- Sep 18
- Feb 19
- Dec 18
- Jul 19

Health and Food Safety
Audit Outcomes

- 5 audits: NL, ES, DK, IT, DE- 4 published
- % Tail-docking – estimates 98.5-100% i.e. routine
- Measureable compliance criteria inadequate in most
- CA instructions imprecise/not followed in most
- Enforcement action variable
- Research and trials: extensive and expensive to none
- No progress on compliance/reduction in tail-docking
- CAP schemes-incl in Court of Auditors Report (Aug 2018)
Member State Action Plans

- Request MS Action Plans on 2008/120 & 98/58: Jan 2018
- Compliance end 2018 with
  - CA Compliance criteria
  - Farmer risk assessment
  - Evidence of tail/ear injuries
  - Assessment and changes to inadequate environmental conditions or management systems
  - Communication/liaison and enforcement
Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

- 25/26 received - 1 delayed. 25 assessed
- 23/25 plans propose improvements
- Wide variation in scope of improvements
- Wide variation in plan details/deadlines
  - Consultation phase-majority before 9/18
  - Revision to procedures- majority before 9/18
  - Enforcement- majority late 2018/start 2019
Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

- Improvements in Compliance criteria
  - Enrichment material 23
  - Cleanliness 11
  - Thermal comfort/air 7/13
  - Health status: training/sick pigs/weaning age 7/7/1
  - Comp. for space/ fighting/Feed n water/fresh water quantity 8/4/7/4
  - Diet 3
Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

• Other planned improvements

  • Assessing the risk factors for tail/ear biting 18
  • Evidence of tail/ear injuries 17
  • Assess/change inadequate env/man systems 18
  • Communication/liaison with industry 22
  • Enforcement 19
  • Review provision of vet/QA attestations 11
Next Steps

• Finalise AP review
• Review MS compliance
• Write to MS:
  • Updates
  • Clarifications
  • Omissions
  • Disseminate Good Practice
• COM Policy options
Next Steps

• BTSF training on pigs aligned with SANTE Work Plan
• Work with AW Ref Centre on animal/resource indicators
• Contribute to DG AGRI consultation on revised CAP
• TAILS team visits
• Continued liaison with pig sector, research, NGOs, EP, FVE etc
• Animal Welfare Platform-sub-group on pigs
• Meeting end 2018 to refine/discuss improved APs
• Proposed audits on implementation of MS APs