

Summary

Advice 18-2007 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC concerning the declaration of food chain information by pig holders to the slaughterhouse.

The Scientific Committee was asked to scientifically evaluate the project of declaration of food chain information which has to be communicated by pig holders to the slaughterhouse, in order to guarantee the safety of the food chain.

In summary the Scientific Committee recommends the farmers to report:

- the different symptoms and disorders which were observed during the entire fattening period in all the pigs sent to the slaughterhouse;
- the zoonotic diseases (including the indication of presence of zoonotic agents) known by the pig farmer based on zoonotic surveillance during the whole fattening period and of all animals at the production site which are submitted to the surveillance;
- morbidity rates above 5% in the whole pig lot (for closed farms) or in the production group (for other types of farms), and this during the whole fattening period, including the laboratory results related to these animals;
- morbidity in sick animals which underwent a group treatment on production lot level or these cases which got an individual treatment with more than 20% of the animals in that group, including the laboratory results of these animals, and this during the whole fattening period;
- medical treatments during the whole fattening period in slaughter pigs and during the last 4 months for reform sows.

The Scientific Committee refers to the problem of diagnosis of zoonotic infections. Because most of the animals with these zoonotic infections show no symptoms, the pig farmer will not be able to declare much relevant information to the slaughterhouse on that subject unless surveillance is conducted on the farm and the results are known by the farmer.

The Scientific Committee emphasises the crucial role of the veterinary practitioner, contracted by the exploitation, to make a correct diagnosis on farm level, of the public administration in designing surveillance programs for the diagnosis of zoonotic infections and of the veterinary inspection of slaughtered animals (both before as after slaughter).

The full text is available on <http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/wetenschappelijkcomite/adviezen/2007.asp> in French and Dutch.