

# Monitoring Animal Health

## Pigs

### Highlights Report, Second half of 2017

#### Trends in monitoring pig health

In the second half of 2017, GD Animal Health received slightly fewer submissions of pigs for pathological examination than in the first half of 2017, though more than in the second half of 2016. The same applies for the number of questions put to the 'Veekijker'. In the second half of 2017, most of the questions about specific disorders concerned PRRS and PED. The PED epidemic in the Netherlands is certainly not over yet. The number of questions regarding *Mycobacterium avium* (avian tuberculosis) dropped strongly again after sow farms were infected earlier this year through the use of an oral iron supplement which proved to be

contaminated with this bacterium. Many questions were also still posed regarding lameness, and also on diarrhoea. In the Online Monitor veterinarians reported the absence of disorders in 60 percent of their farm visits. When disorders were reported at a farm, two thirds of the cases were attributed to an infectious disease. By far the most commonly identified pathogen among pigs is *Streptococcus*. Eastern European countries, and the Baltic states in particular, reported more than 2700 outbreaks of African Swine Fever in the second half of 2017. The area within which outbreaks have occurred in the Czech Republic is gradually growing,

#### Short news

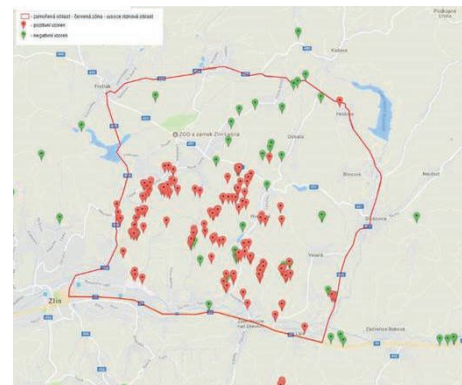
- Almost every quarter, the 'Veekijker' receives reports of mortality due to nitrite poisoning in pigs caused by drinking bacteriologically contaminated water. It is therefore extremely important to regularly check and clean pipelines and filter systems.
- For background information on African Swine Fever (ASF), see [www.gddiergezondheid.nl/dierziekten](http://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/dierziekten)

and wild boar outside the electrically fenced area have also been infected.

#### ASF also outside the fence in the Czech Republic

In a reaction to the Czech outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) among wild boar, the area around Zlin where the outbreaks occurred has been cordoned off with electric fencing. Detailed information regarding the outbreaks in the Czech Republic (as of 17 January 2018), received via Tiergesundheitsdienst Niederösterreich, shows

the following (see the adjacent figure): the core area with positive results (red) is displayed. Also visible are a number of (red) positive ASF findings outside the electrically fenced area around Zlin. The locations of wild boar tested negative for ASF are shown in green. The number of registered cases increased to 202 at the end of 2017.



This Pig Monitor newsletter provides a summary of a number of important and striking matters from the second half of 2017. The basic pig health monitoring is financed by the pig industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and contributions from farmers. In this edition, topics include African Swine Fever and the Online Monitor.



## Online Monitor: *E. coli* in finishers

Well-known clinical pictures attributed to infections with *E. coli* are oedema disease and post weaning diarrhoea (enterotoxigenic). In the **Online Monitor**, this has accounted for 3 to 6 percent of all probable diagnoses reported over the past two years. It mainly concerns weaned piglets. However, vets occasionally also diagnose enterotoxigenic or oedema disease in finishers at the start of the fattening period. Moreover, there seems to be a seasonal fluctuation (see figure).

Known risk factors such as lower indoor temperatures or cold draughts may possibly be more prominent among finishers in autumn. The feed composition may also impact the occurrence of enterotoxigenic and oedema disease, for example the fiber content and the amount and quality of the protein in the feed. However, it is difficult to determine whether there are clear changes in the composition of pig feed in autumn, due to the use of other raw materials for example. This analysis is an example of the options offered by the

Online Monitor, alongside pathological examination and the 'Veekijker'.

**Pathological examination** of finishers (age category 10 to 24 weeks) led to a diagnosis of enterotoxigenic in 4.3 percent of cases in the past two years, and of oedema disease in only 0.6 percent of cases. As this concerned only 43 finishers over a two-year period, no seasonal fluctuation is discernible. The percentage of questions asked to the '**Veekijker**' regarding *E. coli* infections in finishers is less than 1 percent.

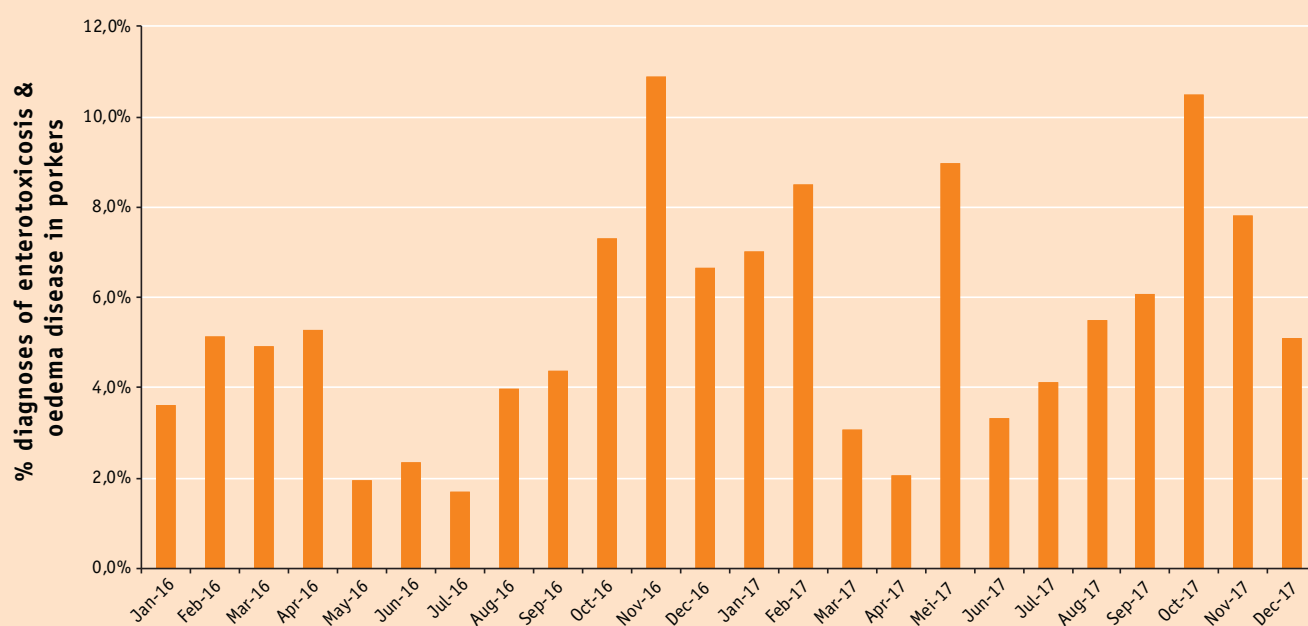


Figure: Percentage of all diagnoses of enterotoxigenic and/or oedema disease in the Online Monitor, relating to finishers (2016-2017 period).

## PED in the Netherlands

Most of the new PED infections occurred in the southern Netherlands in 2017. As there is no compulsory notification for cases of PED, it is impossible to determine precisely how many farms are actually infected. New infections are discovered on a weekly basis, as is apparent from submissions for faecal testing made to GD Animal Health. Cases were also reported in the Online Monitor.



## Animal health barometer (second half of 2017)

The animal health barometer provides instant insight into the actual Dutch pig health status.

(Source: GD Animal Health, Early Warning System (EWS), Rijksoverheid, NVWA, WBVR, OIE)

Disease/disorder/health characteristic	Brief description	Quiet <sup>1</sup>	Increased attention <sup>2</sup>
<b>Article 15 diseases (compulsory notification and eradication)</b>			
Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 2001. No outbreaks in Europe in the second half of 2017.	*	
Classical Swine Fever (CSF)	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 1997. No outbreaks in Europe in the second half of 2017.	*	
African Swine Fever (ASF)	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 1986. Outbreaks reported among both domestic pigs and wild boar in Latvia, Poland and Ukraine in the second half of 2017. Outbreaks among wild boar in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Lithuania. ASF is endemic in Sardinia.		*
Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 1994. No outbreaks in Europe in the second half of 2017.	*	
Brucellosis	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 1973. No outbreaks in Europe in the second half of 2017.	*	
Aujeszky's disease	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 2007 (vaccination is prohibited); in the second half of 2017, no outbreaks in EU member states with art. 10 status <sup>3</sup> .	*	
<b>Article 100 diseases (compulsory notification)</b>			
Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	The Netherlands has been disease-free since 2001. No outbreaks in Europe in the second half of 2017.	*	
<b>Article 100 diseases (compulsory notification)</b>			
PED	New cases still being reported.		*
Brachyspira	Relatively many questions, but no clear increase in reports in the Online Monitor.	*	
Lameness	Still many questions. Also often due to non-infectious diseases.	*	
Oestrus returns/early aborters	Increase in autumn, but less so than in 2016.	*	
Farrowing problems	Gradually more reports in the Online Monitor.	*	

<sup>1</sup> Quiet: no action required or action is not expected to result in a clear improvement

<sup>2</sup> Increased attention: alert to a deviation

<sup>3</sup> Article 10 status: free from Aujeszky's disease and vaccination is prohibited