

was more pronounced in bacon pigs (50-100 kg weight) than in sows or boars, but mortality was low. Most of these breeding animals did not get ill. Nevertheless, fever, anorexia and sometimes abortion were noticed. An influenza virus HSW₁N₁ was isolated in many herds and seroconversion was general (95 p. 100). Economic losses differed from one herd to another in relation with respiratory diseases especially pneumonia. Many epidemiological factors were involved in the spreading of influenza and their role was discussed. Clinical and serological studies in the herds 6 months post-infection showed the persistence of viral activity in some of them. This situation is being investigated.

**Urinary disorders in sow herds :
diagnosis, consequences, environmental and physiological factors**

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Three studies were made (Brittany, France) on urinary disorders in sows detected in slaughter houses, in experimental production units and in conventional herds. Nitrites were found in 17 p. 100 of them. Cytobacteriological controls showed the presence of bacteria in 36 p. 100 of urines, but acute bacteriuria (10⁸ germs/ml) was only found in 13 p. 100 of the sows. It was more frequent in sows than in gilts. Most bacteria were of faecal origin with facultative pathogenic properties. A diagnosis scheme is suggested comparing the different methods of detection of urinary disorders. Furthermore, comparison of the environmental conditions in a hundred herds allowed to determine the main factors responsible for urinary infection : water intake, hygiene, constipation and sedentariness.

**Health control of breeding herds
Role of the laboratory of pig pathology**

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During the last twelve years a steady concentration of pig production units was observed in France (in the West and in a restricted number of farms) as well as an intensification and development of selection schemes and exchanges of breeding animals.

Health control programmes and methods for decision of breeding animal diffusion were suggested by several authors (J. FOREST & A. MALLITE, 1979 ; P. VANNIER, M. KOBISCH & J.P. TILLON, 1980).

Health control programmes of both selection and multiplier herds applied since 1975 are reported here.

In the present article, we only mention the control of respiratory diseases. Using two examples we show the role of the laboratory in the decision of diffusion or no diffusion.

The following data were collected in herds A and B : clinical observations, slaughter examinations (snout sections, lungs), results of controls in 10-week-old piglets performed

at the Station of Pig Pathology at Ploufragan (autopsies, inventory of the isolated bacteria — nasal cavities, lungs — identification of mycoplasma by culture, immunofluorescence, serology) and growth performance.

Results concerned the period from october 1978 until september 1982 for herd A and january 1978 till december 1981 for herd B. They led to withdrawal of the elite herd status from herd B, and continuation of diffusion in herd A.

As regards the respiratory diseases the decision of diffusion is sometimes difficult to take. Accordingly, the assessment of a herd health condition requires, on the one hand, to take into account the different sources of informations and, on the other hand, a team work between the farmer, the veterinarian and the laboratory.

Any negligence in the health control of herds producing breeding animals may have serious economic consequences on the pig population.

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