



IMPACT OF FLOORING ON PIG HEALTH AND WELFARE: PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

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Introduction

Project Aim

- Assess the health and welfare of pigs on all commonly used floor types
- Investigate the impact of forthcoming EC directives on the slat and slot size of concrete floors

Background

- Transmission of infectious disease may be affected by flooring type
- Contact with waste material, combined with certain management stress factors, can exacerbate the level of disease on farm

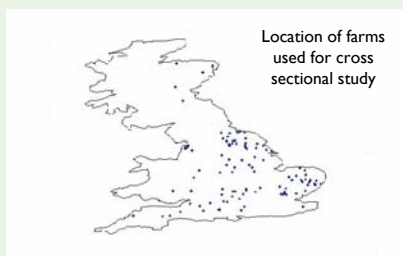
Current Work

- Examining the prevalence of diseases on indoor and outdoor farms
- Diseases classified by route of infection
 - Oral
 - Respiratory

Materials & Methods

Study design

- Cross sectional study 2003-2004
- 100 farms randomly selected from quality assurance scheme databases
- Farmer's veterinarian completed a postal questionnaire



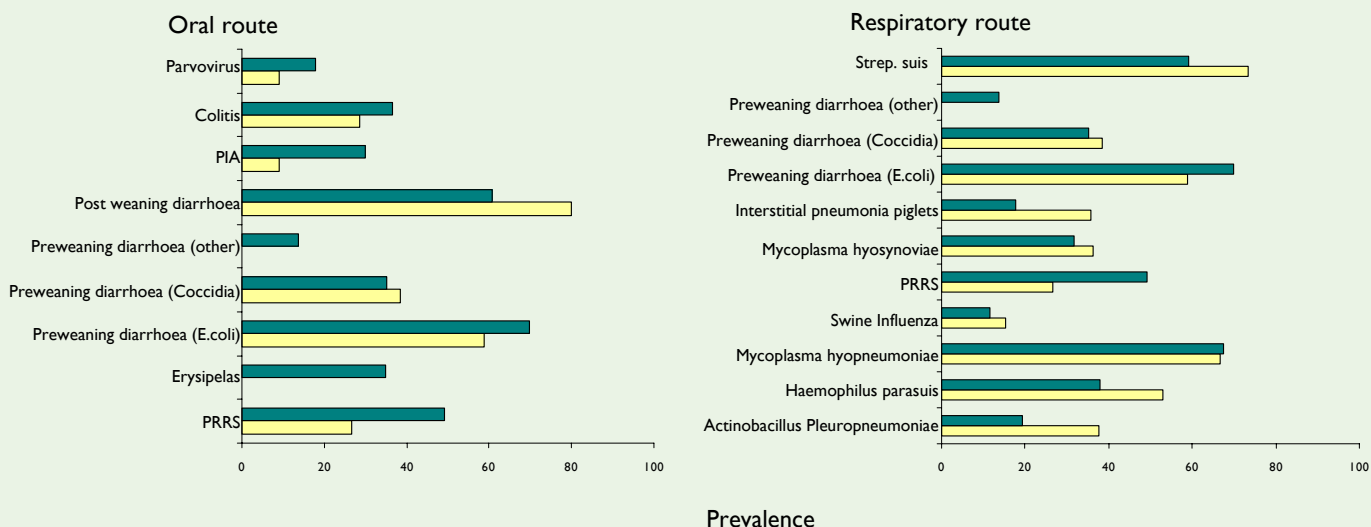
Veterinary questionnaire

- Sections include:
 - Diseases present on farm (clinical signs seen in 2003)
 - Herd health management
 - Biosecurity
 - Health and welfare assessment

Results

Percentage of farms with clinical signs of disease in 2003, data split by route of infection

Outdoor farms Indoor farms



Summary

Conclusions

- No overall difference in disease prevalence on indoor and outdoor farms
- Difference in prevalence between indoor and outdoor farms can be seen for individual diseases

Future Work

- Establish factors associated with observed differences in disease prevalence between indoor and outdoor farms using data on:
 - floor type
 - stocking density
 - feeding practices
 - use of bedding material

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