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Annual report on Danish Trichinella testing and monitoring 2016

According to Commission Implementing Regulation (EC) 2015/1375 of 10 August 2015, an annual report must be presented.

Introduction

In 2007 Denmark was classified as a region with a negligible *Trichinella* risk in pig herds. This status was changed with the EU Regulation No 216/2014. From 1 June 2014 carcasses and meat of domestic swine may be exempt from *Trichinella* examination where the animals come from a holding or a compartment officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions and located in Denmark.

However, The Industry in Denmark has maintained a practice of extensive testing of slaughter pigs as trading partners do not accept the testing regime. Therefore the risk based monitoring programme for slaughter pigs has not been fully implemented, as can be seen from the 2016 testing of 18,247,923 swine and the 2015 testing of 18,176,109 swine.

Swine raised under non-controlled housing conditions

For each delivery of animals for slaughter the producers must give a declaration stating whether the swine have been raised under controlled housing conditions. This information is given as a part of the food chain information. However, if changes occur between declarations, this must be reported before the slaughtering of the animals covered by the changes.

Wild boars

The so-called wild boars slaughtered in Denmark are all from confined and registered herds of wild boar. No true wild-living boars are present in Denmark.

Horses

All horses slaughtered must be tested negative for *Trichinella* before they may be used for human consumption.

Contingency plan

A contingency plan for the situation of suspicions or detection of *Trichinella* in swine or in other susceptible animals or in case of an increasing prevalence in the wildlife has been prepared. It follows the guidelines laid down in Regulation (EC) 2015/1375.

The contingency plan has been revised in 2017.

Reporting of results of examinations

The slaughterhouses must collect and register the food chain information regarding all slaughter animals. The official veterinarian must be informed if an animal has been reared under controlled housing conditions, so that the animal in question can be exempt from testing. However, Denmark has maintained the practice of extensive testing of swine as previously mentioned.

The laboratories performing *Trichinella* analyses are obliged to keep records of these analyses. The records must contain information about the species, category (controlled housing or not, sow/boar, wild boar, Danish/foreign) and a unique identification of every carcass. These records are kept to ensure the full traceability of every carcass.

Sampling and testing

All animals slaughtered at Danish slaughterhouses have been tested according to Commission Regulation (EC) 2015/1375.

Frequency of sampling

According to EU legislation domestic swine (swine, sows and boars) are exempted from testing when raised under controlled housing conditions. Swine that are not raised under controlled housing conditions, wild boars, horses and other animals susceptible to *Trichinella* must be tested for the parasite when slaughtered. However, Denmark has maintained the practice of extensive testing, including most domestic swine housed under controlled housing conditions.

Kind of specimen / diagnostic/analytical methods used

Samples are taken and analyzed using the digestion method. Methods used are according to Commission Regulation (EC) 2015/1375.

Number and general description of the laboratories and institutions involved in monitoring

There are five laboratories in Denmark accredited to test for *Trichinella*. One of these is part of the DVFA while the other four are privately owned in Denmark. Another approved privately owned *Trichinella* laboratory is under official veterinary supervision. This laboratory tests swine raised under controlled housing conditions, i.e. animals which should not be tested under the monitoring plan. However, these animals are tested in compliance with trading arrangements, as exports to certain third countries necessitate the testing of these animals.

Ring testing is no longer conducted by The National Veterinary Institute at The Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Instead this task has been taken over by other laboratories performing the proficiency testing. However the interpretation of results and follow up is still carried out by The DTU.

Case definition

Any finding of any species of *Trichinella* is defined as a case, and the handling of any case will be as described in the contingency plan.

Notification system in place

Trichinella spp. is notifiable in all species of animals according to Danish Order No 1714 of 15 December 2015.

Measures in case of positive findings or single cases will be taken in accordance with the specifications in Commission Regulation (EC) 2015/1375.

2016 testing - Trichinella

Number of animals slaughtered and tested in 2016

Animal	Number of animals tested in large slaughterhouses	Number of animals tested in small slaughterhouses	Number of animals tested for private (hunters)	Number of animals slaughtered in 2016	Number of animals tested for Trichinella
*Slaughterpigs (A)	17,052,191	0		17,852,034	18,279,564
**Slaughterpigs (B)	688,445	10,499			
*Sows/boars A	184,579	0		538,928	494,521
**Sows/boars B	309,382	560			
Horses	0	1542		1.597	1542
Wild boars	0	594	115	709	725***

*Slaughter pigs, sows/boars (A) are from controlled housing system but tested according to trading arrangements

**Slaughter pigs, sows/boars (B) are from non-controlled housing system and tested according to EU Regulation

***115 of these are samples taken by hunters and tested on The DVFA Laboratory. Probably they are registered twice (by the hunter and by the lab).

No slaughter animals were tested positive for Trichinella in 2016.

The results of testing for Trichinella reflect the fact that Denmark has maintained the practice of extensive testing of slaughter pigs.

Trichinosis in humans

In 2016 like in previous years the Statens Serum Institut has detected no cases (persons with a positive antibody titre) of autochthonous trichinosis in humans.

Evaluation

Denmark has implemented Commission Regulation (EC) 2015/1375.

All the relevant testing has been performed and no slaughter animals were tested positive for *Trichinella* in 2016.