

R&D Snapshot

Factors that impact on the expression of respiratory disease in pigs

Investigator: Dr Alison Collins

Purpose:

- To identify key management practices associated with an increased risk of disease outbreaks and to investigate the impact of single or multiple respiratory pathogens on variation in composition and size of primal cuts.

Take home messages:

- Pigs challenged with multiple respiratory pathogens were found to have a 16kg reduction in mean live weight compared to that of healthy pigs at 20 weeks of age.
- This variation increased the number of 'tail-ender' pigs, disrupting all-in-all-out production flows, and increasing days to slaughter, whereas variation in carcass size, shape and composition lead to increased processing costs.
- Biosecurity, hygiene and all-in-all-out production were found to be the most important factors in reducing the infection pressure or transmission of respiratory pathogens.

Additional information:

- For further information or a copy of the full report, please contact Robyn Terry at robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au on 02 6270 8820

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