The hydatidosis frequency was not noteworthy. The results show that most of cystic livers found in finisher pigs was related with Cysticercus tenuicollis infection, a non-zoonotic parasite. Pigs can be intermediate hosts of Taenia hydatigena (Monteiro et al., 2015). Pigs can be infected by coming in contact with feces of canids or felines contaminated with the infecting eggs (Rojas et al. 2018). Even though this parasite is not a threat for consumers, it is a critical indicator of biosecurity failure to field professionals to improve farm biosecurity procedures. Sarcosporidiosis was not identified in finishing pigs, but was a prevalent infection in culling sows, probably due to the longer life cycle of these animals. The results show the importance of the carcasses inspection in culling sows, owing to the zoonotic potential of the disease. Cysterciosis seems not to be a problem in Brazilian swine industry, since just one suspect lesion was detected in about 37 million slaughtered pigs. All these results are useful for meat inspection modernization based on risk analysis.

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Introduction

Salmonella are still a problem in pork production. Increasing litter sizes and more newborn piglets with low birth weights at the same time make an adequate colostrum supply more difficult. This study investigated the hypothesis, that modern piglet producing farms with a high farrowing rate and an increased Salmonella prevalence in piglet rearing show a more unfavourable colostrum supply in suckling piglets.

Methods

An association of 250 northern German piglet producing farms has been organizing a voluntary bimensual health-status-monitoring on piglets (25 kg BW) since years. The monitoring includes an ELISA for Salmonella antibodies. On basis of these data 12 Salmonella-inconspicuous and 12 Salmonella-inconspicuous farms were selected. These were similar in terms of hygiene, herd size and performance. Each farm was visited once 24-48 hours after the main farrowing day. On each farm 4 litters were sampled and 2 light-weight, 2 medium-weight and 2 heavy-weight piglets. The blood samples were taken. The blood samples were tested for the colostrum supply by means of the Ig-immunocrit-method. Furthermore, Salmonella optical density (OD)-values were tested by Herdcheck® Salmonella ELISA (IDEXX Laboratories, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands). Differences between both groups depending on body weight were statistically analysed by using the t-test (level of significance: p < 0.05).

Results

This study provides preliminary evidence that when comparing Salmonella-inconspicuous farms and Salmonella-inconspicuous farms, colostrum supply could be a critical factor to be considered. The fact that there was no difference in the body weight of piglets in both groups suggests that there may be differences in colostrum management. Further studies have to investigate the reasons for the differences in the colostrum supply of light weight piglets and the impact on the Salmonella seroprevalence at the time of slaughter. This study was supported by EIP-Agri (Agriculture & Innovation), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Project 276 03 454 035 0521).

References