Prevalence of Salmonella spp. in piglet producing and rearing systems in North-Rhine-Westphalia
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Introduction
In Europe as well as in Germany, Salmonellosis is still the second most commonly recorded zoonosis (EFSA & ECD 2017, RKI 2018). Fattening farms are committed to do frequent monitoring to reduce entry of Salmonella spp. in the food chain. This is regulated by law (Schweine-Salmonellen-Verordnung) since 2007. However, one problem, especially in farms with good hygienic management, is the housing of Salmonella-infected piglets. The purpose of our study was to investigate the prevalence of Salmonella spp. in piglet producing and rearing systems in North-Rhine-Westphalia. The project was financially supported with resources of animal disease funds (Tierseuchenkasse NRW). The immediate objective was to reduce Salmonella burden of each farm by using individually adapted measures. The long-term objective was to evaluate general measures, which are able to permanently reduce Salmonella load in pig farms.

Methods
All piglet producers of North Rhine-Westphalia could volunteer for an initial survey of their Salmonella burden between 2016 and 2018. Each farm was analysed in pig farms.

Conclusion
This study shows a seroprevalence of Salmonella in sow in North Rhine-Westphalia on a medium level. Hence, the seroprevalence in post-weaning pigs was on a low level, the detection rate of Salmonella spp. by culture was quite high. All results point to the fact that reducing the risk of Salmonella infection by pork has to start at the basis of the production pyramid.