

## Evaluation of BTSF course material and course evaluations & suggestion of courses feasible for use in MS's additional inspector training

**Background** 'The BTSF training courses founded by DG SANTE provide training of MS representatives of various aspects of pig welfare legislation (on farm husbandry, transport, slaughter). The cascading of knowledge from this European level to the MS level does not happen automatically and should be supported by EURCAW-Pigs. MS conducts national courses in parallel and independent of each other. Many of these national courses could be useful for other countries as well. EURCAW-Pigs identified some critique from inspectors regarding training offered to them on key areas. These trainings need to be identified.' (Citation for the work programme; Period 2021-2022, Version 4.2)

This note concerns the sub-task 4.1 objectives:

### Objectives:

4.1.1. EURCAW-Pigs will evaluate BTSF course material and course evaluations and suggest courses feasible for use in MS's additional training needs for inspectors

In the period 2011-2019, thirty-one 4-day BTSF courses on pig welfare at 'farm level', during 'transport' and at 'slaughter' were conducted. The BTSF course material includes for every 4-day course: an agenda/programme, a course compendium (syllabus), lecture slides and a course participants' course evaluation report. This present evaluation of BTSF course material and course evaluations will focus on 1) evaluating the relevance of the BTSF course lecture slides in relation to the current seven dossiers\* of EURCAW-Pigs and 2) scrutinizing the course participants' course evaluation reports for the sake of identifying potential BTSF course material feasible for EURCAW-PIG-facilitated MS inspector training of pig welfare assessment.

\*The current seven dossiers of EURCAW-Pigs:

- Tail biting
- Farrowing housing
- Sow group-housing
- Transport: Climate and space
- Transport: Fitness
- Lairage management
- Pig stunning

(The welfare topic 'On-farm killing' is not finalized as a dossier yet and is therefore not considered)



#### **4.1.1.1 Course content in relation to the 7 dossiers of EURCAW-Pigs**

##### *Materials and methods*

The BTSF course material – agenda/programme and lecture slides for the latest versions of the BTSF courses – is evaluated. Firstly, as regards identifying *topic* relevance to the 7 dossiers of EURCAW-Pig, secondly, as regards the *validity* of the course material as judged useful for EURCAW-Pig training, i.e., another setting than originally prepared for. Is the material up-to-date? What is the independent value of the course material as teaching material – can lecture slides for example ‘stand alone’, or are they only relevant as assistant material for the lectures given?

##### *Results – Quality of the course material*

When browsing through the BTSF course agendas, it seems obvious that they are laboured over the same form: The activities consist in addition to lectures of group work with subsequent plenary follow-ups, panel discussions and field trips. Thus, only course activities with associated lecture slides are potentially relevant as copy-paste material for use in other contexts. The lecture slides have a form that supports the respective lecture but are not self-explaining. Sometimes the lecture slides form the basis of a debate or an exercise, which is not summarized in writing. As such, the material is not relevant for a direct copy-paste usage in the EURCAW-Pig inspector training program.

##### *Results – Topic relevance for EURCAW-Pig dossiers*

The appendix is a Table including an overview of the latest BTSF courses in ‘Animal Welfare in Pig Production’, ‘Animal welfare during transport’ and ‘Animal welfare at slaughter and in case of killing for depopulation purposes’. Based on a browse-through of all pig welfare relevant lecture slides, all lectures’ titles and names of lecturers are listed and linked to the seven EURCAW-Pig dossiers. As it can be seen in the table, the BTSF lectures together include elements of all seven EURCAW-Pig dossiers. For most of the BTSF lectures, however, they include dossier-relevant information among other information. Only few BTSF lectures are ‘in whole’ relevant for a respective EURCAW-Pig dossier. For the latter, this applies to few BTSF lectures on either ‘tail biting’ or ‘stunning’. Furthermore, lecturer affiliation shows that BTSF inputs originate from NGOs, the farming industry, government agencies and Universities

#### **4.1.1.2 BTSF course participants’ course evaluation reports**

At the end of the last session of each course, the participants individually evaluate the course by filling in a questionnaire provided by DG SANCO. For each of the 4 year periods (2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016 and 2018-2019), one overall evaluation report is available. Each of these reports report the participants’ ratings (unacceptable, poor, sufficient, fair, good, very good and excellent) of the BTSF courses as regards their technical performance, educational material, communication and organisation. The questionnaires include participants’ ratings of *Relevance to everyday work* and *Practical use*, which seems to be of specific relevance to this present evaluation. However, as the information cannot be linked to an individual course, the information available is insufficient for drawing conclusions on the different types of information.

#### 4.1.2 Conclusion on EURCAW-Pigs suggestion of courses feasible for use in MS's additional inspector training

Based on the above-mentioned two evaluating activities, it is concluded that:

- BTSF participants' ratings of *Relevance to everyday work* and *Practical use of the courses* are not available for what reason these cannot be used to reach conclusions on inspectors' assessments of the course relevance to them, including their practical use.
- The latest BTSF course material on pig welfare at 'farm', during 'transport' and at 'slaughter' includes elements that cover all the seven EURCAW-Pig dossiers: Tail biting, Farrowing housing, Sow group-housing, Transport: Climate and space, Transport: Fitness, Lairage management and Pig stunning.
- The BTSF course material that could potentially be used for EURCAW-Pig Inspector training consists of lecture slides that, however, cannot be copy-pasted for this purpose because they are not targeted at the EURCAW-Pig dossiers and because they are of a quality that supports lectures/discussions and debates but cannot stand alone.

Based on this conclusion, it is proposed to contact the respective lecturer(s) for 1) Updating and focusing their lecture slides for the respective EURCAW-Pig dossier and 2) having a voice-over or alike made. Since several lecturers lecture about the same topics, it would be worthwhile asking them to collaborate on developing joint lectures. If material like this can be developed, it is – by the author of this paper – assessed as highly relevant for the EURCAW-Pig training programs.

**Appendix Overview BTSF lecture slides' relevance for EURCAW-Pig inspector training within the 7 EURCAW-Pig dossiers**

Title BTSF AW-courses for pigs	Date and location	Title of lectures relevant for EURCAW-Pig dossiers	Lecturer	EURCAW-Pig relevance (dossier)	Dossier-relevant 'topics' addressed
				<b>1 Tail biting</b>	
				<b>2 Farrowing housing</b>	
				<b>3 Sow - Group housing</b>	
				<b>4 Transport - Climate and space</b>	
				<b>5 Transport - Fitness</b>	
				<b>6 Lairage management</b>	
				<b>7 Stunning</b>	
Animal Welfare in pig production – Edition III	Garrel (Germany), 12 – 15 November 2019	Physiological and behavioural needs of pigs and how to fulfil these with a proper housing and management of farmed pigs. Outcomes to assess welfare	Antonio Dalmau, IRTA, Spain	1 (parts of lecture)	Competition, Space allowance, Enrichment, Thermoregulation
		Relevance of resource-based indicators for pig welfare assessment	Paolo Ferrari, CRPA, Italy	2 (parts of lecture)	Microclimate
		Evaluation of body condition (BCS) and other parameters on pigs	Birgitta Staaf Larsson, SLU, Sweden	1, 2, 3 (parts of lecture)	BCS and straw
		Taking enforcement action on Council Directives 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC and Commission Recommendation 2016/336. Examples of MS compliance criteria to effectively enforce legal requirements on pig farms	Anne-Claire Berentsen, LAVES Niedersachsen, Germany	1 (whole lecture)	EU Council Directives, Action plans

		Funding strategies to promote the rearing of pigs with intact tails	Anne-Claire Berentsen, LAVES Niedersachsen, Germany	2 (whole lecture) x	German Intact tail bonus
		Danish Government Animal Welfare Label	Birte Broberg, Danish Veterinary and food Administration, Denmark	1, 2, 3 (parts of lecture)	Danish animal welfare label incl. loose-hosed sows and intact tails
		Italian Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail biting and avoidance of tail docking	Domenico Castelluccio, Animal welfare office, Ministry of Health, Italy	1 (whole lecture)	Italian action plan for intact tails and prevention of tail biting
		Measures to fulfil basic needs and prevent aggression within the groups of weaner or slaughter pigs	Mette S Herskin, Aarhus University, Denmark	1 (parts of lecture) #	Overview: Reasons for and prevention of tail biting
		Protocols and tools for risk assessment prior to tail docking	Niels-Peder Nielsen, SEGES, Denmark	1 (whole lecture)*	Risk assessment for tail docking
		Welfare aspects of different housing and husbandry systems, including group housing and feeding strategies for sows and gilts	Lene Juul Pedersen, Aarhus University, Denmark	2, 3 (whole lecture)	Space requirement, nest building and fibres for prevention of hunger
Animal Welfare in pig production – Edition II	Herning (Denmark), 11 – 14 June 2019	Overview of Member States' implementation of Council Directive 98/58/EC, Council Directive 2008/120/EC and Commission Recommendation 2016/336	Anne-Claire Berentsen, LAVES Niedersachsen, Germany	1 (whole lecture)	EU Council Directives, Actions

		Protocols and tools for risk assessment prior to tail docking	Niels-Peder Nielsen, SEGES, Denmark	1 (whole lecture)*	Risk assessment for tail docking
		Measures to fulfil basic needs and prevent aggression within the groups of weaner or slaughter pigs	Mette S Herskin, Aarhus University, Denmark	1 (parts of lecture) #	Overview: Reasons for and prevention of tail biting
		Practical solutions to reduce tail biting	Helle Pelant Lahrman, SEGES, Denmark	1 (whole lecture)	Overview Detection of and prevention of tail biting
Animal Welfare in pig production – Edition I	Malmö (Sweden), 5 – 8 June 2018	The Swedish experiences and perspectives on implementation of the EU legislation	Lotta Nordensten, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Sweden	1, 2 and 3 (parts of lecture)	Statement re. tail docking and loose-housing of sows: Swedish legislation/practice stricter than EU Council Directives
		Italian Action Plan to improve controls on the prevention of tail biting and avoidance of tail docking	Sara Barbieri, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy	1 (whole lecture)	EU Council Directives, Italian action plans
		Funding strategies to promote the rearing of pigs with intact tails	Anne-Claire Berentsen, LAVES Niedersachsen; Germany	2 (whole lecture) x	German Intact tail bonus
		A life worth living CIWF's perspective on animal welfare in pig production	Annamaria Pisapia, CIWF, Italy	1 (part of lecture)	CIWF statement re. tail docking
Animal welfare during transport	Freising (Germany), 17 – 20	Debate: possible common strategies to enhance the implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) N.1/2005	David Pritchard, Department for environment	4, 5 (whole lecture)!	Overview EU Council Directives

(advanced level) – Edition II	September 2019	in Member States and to increase the protection of animals transported in non-EU countries	food and rural affairs, England, United Kingdom		
		Animal Transport Guides for pigs and sheep	Antoni Dalmau Bueno, IRTA, Spain	4, 5 (whole lecture) §	Overview EU Council Transport guides
		Control activities	Lotte Nygaard Holbech, he Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Denmark	4, 5 (parts of lecture) =	Overview Danish control activities, Space requirement, (fitness)
		The EU Animal Transport Guides	Nancy De Briyne, FVE, Brussels, Belgium	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Overview EU Animal Transport Guides
		Road vehicles for animal transport – Approval of trucks	Arnaldo Ghilardi, Pezzaiol, Italy	4 (whole lecture)	Assessing EU Directives for road transport vehicles
		Transport of animals: OIE Animal Welfare standards and perspective	Tomasz Grudnik, OIE SRR Brussels, Belgium	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	OIE animal welfare standard re. transport
		Animal protection during transport today: think big, act small!	Silvia Merrigi, Animal Angels, Germany	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	NGO assessment of violation etc.
		The role of the competent authority in support of business operators for ensuring the enforcement of the Council Regulation (EC) N. 1/2005	David Pritchard, Department for environment food and rural affairs, England, United Kingdom	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Ensuring the enforcement of the Council Regulation

Animal welfare during transport (advanced level) – Edition I	Rome (Italy), 12 – 15 March 2019	Debate: possible common strategies to enhance the implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) N.1/2005 in Member States and to increase the protection of animals transported in non-EU countries	David Pritchard, Department for environment food and rural affairs, England, United Kingdom	4, 5 (parts of lecture)!	Overview EU Council Directives
		Animal Transport Guides for pigs and sheep	Antoni Dalmau Bueno, IRTA, Spain	4, 5 (whole lecture) §	Overview EU Council Transport guides
		The EU Animal Transport Guides	Paolo Ferrari, CRPA, Italy	4, 5 (whole lecture) *	Introduction to EU Animal transport guides
		Good and best practices in animal transport by road	Mario Sapino, IZSAM - Teramo, Italy	4, 5 (whole lecture)	Italian National health systems on-health approach to assessment of vehicles for transport of live animals
		Control activities	Lotte Nygaard Holbech, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Denmark	4, 5 (parts of lecture)=	Overview Danish control activities, Space requirement, (fitness)
Animal welfare during transport (basic level) – Edition I	Poznan (Poland), 15 – 18 May 2018	Fitness of animals for the intended journey	Paolo Dalla Villa, IZSAM - Teramo, Italy	5 (whole lecture)	Italian National health systems on-health approach to assessment of animal fitness for transport.

		Practical aspects of handling of animals (loading and unloading activities) and emergency care for animals during transport	David Pritchard, Department for environment food and rural affairs, England, United Kingdom	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Overview EU-directives and guidelines. Loading and unloading, (space requirements)
		Scientific basis for proper transport of animals	Hans Spoolder, Wageningen Livestock Research, Netherlands	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Definition of animal welfare. General indicators of impaired animal welfare incl. stress, physiological responses and meat quality.
		Best solutions to achieve the requirements on EU Control Posts	Paolo Ferrari, CRPA, Italy	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Control of transport of live animals.
		Assessment of the design of vehicles facilities and procedure to approve them in case of means of transport used for long journeys	Mario Sapino, IZSAM - Teramo, Italy	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Italian National health systems on-health approach to assessment of vehicles for transport of live animals
		Road vehicles for animal transport – Evolution of technology	Arnaldo Ghilardi, IZSAM - Teramo, Italy	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Overview by National health systems on assessment of transport by the help of technology
		The Myth of Enforcement of Reg. (EC) No. 1 / 2005 on the protection of animals during transport	Silvia Merrigi, Animal Angels, Germany	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	NGO critique of enforcement of EU Directive on

					protection of animals during transport
		The main questions by the driver	Mario Sapino, IZSAM - Teramo, Italy	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Driver's responsibility re. protection of animals during transport
		Animal Transport Guides a tool box for the transport industry to comply with 1/2005	Hans Spoolder, Wageningen Livestock Research, Netherlands	4, 5 (parts of lecture)	Overview guidelines for protection of animals during transport

Same lectures: α, #, \*, !, §, =