

**BeTi – Berger Tierwohl: implementing animal health and welfare planning on commercial pig farms**

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To monitor and improve animal health and welfare (AHW) on its supplying pig fattening farms an Austrian abattoir and meat processing company approached university to launch a joint project on AHW planning (AHWP). For this purpose, AHW was assessed on 11 farms (270 – 1,408 fattening places, fully-slatted floor systems) in 2016 using a management questionnaire (farm characteristics, herd and disease management, hygiene, feeding; 16 questions), animal based measures (productivity, treatment records, slaughterhouse findings, clinical scoring, behavioural observation; 32 measures) and pen equipment (6 items). Subsequently, a written report was created for each farm including benchmarking of animal based measures. One to three goals and specific measures to achieve them were developed and added to the report during an individual advisory visit together with the farmer(s). The most common goals and measures (n) were: (a) reduction of tail and ear biting (6) by improving quality of environmental enrichment (6) and other management strategies (3) such as separating the biter from the group, docking tails equally long, regular maintenance of drinkers; (b) reduction of respiratory diseases and/or diarrhoea (5) by identification of relevant pathogens (5) and adaption of treatment strategies (1); (c) parasite control (5) by adapting deworming strategies (5) and improving pen hygiene (2); (d) increasing daily weight gain (3) by improving feeding ration (3); and (e) reducing fly pressure (2) in the pens by introducing slurry flies (2). The focus of farmers on environmental enrichment and diagnosis of disease reflects the most relevant findings (e.g. median prevalence of tail lesions 9.3% or pneumonia 31.9%) and the willingness to address behavioural needs of pigs. To evaluate the impact of agreed and implemented measures on AHW, all farms will be visited one year after the initial visit. AHWP may be a suitable tool for farm management as well as quality assurance for abattoirs and retailers.