Innovative approaches to stewardship in animal and human health:
Veterinary practice and animal husbandry

Nigel Gibbens
UK Chief Veterinary Officer
What are the challenges?

- Diversity of species
- Different production systems
- Different businesses
- Different drivers
What are the opportunities?

• Homogeneous populations

• Control over systems/movements

• No ageing population
Our patients’ living environments
Infection prevention

- Biosecurity
- Nutrition
- Housing
- Genetics
- Prev. medicine
Veterinary/animal health stakeholder engagement

Publication Oct 2017 of Targets Task Force Report:
Delivering on the Government objective of identifying sector-specific targets for the reduction, refinement or replacement of antibiotics in food-producing animals.
Sector specific targets
Reasons for measuring farm level usage:

• Baseline to measure trends and effect of implemented measures

• Identify risk factors:
  • Where volume of use is highest
  • Link to resistance data

• Benchmarking (vet/farmer):
  • Compare with peers/ identify good practice

• Public confidence/ retailers:
  • Be proactive
Species examples of strategies to reduce/prevent disease:

Pigs
Features of the pig industry

Figure 1.1 UK product flows in the pig meat marketing chain in 2014

- **Live pig exports**
  - 1,300 head
  - £1.5 million

- **Pig slaughterings**
  - 10.47 million head
  - £1,348 million

- **Live pig imports**
  - 213,000 head
  - £18.4 million

- **Liveweight sales**
  - 1%
  - 0.05 million head
  - £5 million

- **Deadweight sales**
  - 99%
  - 10.42 million head
  - £1,343 million

- **Slaughtered production**
  - 862,800 tonnes

- **Meat exports**
  - Total — 241,100 tonnes
  - Pork — 205,100 tonnes
  - Bacon — 16,200 tonnes
  - Processed — 19,700 tonnes
    - Total — £305 million
    - Pork — £214 million
    - Bacon — £38 million
    - Processed — £52 million

- **Meat imports**
  - Total — 947,800 tonnes
  - Pork — 396,200 tonnes (a)
  - Bacon — 299,700 tonnes
  - Processed — 251,900 tonnes
    - Total — £2,143 million
    - Pork — £699 million (a)
    - Bacon — £601 million
    - Processed — £842 million

- **Total available for consumption**
  - 1.57 million tonnes

(a) Includes pork imports which are subsequently cured in the United Kingdom.

Source: AHDB Pork Pig Pocketbook 2016
Pig Density in the UK, June 2013

2009 survey: approximately 30 vet practices provide veterinary care for @85% of quality assured pigs

All assured pig premises are routinely visited on quarterly basis by vet
### Size profile of all England abattoirs slaughtering pigs, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size group (head)</th>
<th>Number of abattoirs</th>
<th>Total throughput (head)</th>
<th>Average throughput (head)</th>
<th>Share of throughput (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–10,000</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>208,502</td>
<td>2,639</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001–30,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>288,870</td>
<td>16,048</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30,001–100,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>448,953</td>
<td>49,884</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,001–500,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>870,005</td>
<td>217,501</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 500,001</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7,191,688</td>
<td>898,961</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>118</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,008,018</strong></td>
<td><strong>76,339</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: AHDB data based on abattoirs operating in the calendar year.*

- Surveillance of lesions in slaughter pigs is feasible and useful
- Good biosecurity at abattoirs and for vehicles important to prevent them becoming a means for disease transmission

*Source: AHDB Pork Pig Pocketbook 2017*
Pig housing systems

40% of commercial breeding sows are kept outdoors

A large proportion of their progeny move indoors usually to a straw-based system at weaning or to finish

Source: Defra Pigs and Poultry Farm Practices Survey 2009
Typical outdoor breeding unit
40% of commercial breeding sows are kept outdoors
Pyramid structure of national pig breeding herd

NUCLEUS

MULTIPLIERS

COMMERCIAL/PRODUCTION

Boar stud

Nucleus and multipliers usually multi-age “breeder-finisher”

Gilt mating unit (GMU)

Excess and cull sows for slaughter

Pigs for slaughter
Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus - PRRSV

- Emerged in UK in the early 1990s (blue ear disease)
- High mutation rate and immunosuppressive during 1\textsuperscript{o} infection
- Only PRRS-1 (subtype 1) in UK, PRRS-2 never detected which tends to be more virulent
- One of the main endemic diseases affecting GB pig health, welfare and productivity
- Considered to be one of the drivers of antimicrobial use on affected pig farms
### Diagnoses concurrent with PRRS in 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syndrome</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRRS (total)</td>
<td>PRRS (total)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic</td>
<td>Streptococcal (mainly <em>S. suis</em>)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Porcine circovirus/PDNS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other systemic eg erysipelas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td><em>Pasteurella multocida</em></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td><em>Haemophilus parasuis</em></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swine influenza</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Mycoplasma</em> spp.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae</em></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other respiratory diagnoses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enteric</td>
<td>Salmonellosis</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Gastric ulceration</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>E.coli</em>, rotavirus</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Incl. mycoplasmal arthritis, greasy pig, torsion, <em>T. pyogenes</em></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRRSV control plans

- Pig management – single age, all in-all out, one way flow
- Quarantine and acclimatisation of replacement gilts/boars
- Live attenuated vaccines used quite widely
- Improved biosecurity – internal and external
  - Veterinary advice and industry-run farmer workshops
  - Biorisk on line teaching tool and on-line biosecurity checks

- Local and aerosol spread make elimination of infection difficult in pig-dense areas due to risk of reintroduction
- Regional control is necessary and requires
  - Industry and veterinary buy-in and leadership
  - Mapping of pig units with declared PRRS infection status
PRRSV control plans (continued)

- Increased use of diagnostics
  - PCR and sequencing to identify strains
  - ropes to collect saliva to monitor groups for infection
  - identifying concurrent disease
Autogenous vaccines

Production Process

Step 1
Viral and bacterial pathogens weaken the animal

Step 2
Identification of the pathogen from tissue or sampling of the infected animal

Step 3
Production of a herd-specific vaccine

Step 4
Treatment with herd-specific vaccine

Step 5
After treatment the animal form antibodies against the pathogen

Step 6
Vaccine reduces morbidity from field infection

Credit: Oldcastle Laboratories Ltd
Species examples of strategies to reduce/prevent disease:

Sheep
Lameness

- Significant animal welfare and economic challenge to the sheep sector.
- Footrot cost the sheep industry @ £24 million a year.
- Causes are footrot, interdigital dermatitis (or scald) and contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD).

The five points plan:
Reduce lameness to 2% by 2021

- Cull to build resilience
- Treat, quarantine and avoid to reduce disease challenge
- Vaccinate to establish immunity
Risks

Some agri-environment schemes require the removal of sheep from their home farms to winter away.

This creates a risk of returning with infectious diseases, e.g. Digital Dermatitis, which subsequently require treatment with antibiotics and strict quarantine to prevent spread.
Watery mouth - Rattle belly

- Colonisation of the small intestine with *E. coli*.
- Bacterial challenge
- Affects lambs within 72 hours of birth with presenting signs of dehydration, evidence of ptyalism and distended abomasum.
- Often secondary to hypogammaglobulinaemia due to delayed ingestion of colostrum or poorly fed ewes in low body condition that are unable to produce sufficient colostrum.
- More common in small weak triplets and twins.
- Not a problem in extensively managed livestock.
- Improved hygiene standards in the lambing shed is vital.
The treatment of lambs with antibiotics to prevent watery mouth and joint ill, particularly in indoor lambing systems (50 – 75% of flocks), is relatively common.

In a recent study of 207 sheep-only farms, oral antibiotics were prescribed to 47% of flocks.

Approximately 30% of farmers reported giving oral antibiotics to all lambs to prevent watery mouth and 10% reported treating all lambs to reduce cases of joint ill.

This is a key area where behaviour and practices need to change to slow the rate of development of resistance and maintain efficacy in the licensed products, though these changes in behaviour will not have a large influence on volumes used.
Abortion

Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) is consistently the most common abortion diagnosis in sheep. Toxoplasmosis is the next most common.

There are effective vaccines against EAE and toxoplasmosis, with estimates suggesting that approximately one third of replacement ewes are vaccinated against EAE and one fifth against toxoplasmosis.

Ovine abortions as % of diagnosable submissions 2011 - 2015
Species examples of strategies to reduce/prevent disease:

Cattle
Selective Dry Cow therapy
What progress have we made so far reducing antibiotic use in animals?
50 mg/kg target: total sales (mg/kg) since 2014
# Antibiotic sales summary

## Overall trends in mg/kg (using population correction unit)

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (mg/kg)</strong></td>
<td>66</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>↓ 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fluoroquinolones (FQ) (mg/kg)</strong></td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>↓ 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3rd/4th gen Cephalosporins (mg/kg)</strong></td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>↓ 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colistin (mg/kg)</strong></td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>↓ 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total sales (tonnes)</strong></td>
<td>464</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>↓ 17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HP-CIA sales for 30 EU/EEA countries, 2015

3rd and 4th gen ceph
Fluoroquinolones
Colistin
Sales: route of administration

- Premix
- Oral/Water
- Injectable
- Tablets
- Intramammary

(tonnes)

UK VARSSS Report