



Gastric ulcers are a common condition in finisher pigs worldwide. One UK study involving pigs from 60 herds killed at an English abattoir (Swaby and Gregory, 2012) found that four out of every five slaughter pigs had signs of stomach damage with 6% having severe ulcers.

With funding from the Danish Pig Research Centre, SRUC researchers recently conducted a

Ulceration occurs around the area where the gullet (oesophagus) enters the stomach. The cause of ulceration is not fully understood and is believed to be multi-factorial. Amongst the potential causes, the physical structure of feed is the most significant risk factor with fine particle size and pelleting significantly increasing the prevalence of ulcers.

Whilst the incidence of ulcers can be high in commercial pigs and the pathology well recognised, there is little information about how ulcers affect welfare. Some pigs with severe ulcers hemorrhage into the stomach and become severely anaemic which can prove fatal. Most pigs with ulcers however are not detected before slaughter and the welfare status of these animals is uncertain. Finding out whether these ulcerated pigs suffer is important because the main risk factor for ulceration - the feeding of pelleted feed with small particle size, is known to improve feed efficiency.



Twice in the last week, worried pig farmers asked me if it is inevitable that African Swine Fever (ASF) will be brought to UK and is it just a matter of time before that happens?

My answer was emphatically



Information on wild boar sightings can be seen at:

https://www.sasa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Wild_boar_distribution_in_Scotland_0.pdf

SASA have also produced a map based on these sightings which has been reproduced below:

Image 2. Current and past locations of captive wild boar and sightings/records outside of captivity (SASA)

Lastly, how good is your perimeter fence? If foxes and badgers can get in, so can feral pigs. It is worth spending what you can on

get4(d a)5()5(nt11(ou).dt13 T)-100(secu)14(r)-3(e)13()JTJETBT1 0 0 1 35.4 30



DIG CONVENTION

