

Highly feverish respiratory disease at a farm with fattening pigs

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In pigs especially influenza comes off highly feverish. Some cases of flu and potential succeeding diseases are described:

At a farm with about 3000 fatteners 2 groups totalling 250 pigs got ill. Symptoms were fever (41°C), cough, aggravated, accelerated breathing, serous ocular and nasal discharge, restrained feed intake and an unwillingness to walk about. The stage of disease was different in individual pigs. Shortly before the outbreak of flu there had been a change of weather with a lot of cold wind.

As a homoeopathic therapy was requested for the pigs, all symptoms were collected and a choice of medicaments was made – the repertory Radar 9 programme for personal computer was used. For 3 days of therapy, *Aconitum napellus* and *Belladonna* were applied. Other homoeopathica out of the repertory are presented and eliminated by the lecturer. Two days after the beginning of the therapy nearly all fatteners were well again, though there was still a lot of nasal discharge and a few animals were still coughing. Another three days further on all but 3 pigs had recovered. Those three were emaciated, pale and cold at skin with a body temperature of 36.5 °C, they showed laboured breathing and stood head down without any motion in the stable. The repertory was used for those three as well, and they got *Antimonium tartaricum* for a few days with quite a good success.

As a result of this influenza, other groups at the farm got infected as well and were also successfully treated with *Aconitum* and *Belladonna*. The same homoeopathica were used in another outbreak of influenza two month later in 50 to 60 kg fatteners. After 2 days, two of three compartments were well again. In the third, many pigs showed signs of an infection with circovirus (PCV2). They were pale or grey in colour, skinny and breathing abdominally. 3 animals showed signs of PDNS (porcine dermatitis and nephropathy syndrome) like skin lesions worse on hind limbs and flanks. The cough was dry, unproductive and worse in the morning. Nasal discharge was serous to purulent and some fatteners had watery, green-brown coloured diarrhoea. The animals from this compartment had been mixed from different groups and ages because of lack of space. Presumably, this sort of stress made the pigs of this group more susceptible to the infection than the ones from the other compartments. Diseases like the circovirus require other homoeopathica than flu – they have to be more penetrating as this virus has an influence on the total body. For therapy, *Tuberculinum* and *Antimonium tartaricum* was used. After two days the animals were eating the full amount again, their general condition was much better, but too much unproductive coughing could still be heard. Therefore all pigs were given *Drosera rotundifolia* for another 4 days, which finished the coughing. The 3 pigs with PDNS were still alive but miserable.

At other farms with outbreaks of influenza we often used *Ferrum phosphoricum* in addition to *Aconitum* and *Belladonna* when we had a more lingering illness and relatively young animals. In fatteners just before slaughter *Lachesis mutus* is a fine supplement, because it shows good results in heart and circulatory disturbance often found in feverish fattening pigs.