

Food Safety control of products of animal origin: **PORCINE**

Louisa Nkomo, Kavekatora Kamburona

University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort
South Africa

Pig public health risk review: EFSA opinion vs South Africa

Biological Public Hazard	EFSA category	SA category
Trichinellosis	Medium	Low
<i>Salmonella</i> spp	High	High
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	Medium	Low
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	Medium	Low
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Low	High
<i>Ascaris suum</i>	Low	Medium
<i>Taenia solium</i>	Low	High
<i>Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae</i>	Low	High
Leptospirosis	Low	High
<i>Echinococcus</i> spp.	Low	Medium

Chemical hazards and welfare conditions

Chemicals such as Dioxin, Dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls, Chloramphenicol are in the opinion of EFSA high risk to public health. However, those chemicals are of low concern or occurrence to the South African industry.

Welfare conditions such as tail biting, bruising, skin lesions, lameness, and arthritis were listed by EFSA but no category was assigned to each to indicate the frequency or importance of them in terms of public health risks. The above listed welfare conditions are also very commonly found in South Africa and the extent or level of damage on the carcass is used to determine whether a carcass will be partially or totally condemned.

Meat inspection in South Africa

The diseases and conditions listed in the European pig industry are similar to those of South Africa i.e. there is no specific disease unique to the South African industry that was not reported by EFSA.

The approach to meat inspection as mentioned by EFSA however differs to that of South Africa. Ante-mortem inspection is done by both Europe and South Africa where animals are inspected while alive for any obvious lesions before the slaughter process. Post-mortem inspection then follows shortly. In South Africa post-mortem inspection is divided into primary meat inspection and secondary meat inspection:

Primary meat inspection: Primary meat inspection is done on carcasses directly after flaying and evisceration. It is done by meat examiners and registered meat inspectors and they may approve meat as safe for consumption. They also detain abnormal meat for further inspection by a veterinarian.

Secondary meat inspection: Done by registered veterinarian, on carcass and or organs detained during primary meat inspection. The veterinarian may amend, set aside or replace any decision made by the meat examiner or meat inspector. He/she may condemn meat as unfit for human or animal consumption.

Depending on the outcome of secondary meat inspection, the registered veterinarian may collect samples for further laboratory investigation.

Measures in place/ Quality control systems

The farm to fork principle is important for safety and public health. In South Africa measures are in place to ensure safety and quality of products. The following are safety control systems and measures used;

1. Hazard analysis and critical control point
2. Good manufacturing practice/ Good hygiene practice
3. Critical control point
4. South African Pork Producers Organization (SAPPO) at farm level
5. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) at farm level

Current major public health concern

Listeriosis

The recent South African listeriosis outbreak created a major public health panic. WHO reported that between 1 January 2017 and 14 March 2018, there were 978 confirmed listeria cases in South Africa. Of the total confirmed cases, there were 674 patients of which 183 died. Measures that were put in place for this outbreak included; recall of all implicated products from all retailers, testing of environmental samples from other food production companies.

Since December 2017, listeria was classified as a notifiable medical condition in South Africa. DAFF and the South African pork industry are working hard to try and reassure the market that SA pork is safe for consumption.

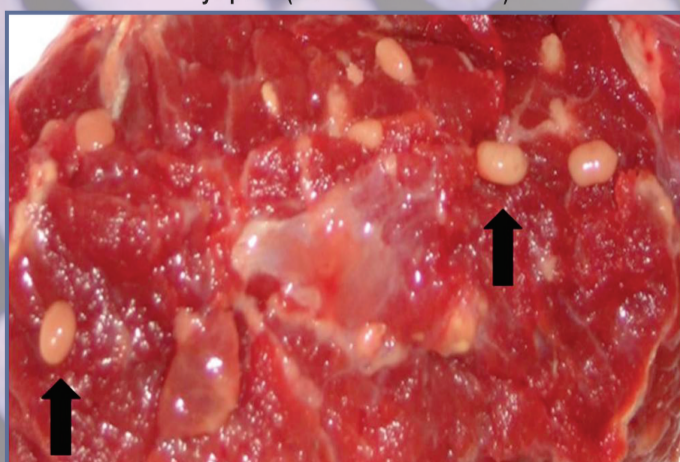
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Erysipelas (Diamond skin disease)



Pork measles (taenia solium)