

Prevalence of lameness and type of lesions in sows in Spanish farms

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Introduction:

Since the implementation of EU Animal Welfare Legislation an increase of culling of sows because of lameness has been steadily detected.

Moreover, almost **40% of non-clearly defined reproductive problems** as cause of culling might be highly associated with lameness.

The objective of this study was to provide a description of the current incidence of lameness and the kind of lesions in sows.

Materials and Methods:

A total of 187 sows from 8 Spanish farms were evaluated.

Lameness assessment was conducted following a specific scoring system used by Zinpro Corporation. Data were collected using the www.lamenesscontrol.com platform.

Total percentage of each lesion and percentage by parity were calculated and compared by chi-square test (Proc FREQ, SAS v9.0).



Lameness assessment

HOE: Heel overgrowth & erosion



HSC: Heel-sole crack/separation



WL: separation at the white line



CWH: horizontal crack in toe wall



CWV: vertical crack in toe wall



T: Toe length &
DC: length/lesion in dew claw



Zinpro® Corporation Scoring System

Severity score: 1 = low, 2 = moderate, 3 = severe

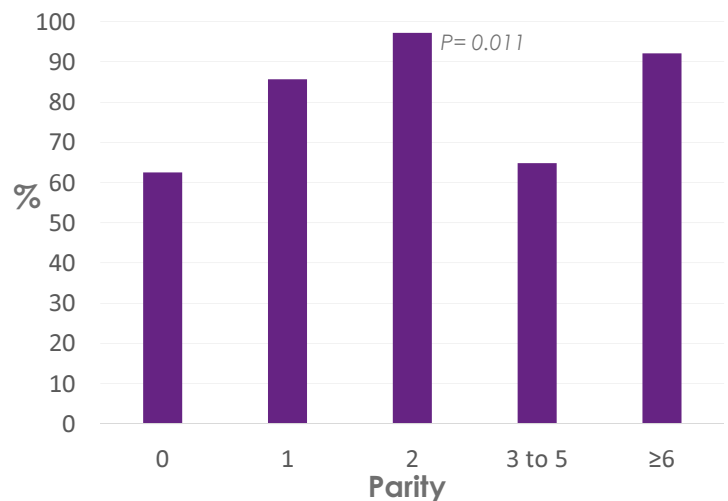
Results:

A 91.98 % of scored sows were affected by some kind of claw lesion.

Table 1: Percentage each kind of injury

| Lesion | HOE | DC | CWH | WL | CWV | T | HSC |
|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| % | 71.76 | 62.6 | 38.5 | 26.2 | 23.5 | 20.3 | 17.1 |

Figure 1: Percentage of injured sows by parity



Conclusions:

The percentage of sows with some kind of claw lesion is **very high, more than 90%**.

The incidence of lameness and of claw injury are **extremely high in parity 2 sows**. It could be related to the **second parity syndrome**. This needs to be confirmed by further research.

The **lamenesscontrol** platform is useful to collect data faster and to take decisions at an earlier stage.