



Living Lab in the Danish Pig Sector

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Pig sector – Farm to Fork

Pigs



The Danish Pig Living Lab consisted of a new group of 11 participants from private farms, vet companies, farm advisory companies, Seges, Danish Agriculture & Food Council, Danish Crown, a supermarket chain and Aarhus University. The LL participants formed a Core Group and within this group, two Action Labs were set up. The Action Labs involved several other stakeholders. The LL had its first core meeting in November 2020 and expects to have its last meeting around March 2023. We'll have six core meetings in total.

The strategy tested in the Living Lab

During the LL process, the aim was to approach a prudent use of antimicrobials. The approach of the Living Lab was to create dialogues about usage of antibiotics by different means. One strategy was to design an app to be used as a tool for evaluating and communicating about antibiotic treatments in the herds. The app was seen as a tool for communication between farm managers, employees, vets and advisers on prudent use of antibiotics. Another strategy was to create dialogue between a multiple of stakeholders with divergent backgrounds and positions, invited for a meeting where agreements and disagreements on subjects related to antibiotic usage in pig herds and resistance development were debated and written down in a published report.

The roadmap to implementation

The Danish pig Living Lab was challenged by Denmark to some extent is a role model in achieving a low antibiotic usage, due to many years of regulation and industry focus on antibiotics. Among Danish pig professionals, there is no consensus, that decreasing the usage of antibiotics in pigherds will have any impact on resistance development in human pathogens. Furthermore, some fear that a further reduction in antibiotic usage in pigs will be harmful for the animals.

The above mentioned dialogue strategy was a success in terms of achieving a clearer picture on agreements and disagreements between stakeholders. The report from the dialogue meeting will be used as a starting point for following up.



The impact created by the Living Lab

Animal Health: By focusing on prevention and “as little as possible but as much as necessary” use of antibiotics, animal health should be unaffected or improved.

Costs and savings: The project clearly established, that achieving a lower usage of antibiotics is something that needs investments and dedication from all sides, not the least the political side.

AMU: By creating a focus on places where a lower usage is still possible and by pointing out the negative side effects of antibiotic usage – e.g. the environmental - the project supports a lowered use of antibiotics.



Challenges



- Structural conditions like breeding, stables, financial restrictions and a difficult staff-situation are lock-ins for change
- Without a sense of a burning platform, motivation for change is limited
- The climate agenda has to a high degree overtaken the agenda when talking about change in the farming industry
- Changes on personal and institutional levels causing that participants dropped out

Successes

- A common ground for talking about prudent use of antibiotics was established
- An openness towards doing things a bit differently was created

Challenging the structures that you are a part of yourself is difficult and requires time, effort and dialogue. Developing a LL into a trustful and creative forum requires time, effort and dialogue.

www.roadmap-h2020.eu



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