Antimicrobial prescription patterns in organic and conventional pig herds in Denmark
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Antimicrobial prescription patterns in organic and conventional pig herds in Denmark

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Aim
Study the differences and similarities in prescription patterns for organic and conventional pig herds in Denmark

Data included
Herd-level antimicrobial prescription data from 2016 were extracted from VetStat
Information regarding herd type and number of animals in each herd were extracted from CHR

Table 1. Antimicrobial prescription data from Danish organic and conventional herds in 2016. Doses are calculated based on information from The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. In 2016, 31,806,238 pigs were produced in Denmark of which approx. 99 % are conventional and 0.8 % are organic (source: VetStat and CHR)

Results

Table 1: Antimicrobial prescription data from Danish organic and conventional herds in 2016. Doses are calculated based on information from The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. In 2016, 31,806,238 pigs were produced in Denmark of which approx. 99 % are conventional and 0.8 % are organic (source: VetStat and CHR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Doses/produced animal/year</th>
<th>Distribution pr. age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td>Organic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaners (7-30 kilos)</td>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthropathy</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finishers (&gt;30 kilos)</td>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthropathy</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danish legislation on organic pig farming – important when studying data from VetStat

- Weaner and finisher pigs are only allowed to be treated once
- The farmer can only get prescriptions equivalent to treatment of animals for maximum five days
- Medicine left after treatment cannot be re-prescribed as in conventional pig farming
  - The rest of a package must be returned to the pharmacies or destroyed
- VetStat: No official registration of the amount of returned medicine, and only whole packages are registered
- There may be a margin of error when reporting antimicrobial use in organic pig farms based on VetStat data

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