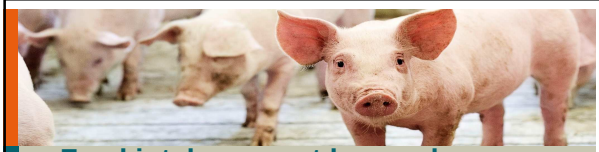
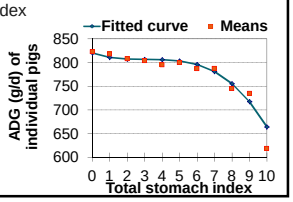


Feed intake cannot be used as predictor of stomach ulcers in lactating sows

T.S. Bruun[1], J. Vinther[1] and C.F. Hansen[2]
[1] Danish Pig Research Centre, Danish Agriculture & Food Council
[2] Dept. of Large Animal Science, University of Copenhagen

Background

- **Stomach ulcers are examined on dead sows**
- **Variation in prevalence of stomach ulcers in sows**
  - 51% of sows with stomach index 6-10 in 1,023 stomachs from more than 36 herds (Nielsen et al. 2013)
- **Interesting results with slaughter pigs** (Sloth et al. 1998)



Objective and hypothesis

- **Objective**
  - To investigate whether feed intake in lactation may be a potential indicator of stomach ulcers
- **Hypotheses**
  - Higher prevalence of stomach ulcers in sows having a low feed intake compared with a high feed intake
  - Higher prevalence of stomach ulcers in sows showing a drop in feed intake compared with normal feed intake

Materials and Methods

Conducted in 3 herds using liquid feed

1. Farrowing date
2. Weaning date
3. Moving of sows

1. Daily feed allowance recorded on PC

1. Removal of stomachs
2. Unique ID tagging

1. Visual inspection
2. Calculate index

Materials and Methods

- **Inclusion criteria within herds**
  - 21 to 28 d of lactation
  - Slaughter 0 to 5 d after weaning

Materials and Methods

- **4 evaluations are combined to an index**
  - Index 0: No pathological changes in Pars Esophagea
  - Index 1-3: Degree of parakeratosis of PE
  - Index 4-5: Degree of erosion of PE
  - Index 6-8: Degree of ulcers and/or scars in PE
  - Index 9-10: Stenosis of the esophageal lumen

Index 0 | Index 1-3 | Index 4-5 | Index 6-8 | Index 9-10

Materials and Methods

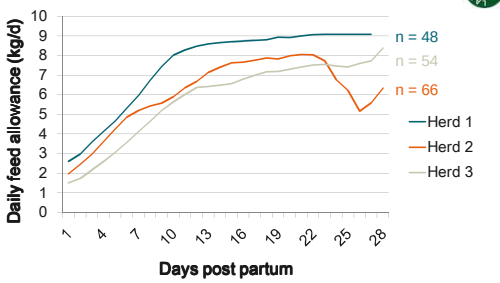
- **Feed allowance**
  - All sows classified within month and parity into:
    - **HIGH (20% highest ADFI)**
    - **LOW (20% highest ADFI)**
  - All sows included in following:
    - **NORMAL (sows not having a drop >30%)**
    - **DROP (sows having a drop >30%)**

- **Stomach ulcers**
  - Logistic regression
    - 2 levels of stomach ulcer index (i.e. 0-5 vs. 6-10)
    - Herd included as a fixed effect

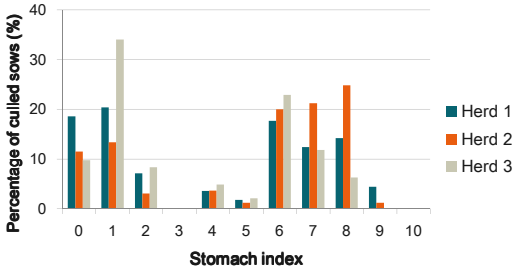
Average daily feed intake

	Herd 1		Herd 2		Herd 3	
	n	ADFI (kg/d)	n	ADFI (kg/d)	n	ADFI (kg/d)
HIGH	24	**7.5**	32	**6.8**	24	**6.0**
LOW	24	**6.9**	34	**5.1**	30	**4.3**
DROP	-	-	79	6.1	102	5.4
NORMAL	-	-	86	6.1	42	5.4

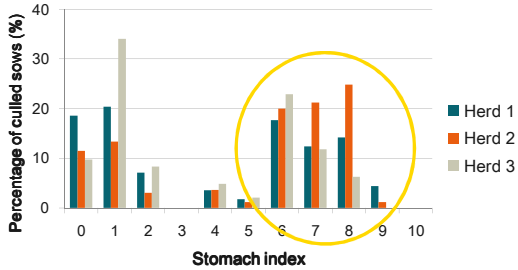
Average daily feed allowance



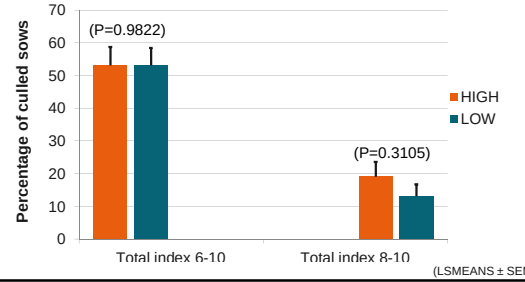
Overall distribution of stomach index



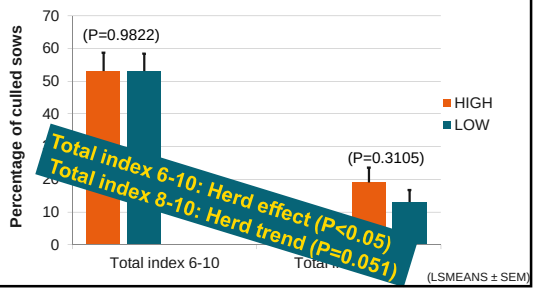
Overall distribution of stomach index



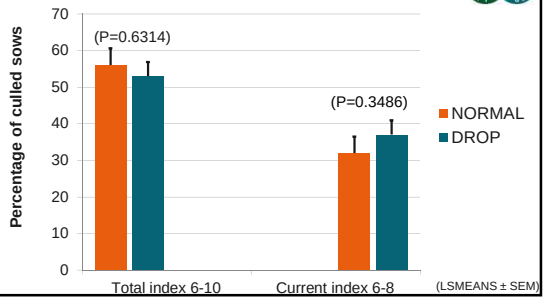
Feed allowance vs. stomach ulcers



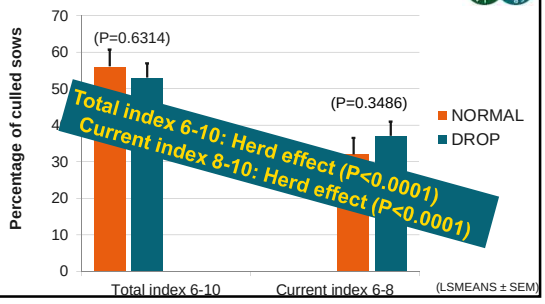
Feed allowance vs. stomach ulcers



DROP and stomach ulcers



DROP and stomach ulcers



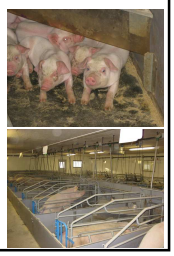
Discussion

- **Level of total stomach index was in accordance with a large Danish cross-sectional survey**
- **In herd 2, a general decrease in feed intake was observed before weaning**
  - Both HIGH and LOW showed this
- **Prevalence of stomach ulcers with index >8 was generally low**
  - At least compared with a recent study (Bruun and Vinther 2013)

Conclusion

Danish Pig Research Centre

- No correlation between HIGH or LOW feed intake and stomach ulcers
- A DROP is not an indication of stomach ulcers
- Based on this survey we cannot use feed intake to predict the occurence of stomach ulcers



Questions ?

Contact: tch@lf.dk

DanAvl

Danish Pig Research Centre