

Monitoring the effects of transport on the behaviour, physiology, carcass and meat quality of pigs through the study of truck micro-climate, vibrations and cooling systems

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The outputs of this study will provide the pork industry with a practical procedure to apply on the truck in warm conditions and new knowledge about vehicle design features. The objective is to limit animal losses during transport and also to improve pork quality.

Summary

This study is to evaluate, in warm conditions, the impacts of ventilation, with or without water sprinkling, during the wait before unloading at the abattoir, on the behaviour, physiology, and carcass and meat quality of pigs. In addition, the project will look into the impacts of the level of vibrations during transport to the abattoir, on the posture of the pigs (standing, sitting or lying) in particular. Vehicles will be pot-belly trailers.

To achieve this, the following aspects will be examined:

- inside the trailer: variations in temperature and humidity and differences in floor vibrations between compartments
- on the animals: variations in body temperature, stress indicator levels in blood, and behaviour during transport, at unloading and in lairage, and animal losses
- on carcass and meat: carcass and meat quality variation and heat stress-related oxidative stability of meat.

Collaborators

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