I prefer:

□ ORAL presentation

X POSTER presentation

**Are alternative pig farms in France infected**

**with *Campylobacter* spp.?**

Fablet C.1\*, Nagard B.1, Boudin E.1, Dorenlor V.1, Eono F.1, Eveno E.1, Kerphérique S.1, Poulain G.1, Souquière M.1, Delsart M.2 Rose N.1, Denis M.1

[1 christelle.fablet@anses.fr](mailto:1%20christelle.fablet@anses.fr), ANSES, France

2 Anses, École Nationale Vétérinaire d’Alfort, France

**Background/Objective**

*Campylobacter* is the leading zoonotic bacterial agent responsible for gastroenteritis in Europe. Its asymptomatic and digestive carriage by livestock is well-known, but there is limited data on its carriage by pigs reared in alternative systems. The study aimed to provide information on the level of infection in fattening pigs on alternative farms.

**Methods**

This study carried out from June 2020 to January 2022 involved 54 French alternative pig farms. Individual fecal samples were collected from 10 fattening pigs (mean age: 25.3 weeks old, ± 3.8) in each farm. For each sample, 25 grams of faeces were 1:10 diluted in buffer peptone water (BPW) and direct streaking was carried out on CASA agar to detect *Campylobacter*. After incubation in microaerophilic conditions at 41.5°C for 48±4 hours, the morphology of typical colonies on CASA was checked under microscope in order to confirm the genus *Campylobacter*. Species identification by PCR is currently underway.

**Results**

The herds were mainly organic pig farms (80% of farms). The pigs sampled had outdoor access (run or free-range on pasture) on 66.7% of the farms. They were housed indoors on litters on 31.5% of the farms. Overall, 434 out of 540 faecal samples (80.4%) tested positive for *Campylobacter* spp. All farms had at least one faecal sample positive for *Campylobacter* spp. (3 to 10 positive samples per farm, with an average of 8 positive samples per farm).

**Conclusion**

Those results suggest that *Campylobacter* is widespread on alternative pig farms. Identifying the *Campylobacter* species will determine if these farms are solely contaminated by *C. coli*, as previous studies on indoor pigs in France have shown.

**Keywords:** Campylobacter, pig, food safety, bacteriology, outdoor access