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**What are the external biosecurity measures in French outdoor pig farms?**

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**Background/Objective**

Ensuring biosecurity is crucial to prevent the introduction of infectious pathogens and a major challenge for outdoor pig farms. This study aimed to provide an overview of the key external biosecurity measures, namely fencing and trapping, on outdoor pig farms.

**Methods**

Biosecurity measures were collected from 40 French free-range farms. The presence and type of fencing and the level of maintenance and operation were recorded. Exposure and contact with wildlife were also documented during a farmer interview.

**Results**

Overall, 59% of farms failed to fully comply with the French legislation on biosecurity and fencing to prevent contact with wild boar. The level of non-compliance with national regulations differs according to the physiological stage: 54% of farms with outdoor farrowing, 29% of farms with outdoor mating and gestation, 45% of farms with outdoor quarantine and 25% of farms with finishers. The integrity of the electric fencing was deficient in 25% of the mating-pregnancy areas and 19% of the farrowing stages. Proper weeding around the electric fences was carried out in 69% and 55% of the farrowing and mating-pregnancy areas respectively.

Wild boar were observed in the vicinity of 30 out of 40 farms, and more than twice a year on 43% of the farms. Wild boar came into contact with pigs on 20% of the farms, resulting in the birth of pig-boar hybrids on two farms. Few farms (5%) set up protection systems against crows, while 28 out of 40 have protection systems against foxes.

**Conclusion**

This study highlights the need to improve external biosecurity measures on outdoor farms, in order to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases from wildlife.

**Keywords:** Prevention, fencing, trapping, wild boar