

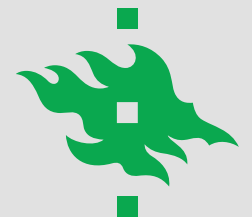
“Finns against zinc”

The Finnish approach to prevent post-weaning diarrhoea in piglets without zinc oxide

I. Toppari (Animal Health ETT), T. Laine, L. Kaartinen (Finnish Food Authority) and M. Heinonen (Helsinki University)



RUOKAVIRASTO
Livsmedelsverket • Finnish Food Authority



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Animal Health ETT

- focus in
preventive
measures for 25
years



- Focus in preventive measures;
 - ✓ stipulations on import of animals, embryos, semen and feed
 - ✓ coordinating national health care schemes
 - ✓ maintaining online herd health and welfare databases for pigs and cattle
- Stakeholders mandate to set measures to ensure
 - ✓ animal health, welfare and
 - ✓ food safety
- NGO with private funding
 - ✓ Slaughterhouses
 - ✓ Dairies
 - ✓ Egg packaging companies
- In cooperation with authorities, research and producer associations

<https://www.ett.fi/>

Sikava

A health and welfare classification register for pigs



Covers over 95 % of Finnish pig production

Four-step classification

- Basic level
- Register level
- National level
- SPF-level for breeders

Member companies require national or SPF-level

- Freedom of salmonella, enzootic pneumonia, swine dysentery, mange, atrophic rhinitis and PRRS

Vet visit on farms

- 4-26 times per year based on production type and herd size,
- observations of health and welfare
- documented in register

All medicines used and indications registered in Sikava



www.sikava.fi

Active communication and co-operation



ETT newsletter and news on the website

Seminars and webinars

- To vets, farmers, stakeholders
- Responsible use of antibiotics, animal welfare etc.

Publications

- Guide for weaning piglets
- Guide for pest control

Consultation for vets and producers

Weaning pigs with minimal antibiotic usage and with intact tails



- Danish (and Norwegian) genetics, some Finnish Yorkshire and Landrace
- Enough space, drinkers and feeding space (long troughs)
 - Recommendation

The national goal is to stop using zinc without increasing the usage of antimicrobials and without worsening the pig welfare

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry funded the update of the "Guide for weaning piglets"
 - Emphasis on feeding, vaccinations and management related preventive measures



Education and research in the University of Helsinki



Basic veterinary studies and national specialisation of veterinarians in production animal medicine:

- strongly directed in preventive work
- production with minimal need to use antibiotics and zinc

Several research projects:

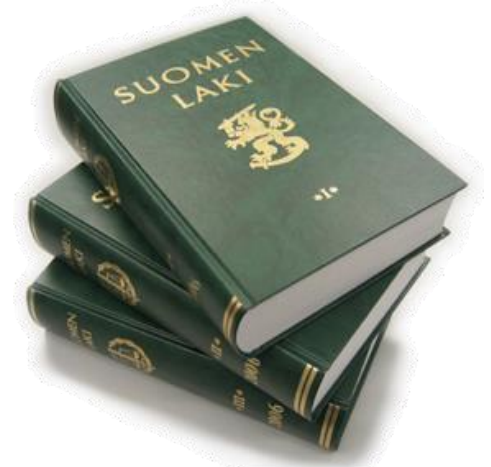
- Pork production without zinc and/or antibiotics



National legislation



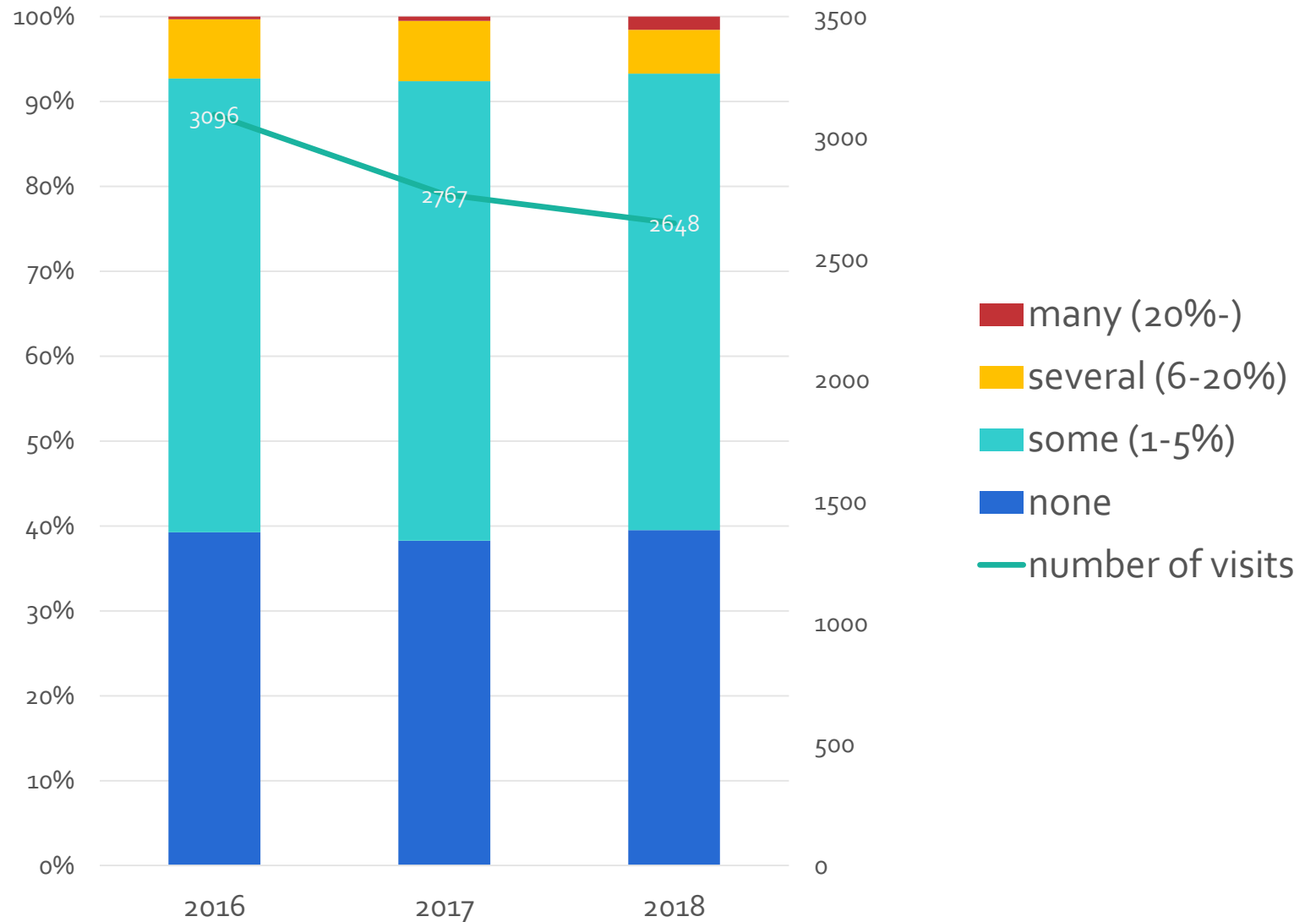
- Antibiotics by vet description only
- No profit for selling antibiotics
- Before prescribing antibiotics:
 - Clinical and/or microbiological diagnosis
- Microbiological diagnosis and resistance profile once per year per holding, if:
 - If group treatment (medicated feed) is used
 - Several treatments for same symptoms in the holding



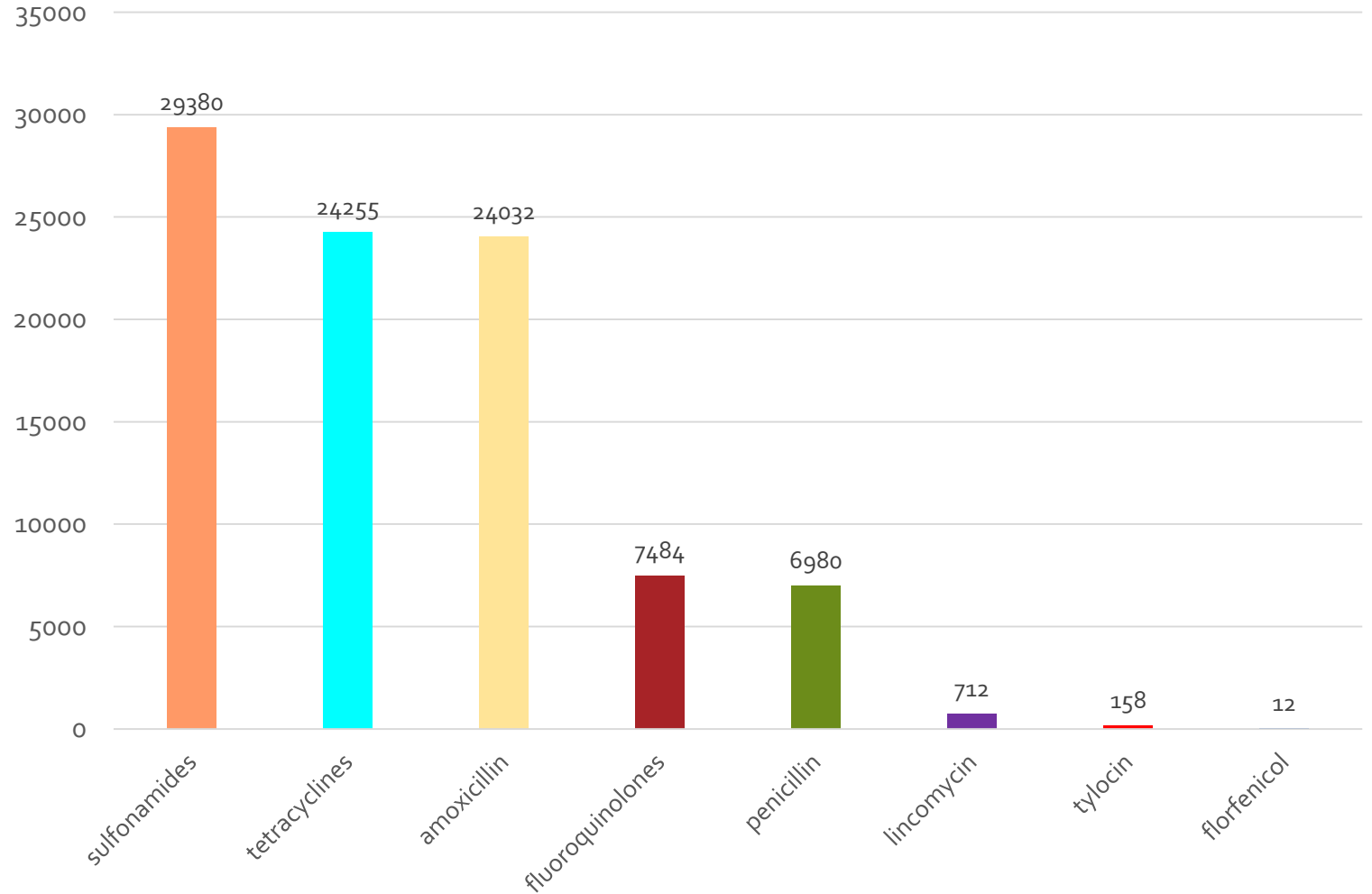
Results: Prevalence of post-weaning diarrhoea in 2016- 2018 (information from vet visits)



Prevalence of post-weaning diarrhoea in 2016-2018



Results: AMU for post- weaning diarrhoea (in DDD) in 2018

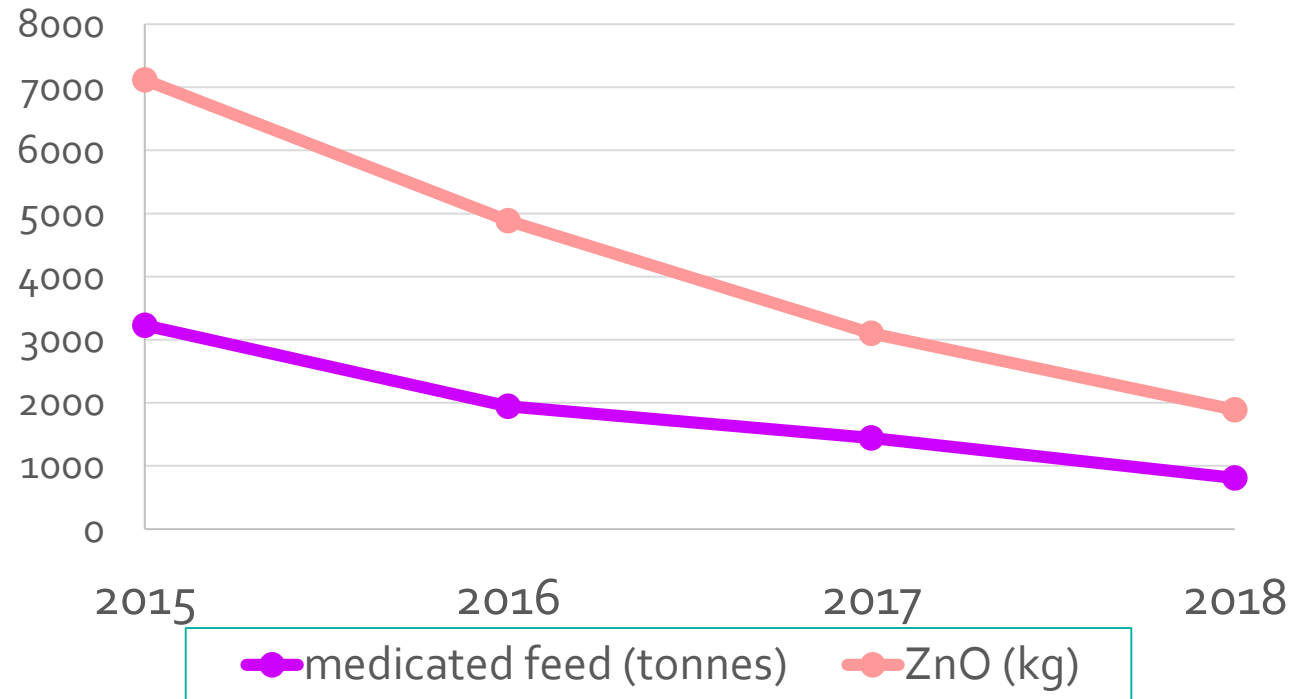


- Sow population: 95.000 sows
- Production results on average: 31 weaners/sow/year

Results:
Manufacturing of
medicated feed
and amount of
ZnO in med. feed



Medicated feed and ZnO



Tasks in future

- Phasing out the use of zinc oxide without increasing antibiotic use due to post-weaning diarrhoea
- Benchmarking antibiotic use at the farm level, graphs in Sikava register
- Combining resistance profiles to lab results in Sikava register



Thank you for your attention!

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