

# The role of the veterinarian in improving the integrity of the food chain

Rens Van Dobbenburgh, Francesco Proscia

8 April 2022



#### FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE



Veterinarians know, care and contribute

38 national associations

38 European countries

4 Sections

- UEVP (Practitioners)
  - UEVH (Hygienists Public Health Officers)
- EASVO (Veterinary State Officers)
- EVERI (Education, Research, Industry)

#### **Mission**

To enhance animal health, animal welfare, public health and protect the environment by promoting the veterinary profession

Together with its members, FVE supports veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities to the best possible standards and ensures that veterinary expertise is recognised and valued by society

#### FVE Board 2022





#### **FVE Board**



President Rens van Dobbenburgh (Netherlands)



Vice-President Thierry Chambon (France)



Vice-President Siegfried Moder (Germany)



Vice-President Mette Uldahl (Denmark)



Vice-President Stanislaw Winiarczyk (Poland)

#### Secretariat





### Working Groups



# Terminology

Food systems - all actors & interactions along the food value chain + relevant policy

Food chain - transferring of food energy from the producers, through a series of organisms (herbivores to carnivores to decomposers)

### Meat inspection & hygiene

□ 13/14<sup>th</sup> century - Butchers associations promoting licenses to practice, fraudulent practices, bad sanitation reports and fines for

non-complying practices

□ Florentine butchers' association laws - meat inspection and sanitation rules

Several German states performing meat inspection

Germany

□ 1890, Robert Von Ostertag, Father of Veterinary

Meat Inspection

□ Rudolf Virchow, the father of cellular pathology

Italy

1888, 1° Law on the protection of hygiene and public health



# History review of meat inspection

- 2008 Lyon meeting on veterinary inspection organized by EU French Presidency
- 2009 Council request to the Commission for meat inspection modernization
- □ 2010 Commission request scientific opinions to EFSA
- □ 2010 EU Seminar on Future of Meat Inspection

# Focus WHAT & WHY

# Review of meat inspection



*Robert Huey, FVE Vice President* 

Need for a review of meat inspection

Increasing public health importance of hazards not discovered by conventional meat inspection

- Enhanced role of Official Auxiliaries
- Clarification on responsibility FBO Competent Authority
- Additional delegation to slaughterhouse staff

# Conclusions



- **EU** rules already foresee certain flexibility
- Animal health situation changed New risks including environmental contamination & residues
- Resources issues
- Commission pilot projects & discussion with all stakeholders
- □ International dimension: global approach (OIE/CODEX)
- Risk based approach and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of current methodology
- EFSA opinions

- Meat hygiene is one important subject in the veterinary curriculum aiming at improving food safety
- Meat hygiene scope has changed and enlarged considerably over the centuries

Changes in livestock production systems, food hazards
 & related risks, food chain and globalization have
 affected the meat supply chain





**European Food Safety Authority** 

### **EFSA** opinions

•Domestic swine

•Poultry

•Bovine animals

•Domestic sheep & goats

•Farmed game

•Domestic solipeds

### Epidemiological indicators





#### Key principles of the new regulation



#### Changes in farming sector

#### Changes in veterinary sector



Impact

#### Major challenges in farming: today and tomorrow

- **D** Ensure a wise shift towards digital agriculture
- Consumers Keeping the livestock sector efficient, welfare friendly and trusted by
  - Keeping animal disease out e.g. African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza
    - Reducing the use of antibiotics (minus 50% by 2030)
- Reducing the climate footprint of farming *(to be climate-neutral by 2050)*
- Increase organic production (by 25%)

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe Strategy 2021-2025

> Veterinarians know, care and contribute

One health and sustainability

One veterinary community

Being recognised & influential

Veterinary demography &

rewarding careers

### Embracing technology





#### Food Chain Information

FCI

### SLAUGHTER HOUSE

Official Veterinarian + Food business operator **CCIR** Collection & Communication Inspection Results

#### FARM Herd Health Planning

Veterinary practioner + Farmer



Brussels, 06 June 2015 FVE/pp/2015/\_005\_FINAL

#### FVE guidance document on Food Chain Information



□ FVE position papers

Press release

Vets adding value

**G** Stakeholders meetings

□ Advisory group for

Animal Health Food

Safety

#### Risk-based animal health visits

Art. 25 requires operators to make sure that establishments receive **risk-based animal health visits** from a veterinarian:

- Type of establishment
- Animal species and categories kept
- Epidemiological situation
- Other relevant surveillance, or official controls



#### $\rightarrow$ Frequencies proportionate to the risks

### Regular animal health visits from the veterinarian

- Great potential to
  - Improve animal welfare and economic efficiency
  - Reduce the need to use of antibiotics and enhance sustainability
- Essential for '*prevention is better than cure*'
- Allows for early detection of transmissible diseases, enhance biosecurity

And more... - Art. 25: animal health visits may be combined with *other purposes* 

- Maintains veterinary network
- The veterinarian receives detailed
  knowledge about the management
  conditions of the farm
- To build a **relation of trust** between farmer and veterinarian

### Output of risk-based animal health visits

#### Improved productivity

Analysis of production data Herd health management and MOSS Improved animal welfare Pain free techniques Advising on enrichment

Emergency slaughter protocols

Advising on statutory and societal responsibilities

Identification and registration

Mitigation of antimicrobial resistance

Sustainable practices

### FVE recommendations for successful visits



CONTRACT

**TANGIBLE** OUTPUT

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO E.G. **OFFICIAL** VETERINARY **SERVICES** 

UNNECESSARILY TIME CONSUMING **OR PAPERWORK** HEAVY

# Take home message

Consumer reassurance has to come from

- integrated production systems
- robust herd health planning

#### FVE keeps calling for more & better veterinary involvement

- In the assurance of food safety at earlier stages of the production chain
- in integrated herd health planning and through veterinary audit and verification of Food Chain Information & inspection results





#### CONTACT US

Tel.: +32 2 533 70 20

E-mail: info@fve.org

Website: https://fve.org/

#### WHERE WE ARE

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) Avenue de Tervueren 12 B-1040 Brussels



Federation of Veterinarians of Europe