

# Research Update

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# Objectives of the research programme

- To establish the effectiveness of the current and alternative approaches to meat inspection.
- To build a robust evidence base through research to support a case for reform.
- In November 2009 a call was published inviting scientists to bid for research divided into six areas



# 1. Analysis of current ante and post-mortem inspection outcomes

- Consider all current inspection tasks as listed in EC Reg. 854/2004
  - assess their value to public health, animal health, animal welfare, and food commercial value.
- This work will indicate areas in the current regulatory framework which might benefit from change.



## 2. Analysis of MHS inspection data and its potential uses

- Analysis of data on inspection outcomes held by the MHS to establish its potential usefulness in risk assessment.
  - define by species the critical and optimum data that should be collected
  - evaluate the inspection data being currently collected against data needs identified above, and identify possible data gaps



# 3. OV supervision of PIAs

- Requirement within the current regulatory framework (100% OV supervision)
- Analyse the impact of any variation of this requirement on public health, animal health and welfare



## 4. Risk assessment of visual (non invasive) PMI of outdoor pigs

- Reg. 854/2004 allows for indoor pigs only to be visually inspected.
- This study will challenge the principle that outdoor pigs require invasive inspection in order to ensure appropriate consumer protection levels.



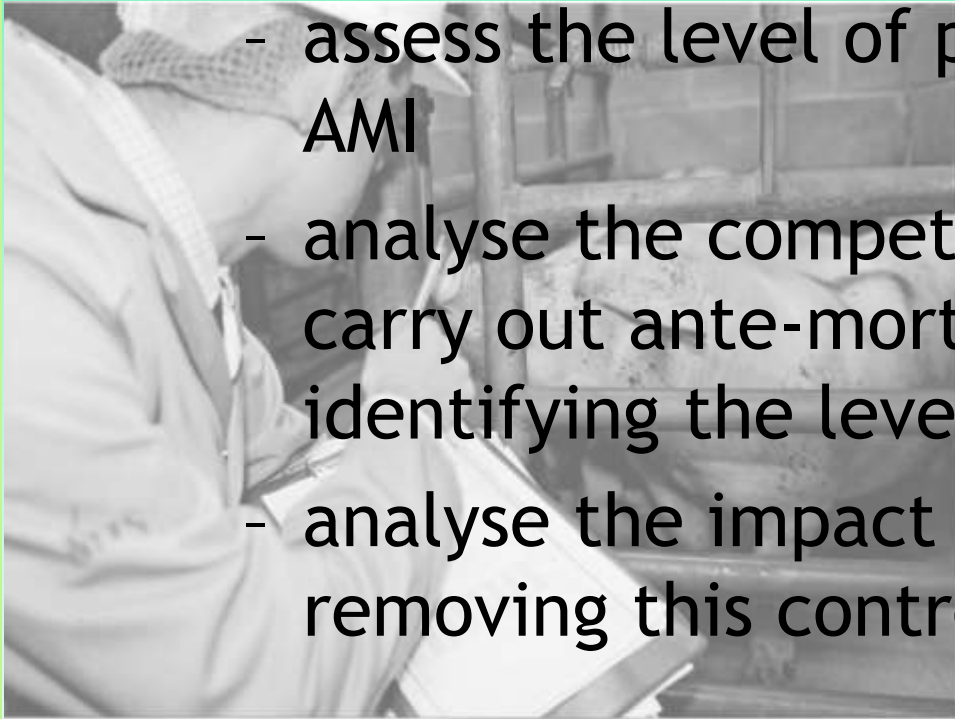
# 5. PMI of green offal of red meat species

- To establish what ‘relevant’ conditions are being identified as a result of green offal inspection as currently performed; and
- develop a range of scenarios in order to assess any changes to the risk from undetected conditions
- Explore alternative control/verification methods to detect conditions



# 6. AMI of poultry & young/prime red meat animals by MHIs

- This project will...
  - define the conditions that an OV would be expected to detect
  - assess the level of protection of current AMI
  - analyse the competencies necessary to carry out ante-mortem inspection duties identifying the level of training required;
  - analyse the impact of modifying or removing this control requirement



# Scientific Steering Group

- A specialist group set up to provide expert advice on the scientific approach and evidence necessary to develop proposals for an effective, risk-based and proportionate system of official controls for meat
- The Group's functions:
  - To advise on the science relevant to meat official controls;
  - To evaluate existing research; and
  - To propose areas for additional research, risk assessment or pilot projects.



# Membership

- Prof. Jim Scudamore, University of Liverpool (Chair)
- Dr. Christine Little, Health Protection Agency
- Mark Noterman, Department of Health
- Prof. Katharina Stärk, Royal Veterinary College
- Billy Steele, University of Glasgow
- Derek Armstrong, British Pig Executive
- Dr. Steve Moore, Faccenda Group Ltd
- Prof. Richard Bennett, University of Reading



# Further research

- Further research will be commissioned in the following areas:
  - Effectiveness of official controls in addressing key pathogens;
  - Options for cost benefit analysis of current and future systems; and
  - Social science studies.





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Questions...?