

Opinion 24-2020 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the sampling plan of FEBEV

Terms of reference

The Belgian Meat Federation (FEBEV) proposes a sampling plan for the monitoring of the presence of residues and contaminants in the pig meat sector. This plan is submitted to the Scientific Committee for assessment.

The questions addressed to the Scientific Committee are the following:

- Does this sectoral sampling plan offer (globally or partially) sufficient guarantees to be validated by the FASFC ? If not, what are its shortcomings ?
- Does this plan offer sufficient guarantees to be taken into account for the drawing up of the official control plan of the FASFC ?

Method

The assessment of the FEBEV sampling plan is carried out on the basis of the document version 2.0 of February 2020 provided by FEBEV, expert opinion and data already available via the control plan of the FASFC.

Conclusion

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the proposed sampling plan is of good quality and that it follows rigorously the methodology used by the FASFC for drawing up its own control plan. The Scientific Committee has made a number of comments, in particular with a view to standardising the occurrence values for the parameters "steroids" and "corticosteroids". However, the Committee stresses that the proposed sampling plan will only be representative for fattening pigs without free range but not for sows or pigs with free range. The Scientific Committee also notes the absence of analyses for both the parameters "dioxins" and "nitrofurans".

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that :

- this sectoral sampling plan, considering the hazards it covers, provides sufficient guarantees to be validated by the FASFC and this only for pigs without free range but not for sows or pigs with free range;
- this sectoral sampling plan offers sufficient guarantees to be taken into account when drawing up the official control plan of the FASFC for pigs without free range but not for sows or pigs with free range.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.