PROJECT REVIEW

NAME: Veronica Brewster	

INSTITUTE: RVC	FULL TIME Final Year

TITLE: Towards an eradication strategy for *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* from the UK pig herd

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

To develop and validate immunohistochemistry (IHC) as a diagnostic tool for *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. To determine the impact of enzootic pneumonia-like (EP-like) lesions on post trimming carcass weight. To undertake a feasibility assessment on the eradication of *M. hyopneumoniae*

KEY MILESTONES:	TARGET DATE:	ACHIEVED DATE:
Development, optimisation and validation of IHC as a diagnostic test for *M. hyopneumoniae*	October 2013	October 2013
Finalise Impact assessment of enzootic pneumonia-like and pleuritis lesions	November 2013	October 2013
Submit Impact paper to Journal of Animal Science	November 2013	November 2013
Poster at a pig veterinary conference (ESPHM)	May 2013	May 2013
Industry placements – EP-like lesion study	June 2013	July 2013
Feasibility assessment of eradication of mycoplasma hyopneumoniae	December 2013	ongoing

PROJECT REVIEW AND COMMENTARY:

The impact of EP-like and pleuritis lesions on defined production parameters was determined. Data collected on the presence/ absence and severity of these lesions and post- trimming slaughter weight were used as inputs in a linear regression model. A significant association was identified between increasing severity of EP-like lesions and a decrease in post-trimming slaughter weight. Increase in EP-like lesion severity was also significantly associated with an increase in slaughter age.

POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO INDUSTRY:

The immunohistochemical test developed during this thesis will provide the industry with sensitive and specific test not currently available in the UK. The project also provides an updated estimate on the effect that EP-like lesion have on reducing slaughter weight and highlights that EP is still an economically relevant and important disease.

SUPERVISOR: Dr Mandy Nevel & Professor Katharina Stærk

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Notes from Seminar: