

Interpreting the graphs

Pleurisy: Which bar on the graph is highest?

EP and pleurisy?

This suggests poor control of a secondary bacterial infection within the lungs.

Pericarditis and pleurisy?

This could be indicative of Glässer's disease; there may also be cases of peritonitis.

Pleurisy alone?

Several possible causes exist, including pleuropneumonia; look closely at the pleuropneumonia (PP) scores of your pigs.

EP and papular dermatitis:

The EP-like lesion and papular dermatitis scores shown in the top columns of the report are the average scores for the group of pigs.

A distribution of the actual EP-like lesion and papular dermatitis scores of all pigs assessed is illustrated in a graph, as an average score on its own can sometimes be misleading in terms of the actual health status of the pigs, ie a few individual pigs with extensive EP-like lesions can make the average score for the batch high even though most have no lesions at all. A distribution of scores shown in a graph can therefore give a better indication of the level of infection within the pigs.

Columns bunched to the left of the graph

This indicates that the majority of the pigs have either no, or mild, EP-like lesions and/or papular dermatitis.

Columns spread out or bunched to the right of the graph

The more the columns are spread out or bunched to the right, the worse the overall health condition of the pigs is in terms of these two conditions.

Note: Organisms other than *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* can cause lesions that are indistinguishable from EP that may be reported as EP-like lesions on the lungs. Similarly, papular dermatitis is a descriptive term on the report and lesions may have several underlying causes, although a high score and a significant number of pigs affected are usually indicative of the presence of mange.

Getting the most from BPHS reports

The 1st report:

- Treat the first set of data as a basis with which to compare future reports.
- Use the data to draw up plans with your vet, nutritionist, marketing group etc.

Subsequent reports:

- Use these as personal benchmarks that can be compared with physical performance data.
- Bear in mind that when monitoring the quarterly reports that there may be non-significant variation between consecutive batches; changes in trends here should be interpreted with caution.

Poor scores

- Action needs to be taken.
- The cost of individual treatments (medication), additional feed and increased labour soon adds to the cost of production.
- Poor herd health quickly results in overstocking due to reduced growth rates.
- Poor scores can demoralise staff as it is far more rewarding to work with healthy, high-performing pigs.

Good scores

- Don't become complacent or ignore them!
- Reports enable you to monitor herd health closely and identify any changes/deteriorations in herd health at an early stage; this makes it possible for you to take remedial action in good time.

Want to find out more about the BPHS and how to join it?

Call the Administration centre on 01463 233184 or visit www.bpex.org.uk

British Pig Health Scheme

Interpretation of producer report sheets

All BPHS members receive three different types of report sheet

- 1 Individual Batch Report:** This will be sent within 48 hours of the abattoir monitoring having been performed. This provides summary data from the pigs inspected at the abattoir with graphical representations.
- 2 Unit Comparison Report:** This will be sent at the end of the quarterly monitoring period. This provides a comparison between your unit(s) and all other units monitored during that quarter.
- 3 Time Comparison Report:** This will be sent at the end of the quarterly monitoring period. This provides a comparison with historical data for the unit on a rolling basis of up to two years once information is available.

The following information will guide you through interpreting an **Individual Batch Report** and suggest how to use the data to improve herd health and performance.

What to do upon receiving a BPHS report:

- 1** Check the date of the assessment and slap mark so you know which batch of pigs was assessed.

- 2** Do not interpret the reports on its own. Try and correlate the results with the production performance and health of this particular batch. Take into account whether the pigs assessed were the first or last batch of pigs slaughtered from a production group of pigs.
- 3** Review the overall scores for each condition.
- 4** Look at the graphs for EP-like lesions and papular dermatitis. Are all the columns tight to the left? If not, there may be a problem that needs addressing.
- 5** Are there any correlations between pleurisy and EP and/or pleurisy and pericarditis? If so, this could provide information as to the possible underlying causes of the pleurisy.
- 6** Are there any comments in red in the box at the foot of the report? If so the vet at the abattoir has detected a significant number of pigs with the same condition. Discuss the results with your veterinary surgeon at the next available opportunity.
- 7** What is the quality of the slap marking? If the abattoir vet had difficulties reading slap marks data could be lost. Think about how to improve slap marking in order to get as much data about the pigs as possible.

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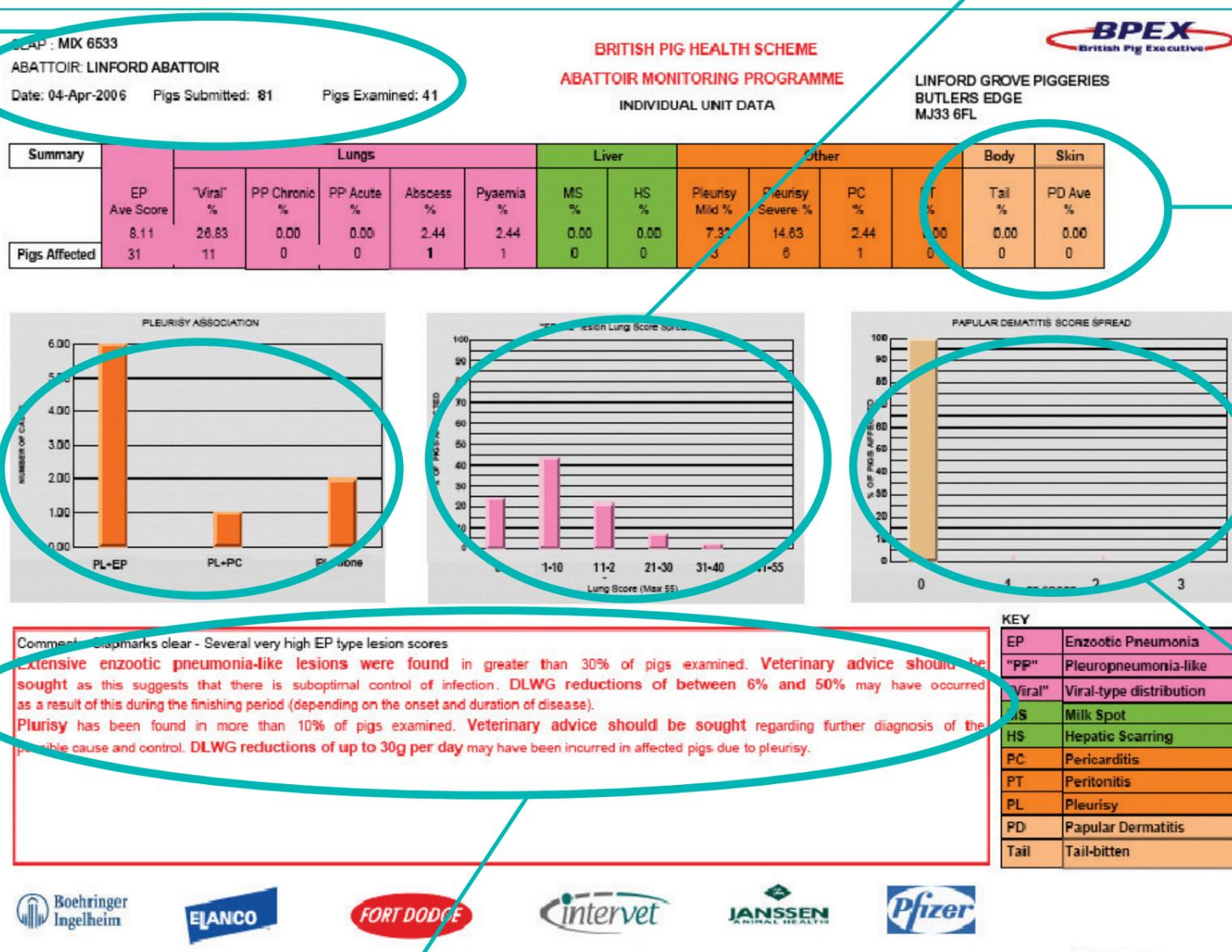
What does each section of the report mean?

Below is an example of a BPHS individual batch report with explanations for each section.

Pigs submitted' is the total number of pigs under a given slap mark sent to the abattoir on the specific date. Of those submitted up to 50 pigs are BPHS scored ('Pigs examined') and included in the report.



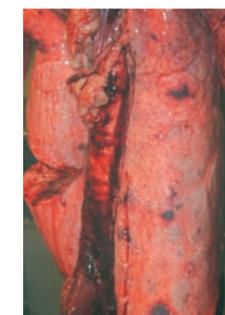
Pleurisy is seen as adhesions between the lung lobes, or lungs and thoracic wall. This graph shows the number of individual pigs with pleurisy occurring simultaneously with pericarditis, with EP-like lesions or with pleurisy alone.



This graph represents the distribution of examined pigs with EP-like lesions in the lungs. The graph shows how many pigs with EP-like lesion scores were found in each range: 0, 1-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40 and 40-55. EP-like lesions are examined on a scale of 0-55 with 0 being no EP-like lesions and 55 as extensive EP-like lesions.



Each column represents a condition monitored by the scheme. The top row shows the name of the condition examined, the next row shows the percentage of pigs with the condition (or average score for EP and PD) and the bottom row shows the actual number of pigs examined with the condition.



Comment: Slapmarks clear - Several very high EP type lesion scores
Extensive enzootic pneumonia-like lesions were found in greater than 30% of pigs examined. Veterinary advice should be sought as this suggests that there is suboptimal control of infection. DLWG reductions of between 6% and 50% may have occurred as a result of this during the finishing period (depending on the onset and duration of disease).
Pleurisy has been found in more than 10% of pigs examined. Veterinary advice should be sought regarding further diagnosis of the possible cause and control. DLWG reductions of up to 30g per day may have been incurred in affected pigs due to pleurisy.

KEY	
EP	Enzootic Pneumonia
"PP"	Pleuropneumonia-like
"Viral"	Viral-type distribution
MS	Milk Spot
HS	Hepatic Scarring
PC	Pericarditis
PT	Peritonitis
PL	Pleurisy
PD	Papular Dermatitis
Tail	Tail-bitten

This graph shows the distribution of pigs with papular dermatitis on a scale of 0-3. 0 indicates no papular dermatitis was present, 3 indicates that severe and extensive papular dermatitis was present.



The comment box summarises significant lesion data, suggests underlying causes, and advises to contact your veterinary surgeon. It also gives an indication of the cost penalty of poor health.

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