

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ROMANIA BETWEEN 2001 AND 2005

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Summary

In the paper are presented the evolution of classical swine fever, in Romania, between 2001 and 2005. Starting from 1st of January 2002, the vaccination against CSF was forbidden in 12 counties in western Romania. After this a lot of other CSF outbreak appeared, so that in 2002 there has been discovered 52 cases.

Because of the epidemiological situation between 2001 and 2005 we consider that the revival of the prophylaxis strategy is necessary, a fact that happened.

Classical swine fever (CSF) is an infecto-contagious viral disease in pigs and wild boars. The disease is expressed clinically with general signs, with circulatory, respiratory, digestive, nervous disorders and necropsy it find hemorrhagic injuries in the organs (4, 5, 9).

The immunoprophylaxy was obligatory on the entire effective of porcine until the 31st of December 2001 and was realized with live attenuated vaccines (.). Even though the vaccination was obligatory, in the year 2001 in the county of Harghita outbreak appeared.

In these conditions the Ministry of Agriculture, Alimentation and Forests releases the nr. 144/27 decree in April 2001, Official Monitor, Part I nr. 459/13.08.2001 comes with a new approach of the prophylaxis of the classical swine fever starting with 1st January 2002 (16).

In the first chapter, article 2 in the Annex with this decree it is said that "The sanitary strategy of the veterinary services in Romania consist in stopping the antiCSF vaccinations in the entire country" (16). Afterwards in December 2001, right before they would take effect, de decree suffered modifications, so starting from 1st January 2002, following the directions set out by the National Sanitation and Veterinary Agency, the vaccination against classic porcine pest was forbidden, only in 12 counties in the west parts of Romania. After words two new instructions (12) and decrees have generalized the interdiction in all Romania from the 31st of July 2003 (2, 3, 6, 12).

What happened after these measures where put in action? Starting from March 2002 the first contagious center appeared, in a farm in Arad country with 282 pigs (1). After that another series of contagious centers were discovered in many locations in the area that the vaccinations was forbidden but also in the area that the vaccination wasn't initially forbidden.

This paper wants to present the consequences of the application of the decision to stop vaccination against the porcine pest in Romania between the years 2001-2005.

Materials and methods

To realize of this paper a few statistic numbers have been prelevated about the CSF, officially, and sent to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and made public, partially on the Internet at the WOAH at address <http://www.oie.int/hs2/report.asp>. Following these informations, transmitted by the Romanian veterinarian authorities, it results that between the years 1974 -2001, Romania had the not worthy status in the CSF (10, 11, 13). This status was lost when the obligatory vaccinations were made.

For the realizations of this here work I have received information's from the IDSA, from Prof. Onțanu Gheorghe which whom we thank for his support.

Results and discussions

In the table 1 are present a synthesis of the statistic number obtained from the evolution of the CSF in Romania between 2001 and 2005.

Table 1

The evolution of the classical swine fever outbreaks between 2001-2005

Year	No. outbreaks	No. of animals					No. of affected counties
		Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered	
2001	1	552	14	7	7	0	1
2002	52	1328	982	324	820	181	9
2003	155	4611	4611	1020	3586	0	16
2004	182	2361	2361	689	1586	86	16
2005	518	11027	11027	2982	8045	0	33

In Romania for a long period of time the vaccination against the CSF was constrained, at all the effective of pigs (13), which made Romania officially "not worthy" of this disease between the years 1974-2001. The only outbreak in the year 2001 was declared in Harghita (1, 13).

Starting from 1st of January 2002 the vaccination against CSF forbidden in 12 counties in western Romania (AB, AR, BH, CS, CJ, GJ, HD, MM, MH, SM, SJ, TM). After this a lot of other CSF outbreak appeared so that in 2002 there has been discovered 52 cases. These cases were appeared between the August and December 2002 (2, 6).

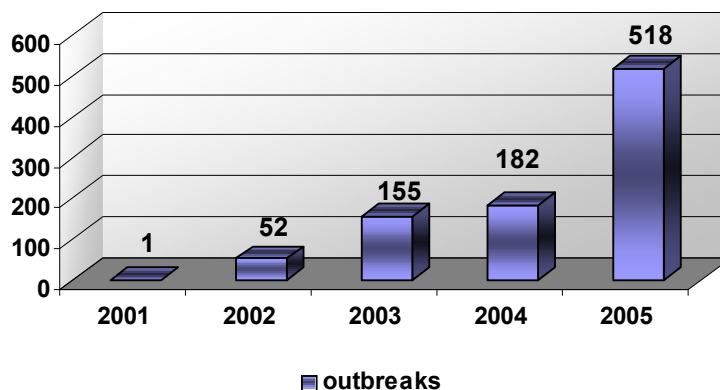
During 2003 (table 1) there have been registered 155 outbreaks. Between the cases of the year 2003 there were registered 2 outbreaks of wild boars that got the sickness, of which 4 died. In the first seven months of the year 2003 when the vaccination was stopped there were 127 cases discovered (12, 13, 15).

In 2004 (table 1) there have been discovered and declared 182 outbreaks.

In 2005 (table 1) there have been discovered and declared 518 outbreaks. In the wild territories there have been registered 43 cases of wild pigs with CSF.

Comparing the data obtained in 2005 with those of the year 2004, 2003 and 2002 (graphic 1) it results that a level of maintaining and proliferation was kept as a result of the stopping of the vaccination, facts that constrain us to put in use more severe methods of prophylaxis for the CSF.

Graphic 1
Dynamic of the classical swine fever in Romania between 2001 and 2005

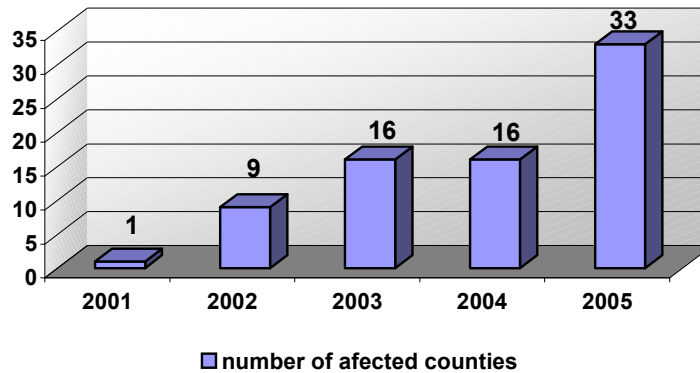


We must point out that the data presented officially by the veterinarians authorities (13) are only the tip of the iceberg, knowing that in numerous situations (rural small family farms) the owners didn't ask for professional help from the veterinarians or it was too late to save anything and they remained undiagnosed and unregistered (1, 5, 7, 8).

In the table number one in the right column it is presented the numerical distribution of the outbreaks in the counties in the studied interval. In 2002 the 52 outbreaks have appeared in 9 counties, 5 of them in parts where the vaccination didn't take place and 4 in the counties (GR, OT, TR and IL) where the vaccination was (3).

The distribution of the cases shows an increase of the number of counties affected by the classical swine fever (graphic 2).

Graphic 2
Distribution of the classical swine fever outbreaks in Romania
between 2001-2005



The high number of CSF outbreaks declared and the fact that they don't tend to go away themselves, makes us propose that we should return to the general immunoprophylaxis of the CSF, this being put in practice in the year 2006. We think that the immunoprophylaxis of the CSF disease is the rational solution in the actual condition of the pig exploitation realities, where there are a great number of pig farmers which have few pigs, which makes the general measures useless for this species and makes the eradication impossible (15).

Until December 2006 the accent was put on the nonspecific prophylaxis, more exactly biosecurity measures, in this case only the large producers were advantaged while the small farmers in household farms (17).

That is why we subscribe to the reinstatement of the strategy that insures biosecurity for big farmers and also household farms.

Conclusions

As it result from the data given to the World Organization for Animal Health, following the anti CSF vaccination, starting in the 1st of January 2002, in 12 counties, situated in the western part of Romania, during the year 2002, 52 outbreaks have appeared in 9 counties, and 4 where the vaccination was obligatory.

During the year 2003, 155 cases have appeared, in 16 counties, 7 of them where the anti CSF vaccination was obligatory until the 31st of July 2003.

In 2004 there have been registered 182 cases distributed in 16 counties.

In 2005 there have been registered 518 cases distributed in 33 counties.

During the entire surveillance period the number of outbreaks has increase in more counties. Also the number of wild boars affected has increase.

Because of the epidemiological situation between 2001-2005 and the fact that the CSF is a disease with a natural focalization, which doesn't have the tendency to go out itself, we consider that the revival of the prophylaxis strategy is necessary, a fact that happened.

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