

Here are the MRSA pigs that can threaten your health!

MRSA epidemic in the country's pig farms has exploded in Denmark. People and local politicians require with increasing strength the facts about the risk of infection, but where is the pig farms, one should stay away from? We can now get the first answer.

So far, the Ministry of Agriculture watched zealously over the addresses, and in more than two years, the Ministry has refused to share its knowledge of the infected pig factories with the Danes. Despite orders from the Danish Ombudsman, the Ministry has still not published its lists of MRSA-infected farms.

However, it has now managed us to wrest a department in the Ministry, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, DVFA (Fødevarestyrelsen in Danish), a list of 137 addresses of pig farms, which most probably contains pig-MRSA bacteria.

This is a current list of the worst pig factories when it comes to the consumption of antibiotics. Misuse of antibiotics is essential for development of pig-MRSA, the antibiotic-resistant staphylococci that goes under the type designation MRSACC398.

The list is based on pig producers' consumption of antibiotics over the past nine months. It contains pig factory owner names, addresses, antibiotics and veterinary contact, and was prepared by Food & Drug Administration based on data from the "Yellow Card" scheme.

The list includes two old "acquaintances" which certainly have been affected by pig-MRSA, yet continues to run consumption of antibiotics over the new limits. One is a large pig factory in the municipality of Aabenraa, where almost all its staff were MRSA-positive in 2009, and another is a factory in Northern Jutland in the city of Sindal, where three female employees including a new mother, was found infected in 2009-2010.

Children as carriers

The current list includes the 137 pig factories over the past nine months where there has been an overuse of antibiotics over the Ministry's new limits, which come into force in the autumn.

Since the development of MRSACC398 bacteria is closely associated with high consumption of antibiotics, there will be a very high probability that exactly these 137 pigs plants are infected with the bacteria. All leading epidemiologists encourage both adults and children to stay away from these companies.

Already in February 2011 the leading epidemiologist Professor Hans Jørn Kolmos warned on these school visits to pig-farms, which the farmers association, Landbrug & Fødevarer, was about to set in motion:

"Danish pig farms has until now been almost hermetically sealed to the public. Though it is unintentional, the opening of the pig farms in fact act as a biological experiments where large-scale test the infectivity of the resistant bacteria that are created with too large consumption of antibiotics. It is deeply worrying, and the case is no less precarious by the fact that there are children involved. "

"Yellow Card" scheme

Although listed only 137 pig farms on the below mentioned list, it does not mean that the other 3724 pig producers in Denmark (2013) is free of infection. As long as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Danish farmers association and the Danish pig producers association keeps confidentiality of any test results, we just do not get it closer.

The list of 137 farms with the industry's largest antibiotics has been prepared as part of the Ministry's "Yellow Card" scheme. It means that the pig producers gets a warning - a yellow card – from DVFA if they exceed the limits laid down in a political settlement of parliament. With the card follows an order for producers to reduce their consumption of antibiotics.

Until 2009, the total consumption of antibiotics in animals grew. In an attempt to stop this increase, DVFA imposed in 2010 the "Yellow Card" scheme. It targeted the pig factories that have a large, routine use of antibiotics, eg for mass treatment of pigs through food and water.

After the introduction of the "Yellow Card" scheme antimicrobial consumption in pigs apparently fell markedly in 2010 and most of 2011, but by late 2011 it began to grow once again. The limit was therefore adjusted by September 1st, 2012, in order to cope with this increase, but without success. Therefore it was tightened again by the values to be put into function at 30th of November 2014.

Four years of effort without progress

It was then minister agriculture Henrik Hoegh (V), which introduced the "Yellow Card" scheme and the flexible limits in 2010. Henrik Hoegh said in October 2010:

"We have introduced a yellow card system to enable tightly against swine herds with a high consumption of antibiotics. With the veterinary settlement we established limits for antibiotics, giving the farmers who exceed them several visits to the vet for their own account. We have put an antibiotics strategy together with the Ministry of Health to reduce overall consumption and to have doctors and veterinarians to use the antibiotics, where the risk of developing resistance is less. This is blatantly wrong that we do nothing. We are rather busy. "

Today - four years later - the system has failed to prevent pig-MRSA epidemic explosion.

From the first patients in 2006 affected the infection in 2013 643 people after tripling from 232 years before. For 2014 number of patient feared to exceed the 1000. The first deaths were recorded in 2011 and since then there have been three more deaths. According to SSI Danes must simply rely on up to five deaths - annually - in the future as a result of pig-MRSA epidemic.

Black sheeps on the list

On the current list one can find two old "acquaintances" who certainly have been affected by pig-MRSA, yet continues to run unacceptably high consumption of antibiotics.

One is the big pig factory H.J. Staugaard, near Aabenraa, where almost the entire staff of foreign workers were infected in 2009, and another is a factory in northern Jutland in Sindal, where three female employees including a new mother, was found infected in 2009-2010. The owner here was proprietary Per Kirketerp.

Already in 2010 featured H.J. Staugaard on the first Yellow Card List, and the company does not seem to be able to decrease the use of antibiotics as it also appears on the 2014 list with a consumption of 6.03 compared to the next level of 5.9. Also proprietary Per Kirketerp got yellow cards in 2010, but he appears on the 2014 list with an overuse of 7.85 compared to the 5.9 limit.

Both "black sheep" have not changed their production, despite increased surveillance from the authorities for four years. It has not been possible to ascertain how many of the other 135 pig farms on the list, which have previously received "Yellow Card" with no improvement.

The 137 potential recipients of the "Yellow Card"

This list of the 137 pig farms that have an overconsumption of antibiotics over the next few levels (per 30 November 2014), is prepared by the DVFA and submitted for publication at 20. June 2014.

It is assumed that the DVFA conducted a quality assurance of data before extradition, but if there occur companies that do not mean that the statements are correct, then we welcome comments, so the situation can be correctly described.

It should be emphasized that a high consumption of antibiotics is directly linked with the development of antibiotic resistance, but it is not true that all businesses with high consumption automatically will develop resistant MRSA bacteria. Thus, it will be exceptions.

Ministry of Agriculture: OK to farmers' desire to keep infected pig farms secret- FOI-organisation complains now

The Ministry of Agriculture now accepts that a writ from Agriculture and Food, once again will delay insight into the pig farms, which houses the dangerous MRSA bacteria. Aabenhedstinget therefore ask the Ombudsman once again to intervene in this case and overrule the new exposure.

"There are no new arguments from the farmers. They have just screwed the boot in and sent a summons. It seems to have an impact on the Ministry, which has deferred their decision. We cannot see that there is any basis in the Environmental Information Act to allow an application to be the basis for a postponement of the decision, " says Aabenhedstinget in a submission to the Ombudsman.

Aabenhedstinget asked for the list of MRSA-infected pig farms March 14, 2012, after then Agricultural Minister Mette Gjerskov (S) mentioned its existence in a response to the Danish Parliament.

After a relatively short processing, the Ministry refused, then Aabenhedstinget in May 2012 asked the Ombudsman to intervene in this case. The Ombudsman took more than two years to examine the case. His

final decision came June 6, 2014, where all the Ministry's arguments were rejected. The information has to be transmitted.

Aabenhedstinget therefore asked again to obtain all the information from the ministry and later to Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, DVFA (Fødevarestyrelsen in Danish). On June 17, 2014 DVFA promised to reply within 18 working days. Just before the deadline summoned the peasants' interest group, Landbrug & Fødevarer, the Danish State on behalf of some of the owners of the infected farms. The organization required information kept secret and demanded that the application was suspensive effect in the case.

The requirements added DVFA for another stay of the proceedings sent to Aabenhedstinget July 11, 2014. It is this delay, which Aabenhedstinget now ask the ombudsman to act on.

See the list of all documents in the proceedings http://www.aabenhedstinget.dk/svinebakterier_side/