



Issue 10  
3<sup>rd</sup> Qr/2019

Quarterly Newsletter for Pigs  
Suppliers



# Post-mortem inspection - a valuable source of information on how to increase efficiency in pig farming.

Basically, at the point of shipping a herd of animals, any farmer feels relief that they have produced healthy pigs and knows that the job has been done. Now, what is left for any farmer to do is only wait for money. However, only at the slaughter line where a veterinarian examines each cut (offals, intestines, carcass), we get a clear diagnose of the problems the owner faced, assessment the effectiveness of prevention, treatment, nutrition and general well-being of an animal. But first, it is important to stress that animals that do not show disease symptoms end up on the slaughter line. While all those with disease-like symptoms or that are weak, or cannot move independently, end up in a sanitary slaughterhouse where they are slaughtered and subsequently examined.

The most commonly observed lesions occurring in the carcasses are inflammation, large post-castration or post-injection abscesses, scars, bruises, skin lesions, and cryptorchidism. Of course, there are also changes resulting from the transport and behavior of animals, such as fractures of the limbs due to mechanical injuries or the phenomenon of cannibalism, characterized by bitten tails. All identified changes are cut and confiscated. This is important for the breeder, because the animals is weighed and classified after medical examination and after cutting out the identified part that cannot be used for further processing. The farmer will not receive payment for either the confiscated animal or carcass cuts.

## LIST OF the most common total confiscations

Reason	% share of total confiscation
Pyemia	64.77
Physiopathological leisures	8.96
Jaundice	6.97
Emaciation	5.58
Systemic	5.96
Erysipelas	2.97
Sepsis	1.48
Postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome – PMWS	0.83

Weight of the most common partial confiscations:

- ham abscess - up to 15 kg
- shoulder abscess - up to 10 kg
- rib abscess - up to 6 kg
- neck abscess - up to 5 kg
- leg abscess - up to 3 kg
- head abscess - up to 6 kg

Additionally, offals, including but not limited to: trachea, lungs, liver, kidneys, intestines, are also subject to medical assessment. However, possible confiscation of offals does not affect the weight of the carcass, and subsequently the farmer's payment. Nevertheless, post-mortem examination including offals provides substantial information about the general condition of the herd.

The most common confiscations of offals include mainly liver and intestines, predominantly due to infestation with tapeworms and roundworms. And let's not forget that any worm infestation significantly slows the animals growth, which in turn increases the cost of production.

Moreover, the number of heads showing disease-like lesions in a given batch is an important health status indicator of animals at the farm. Having such knowledge, a farmer and a vet taking care of the herd can make a timely decision on changing prevention, vaccines or vaccination dates, enriching the feed with appropriate ingredients and improving breeding before the symptoms intensify. Early prevention means shorter treatment, better growth, and less money to produce a healthy herd of animals.

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# Pig headcount drop by over one million vs. June 2018

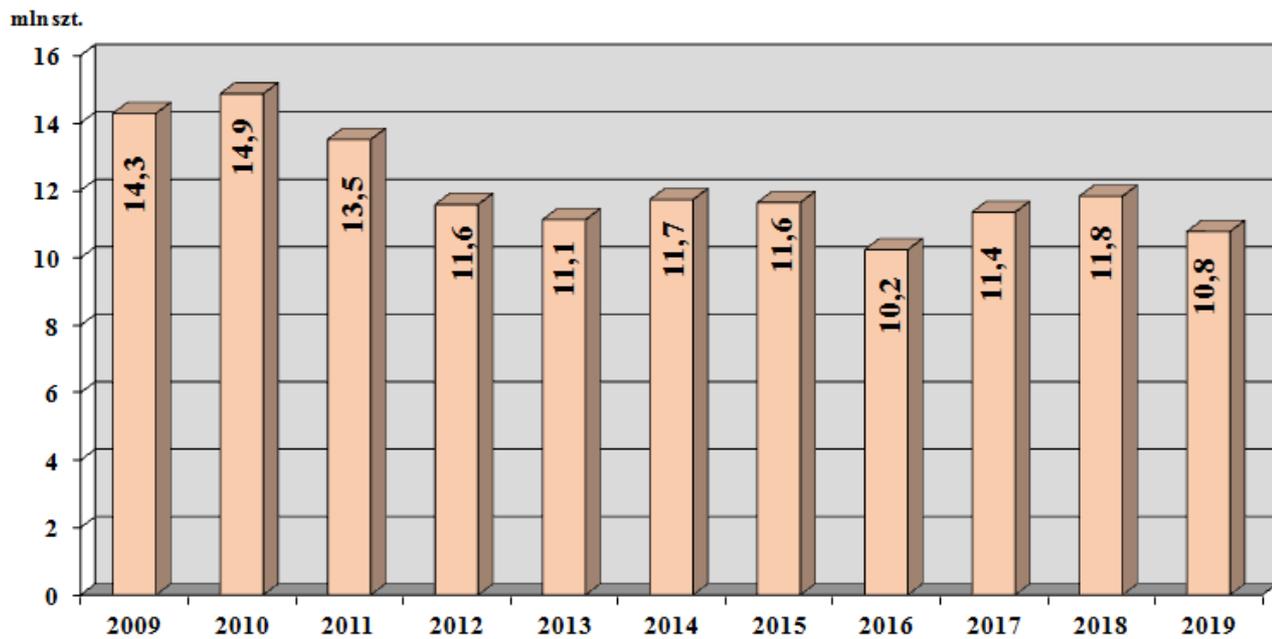
The pig head count in June 2019 amounted to 10,780.5 heads, which indicates that during the year it fell by 8.9 percent. According to the Central Statistical Office (GUS), the decrease in the population occurred in all pig breeding facilities.

## Pig population in June 2019.

SPECIFICATION	4th quarter 2019 k of heads	4th quarter 2018 = 100	December 2018 = 100
Pigs	10780.5	91.1	97.8
piglets weighing less than 20 kg	2418.7	88.2	106.1
Weaners weighing 20 kg to 50 kg	3043.2	88.6	94.3
Pigs weighing 50 kg and more (finishers)	4549.9	95.5	95.5
Pigs for rearing weighing 50 kg and more (reproductive)	776.7	86.7	101.4
sows total	754.8	86.7	101.4
pregnant sows total	530.6	90.9	105.8

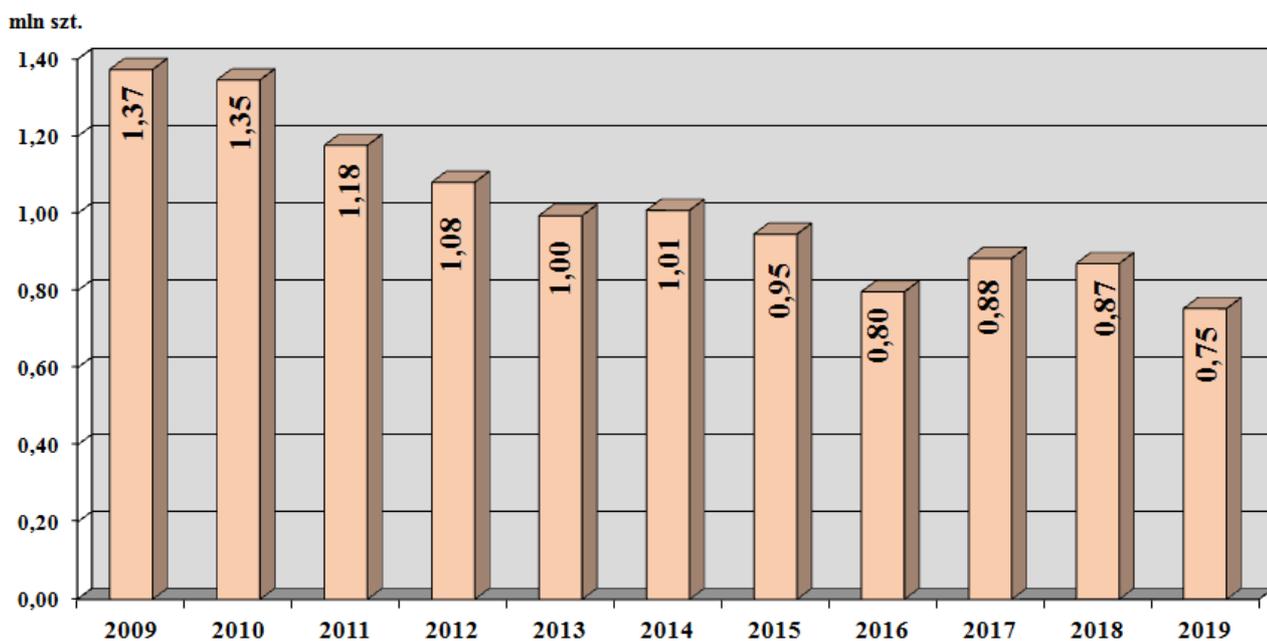
At the beginning of June 2019, the pig population was 10,780.5 heads and was by 1047.0 lower versus the corresponding period of 2018. On top of that, comparing to December 2018 the present headcount is by 247.2 k i.e. 2.2% lower.

## The pig headcount in 2009 - 2019



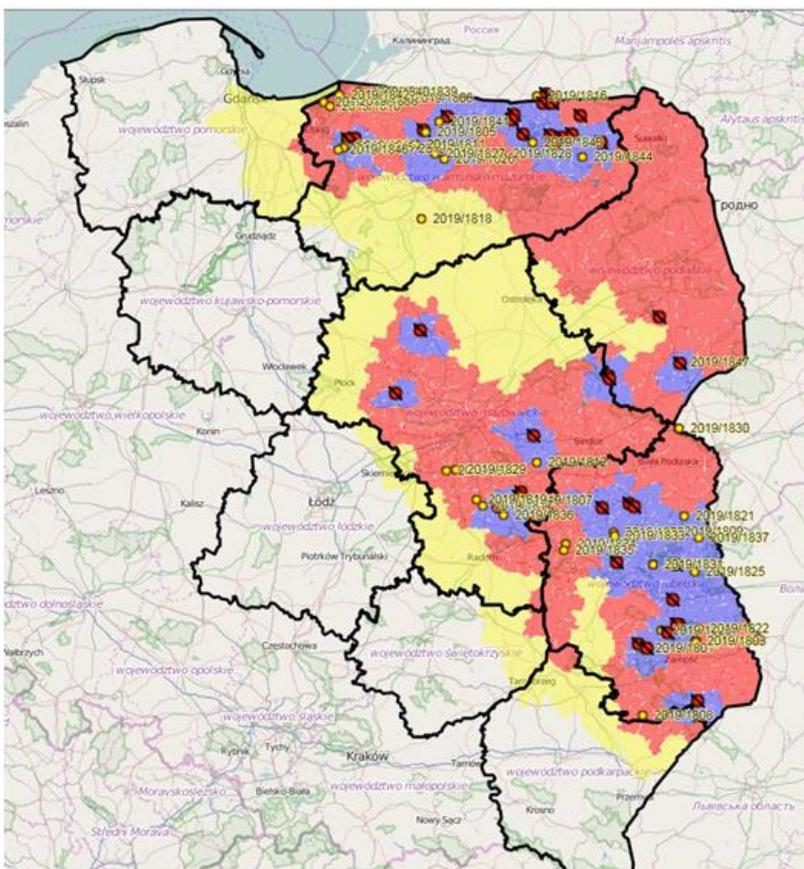
Comparing to June 2018, the herd of reproductive sows decreased by 116.0k heads (by 13.3%) to the level of 754.8k heads, and the number of pregnant sows dropped by 53.0k heads (by 9.1%) to 530.6k heads. However, compared to December 2018, the number of sows for rearing increased by 10.2k (by 1.4%), and pregnant sows by 29.0k, i.e. by 5.8%.

## Sow population in 2009 - 2019



# ASF affects pigs breeding in Poland - current situation

The basic factor determining the decline in pig headcount in Poland is the African Swine Fever. The virus still spreads in the east of Vistula River. In case the ASF outburst is confirmed on a pig farm it means that all animals kept in the facility must be slaughtered. In 2019, by October 23, veterinary services confirmed 45 cases in pigs (some of them concerned large pig farms) and 1676 outbreaks in wild boars.



**DETECTED ASF OUTBURSTS**

YEAR	WILD BOARS	PIGS
2014	30	2
2015	53	1
2016	80	20
2017	724	81
2018	2439	109
2019	1847	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5173</b>	<b>261</b>

as per: October 23, 2019

**Map of ASF outbursts and incidents in Poland and current scope of restricted zones**

Credits: <http://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/>

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