

# Salmonella monitoring: Faster and better information for fatteners

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## Abstract

The Erzeugergemeinschaft Rheinland w.V., located in Moers, is a so-called "Systemberater" for the German quality assurance system, "Qualität und Sicherheit" (QS). One of its tasks is to support the organisation of Salmonella monitoring for its 233 fatteners. This includes the distribution of information about the actual salmonella status.

EG Rheinland participates in work package 2.1. within the Interreg IV A "SafeGuard" project. The overall aim of this work package is to analyse salmonella results proactively in a database called "EGR-Backbone" in order to inform farmers faster in case of changes in the salmonella antibody status. Prior to this project, EGR-farmers only got information about the average result of the last 60 samples of the past year on a quarterly basis.

Since the end of 2010, sample data from EGR-fatteners are imported from the "QS-Salmonella database" into the "EGR-Backbone". There the system creates different flexible reports for advisors as well as for farmers. For example, the "EGR-Backbone" reports give more attention to the last results (90-31 days and last 30 days back from last sample date) by weighting them and calculating a trend. If the trend shows a negative result, the farmer receives a report automatically. Another important point is that sampling takes place regularly. If, for some fatteners, no samples have been taken for more than 8 weeks, they will be informed by the system. Besides farmers, advisors also get an overview about all farms in order to monitor the fatteners more efficiently.

Farmers as well as advisors remain continually informed about the Salmonella antibody status from the actual batches of finished pigs and can therefore take corrective actions earlier than would otherwise be possible.