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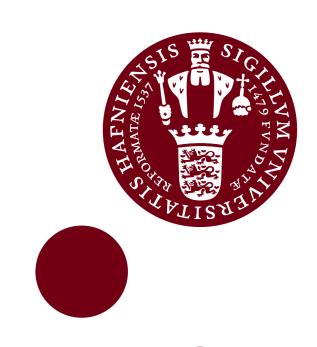
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Antimicrobial prescription patterns in organic and conventional pig herds in Denmark

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Aim

Study the differences and similarities in prescription patterns for organic and conventional pig herds in Denmark

Data included

Herd-level antimicrobial prescription data from 2016 were extracted from **VetStat**Information regarding herd type and number of animals in each herd were extracted from **CHR**

Results



Organics pig herds in 2016 (N=122)

Organics pig herds with antimicrobial prescription in 2016 (N=57)

133 kg active compound prescribed for organic pig herd in 2016

VetStat: The Danish Veterinary
Medicines Statistics Program covers
sales of veterinary prescription
medicine for all pig herds in Denmark

CHR: The Central Husbandry
Register covers herd-level information
about number of animals, type of herd
and geographical location.

The two databases are hosted and maintained by The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

Corresponding to 2 % of the total number of herds registered in CHR

Corresponding to 0.2 % of the total amount of active compound prescribed for pigs in DK

Table 1. Antimicrobial prescription data from Danish organic and conventional herds in 2016. Doses are calculated based on information from The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. In 2016, 31,806,238 pigs were produced in Denmark of which approx. 99 % are conventional and 0.8 % are organic (source: VetStat and CHR)

Ago group	Indication	Doses/produc	ed animal/year	Distribution pr. age group		
Age group	indication	Conventional	Organic	Conventional	Organic	
Weaners (7-30 kilos)	Gastrointestinal	5.61	0.31	80 %	65 %	
	Respiratory	0.68	0.15	10 %	30 %	
	Arthropathy	0.72	0.03	10 %	5 %	
Finishers (>30 kilos)	Gastrointestinal	1.00	0.19	68 %	54 %	
	Respiratory	0.15	0.02	10 %	7 %	
	Arthropathy	0.32	0.14	22 %	40 %	

Gastro-intestinal indications is the most often used indication in both types of production

A larger proportion is prescribed for respiratory indications in organic weaners and for arthropathy indications in organic finishers

Danish legislation on organic pig farming – important when studying data from VetStat

- Weaner and finisher pigs are only allowed to be treated once
- The farmer can only get prescriptions equivalent to treatment of animals for maximum five days
 - Medicine left after treatment cannot be re-prescribed as in conventional pig farming
 - The rest of a package must be returned to the pharmacies or destroyed
 - VetStat: No official registration of the amount of returned medicine, and only whole packages are registered
 - There may be a margin of error when reporting antimicrobial use in organic pig farms based on VetStat data