

ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE

Information Sheet WS007/07

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PORCINE STILLBIRTHS

Introduction

In this case (on an intensive pig farm), there was a disastrous stillbirth rate, which proved refractory to long-term, energetic input from every kind of advisor the farm and vet could call in. Homeopathy was tried as 'a last resort'.

The results of the first trial, carried out in April of 1983, speak for themselves (a).

This was the first time in the unit's history, that the stillbirth figure had been successfully and consistently improved. The series of figures for the following months, when the whole herd was treated, show a remarkable effect of treatment (b).

The treatment was homœopathic *Caulophyllum 30c*, given during pregnancy to the sows.

There is also a very interesting effect observable when the treatment was (unwisely in retrospect) altered in mid-September and restarted in mid-November. It was feared that giving pills to sows might eventually cause injury to personnel, so liquid remedy was given in the concentrate feed. Although this was instituted in mid- to late-September, the figures started to deteriorate from that month on, until reversal of the decision in mid-November. For this reason, we include in our instructions not to give homeopathic medication with concentrate feed.

The work was carried out by Christopher Day MRCVS and the results were published in the *Veterinary Record*, in March 1984.

Day C E I. *Control of Stillbirths in Pigs using Homeopathy* *Veterinary Record* 1984 Vol 114 No 9 p 216

Clinical Trial - Porcine Stillbirths - AVMC

The publication of this data was unusual in that the issue of the *Veterinary Record* (a 'peer-review' journal), in which it appeared, carried a long editorial on this data and called for more of this type of work.

Trial Results (a)

Parameter	Control Group	Treatment Group
No. of sows in group	10	10
No. of live births	103	104
No. of stillbirths	27	12
No. of sows with stillbirths	8 (80%)	3 (30%)
% stillbirths	20.8%	10.3%

This clinical trial was not 'blinded'. In other words, the pig man knew which sows were having treatment and which ones weren't. Nonetheless, the data is taken from farm records, which were computerised.

On the basis of the results of this 'pilot', the farmer insisted that the whole herd should be treated from then on, thus bringing the controlled trial period to an end. The whole-herd data for the following months are recorded below.

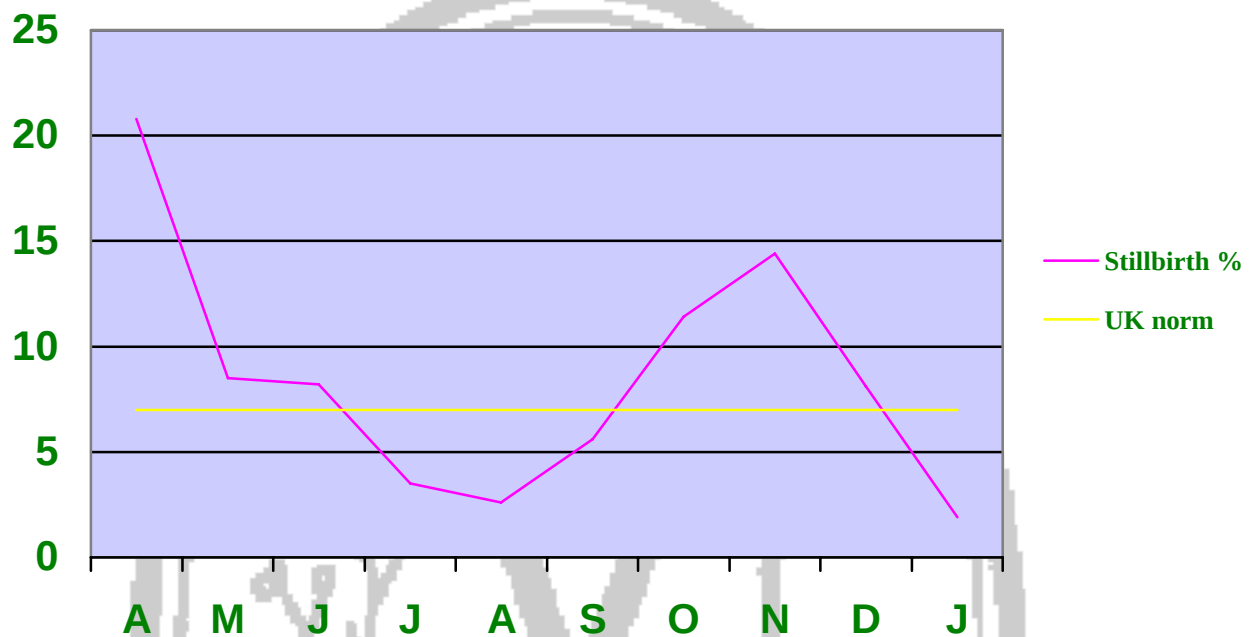
Trial Results (b)

Month	No. of Sows	Stillbirth rate %
March 1983 & before	Range 15 - 40	18 – 22%
April (the month of the trial)	-	-
May	31	8.5%
June	26	8.2%
July	19	3.5%
August	20	2.6%
September (alteration mid-month)	19	5.6%
October	22	11.4%
November (reverted mid-month)	21	14.4%
December	29	8.1%
January 1984	38	1.9%

The unfortunate decision to change the medicine administration régime in September caused an unnecessary loss of life, which was tragic. However, it did serve to demonstrate the efficacy of the medicine, even more clearly, in that it showed that the positive effect was repeatable, when the original method of administration was restored.

As the following graph shows, that effect was so strong as to reduce stillbirths to well below (~ 27% of) the accepted national norm (or 'target'), on a farm that had previously consistently been showing ~ 300% of the norm. This good result was maintained, so long as *Caulophyllum* was given to pregnant sows, throughout the life of the unit.

Graphic representation:



Work carried out by Christopher Day MRCVS, in 1983

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