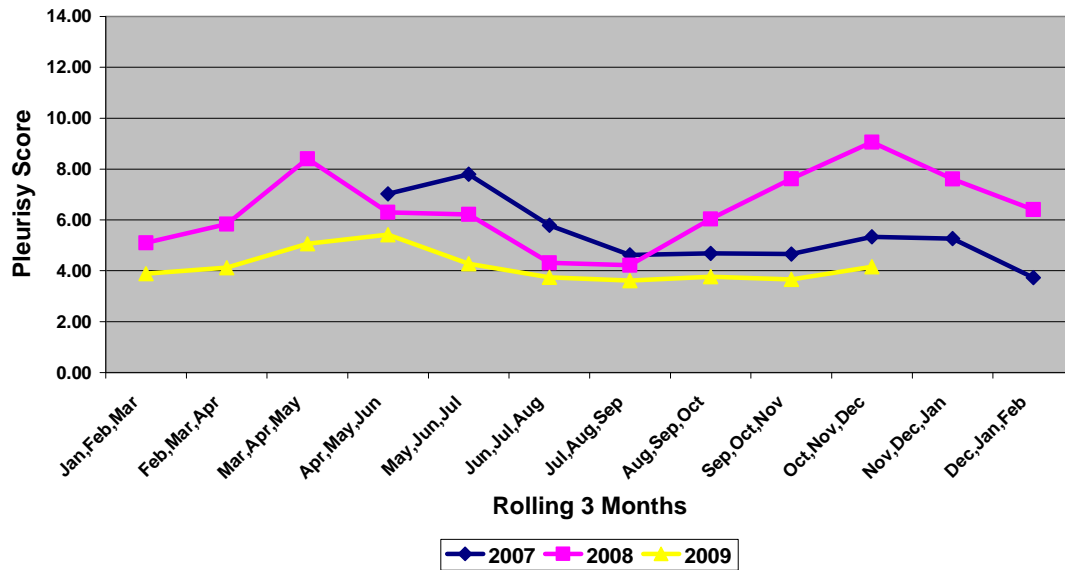


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. Pleurisy levels in slaughter pigs are an indication of infectious disease affecting pigs earlier in life and are both a concern to the pig producer and to the processor as additional time and cost is involved in dressing the carcass. Studies have indicated that whilst a range of bacteria may cause the lesions which cause the lungs to adhere to the chest wall (e.g. Pasteurella, Haemophilus parasuis, Strep suis, Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae) there is a strong association with viral infection in the growing pig – particularly PRRS and possibly PCV.

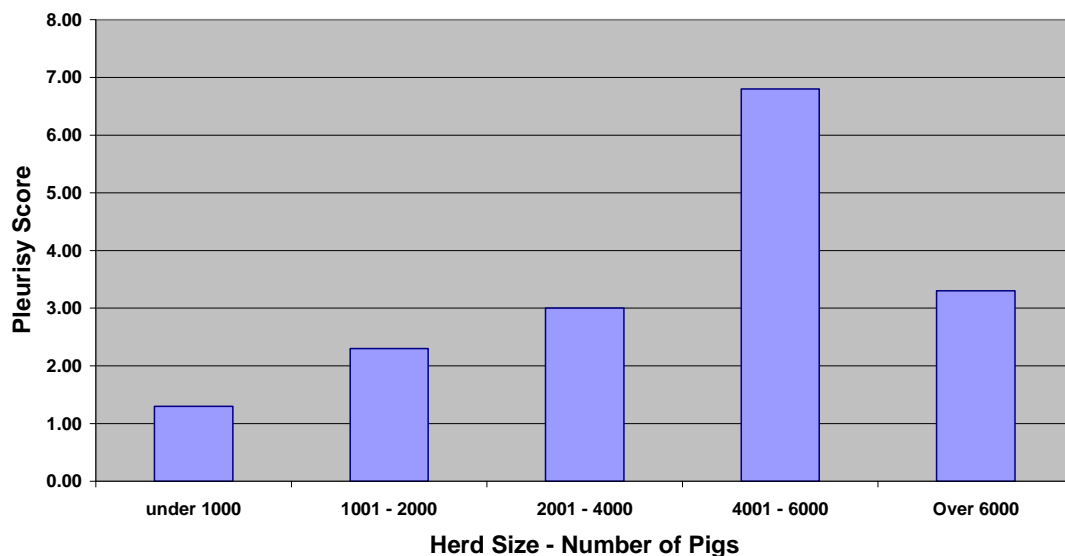
The BPHS records pleurisy levels at slaughter and the data attained from NADIS surveyed farms is also collated to attempt to show patterns of lesions in association with various farm features.

Graph 1 - Pleurisy Scores - Rolling 3 months



Graph 1 reveals that the levels of pleurisy recorded on surveyed farms in 2009 has shown a reduction compared to early years. This is entirely consistent with the overall BPHS data. However, as would be expected, there is considerable variation across the three year period recorded with a marked increase in the winter of 2008 which thus far has not shown up in 2009/10 despite the prolonged cold weather.

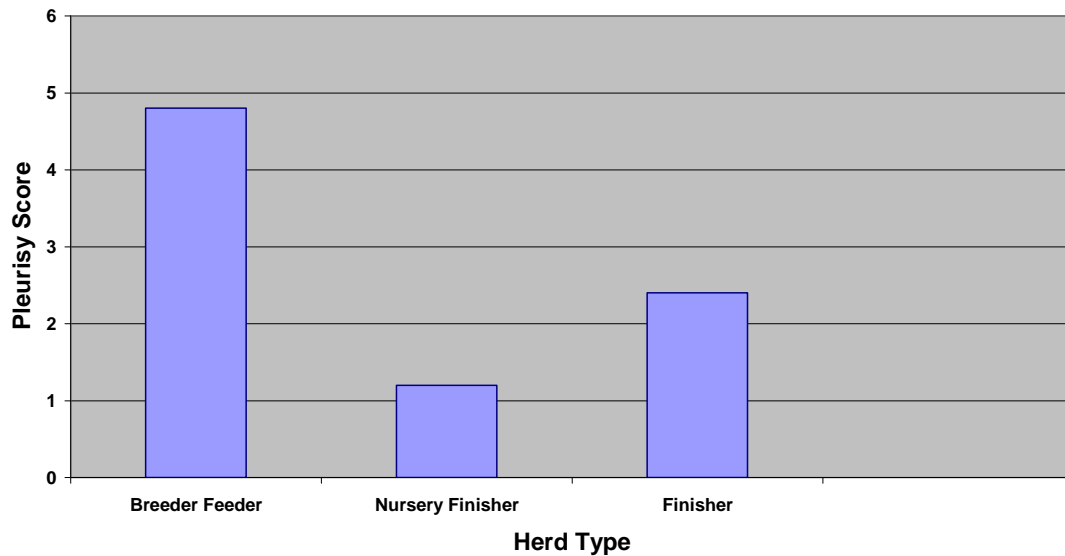
Graph 2 - Pleurisy Score - Herd Size



Within the NADIS surveyed population, pleurisy levels at slaughter are shown to increase markedly with population size (Graph 2) which is in itself not unexpected. The drop seen in

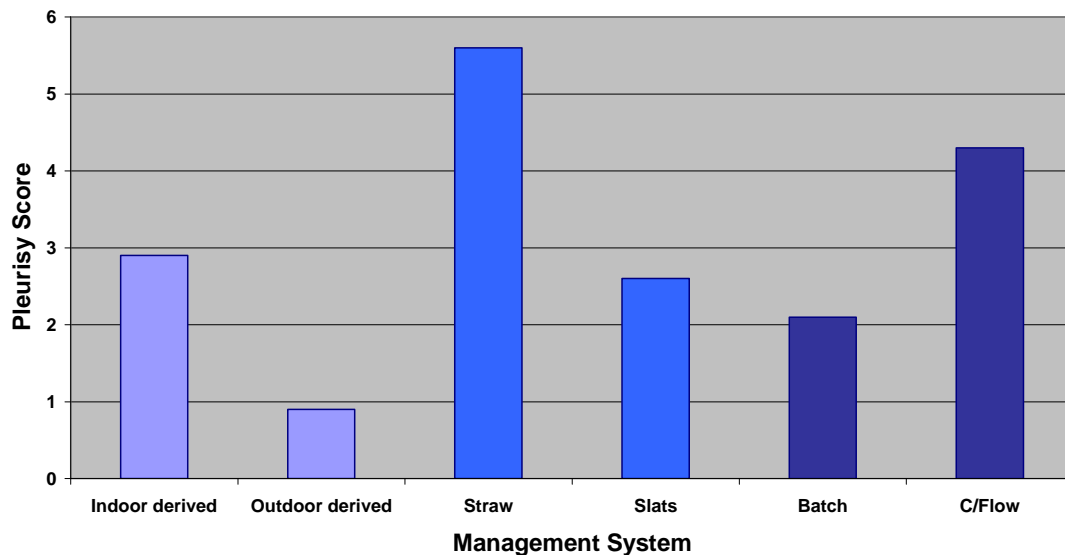
the largest populations however may be confounded by the small number of farm of this size surveyed.

Graph 3 - Pleurisy Score - Herd Type



Separating breeding and feeding herds, with the latter either as nursery finishers or finisher only, appears to mitigate the prevalence of pleurisy (Graph 3) as does the batch system and arrangement for growing pigs (Graph 4). This may imply that standards of hygiene and age separation of growing pigs have a protective effect against pleurisy.

Graph 4 - Pleurisy Score - Management System

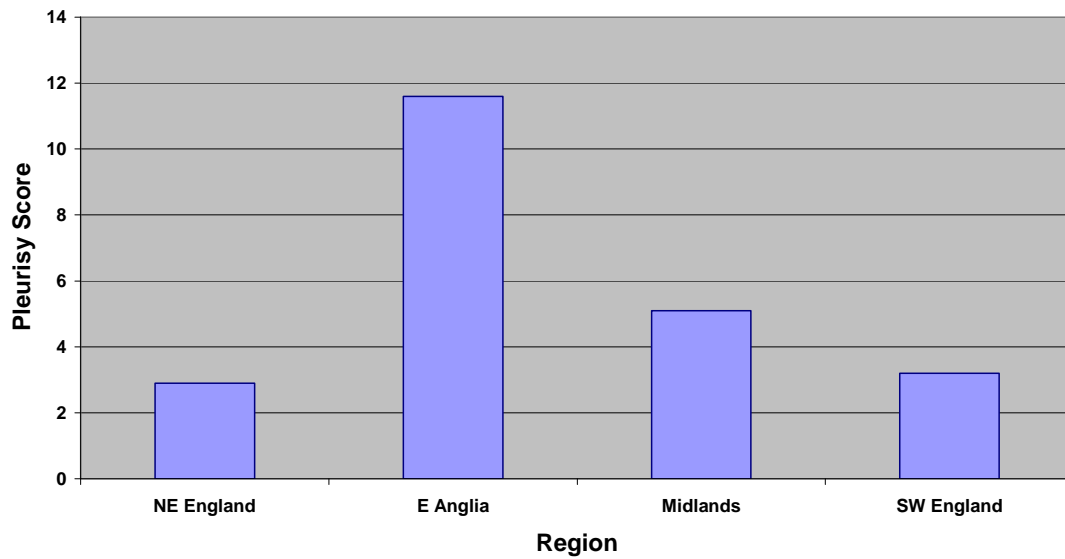


Graph 4 also shows two distinct patterns with respect to source and housing.

Indoor derived growing pigs have threefold higher levels of pleurisy compared to outdoor derived pigs which might suggest the health of the young weaned pig is significant in the development of pleurisy.

Pigs kept on straw are more than twice as likely to have pleurisy at slaughter as those kept on slats – an observation which is consistent with the much higher levels seen in pigs in East Anglia where straw systems predominate within the surveyed population (Graph 5).

Graph 5 - Pleurisy Score - Regional



The general decline in pleurisy in recent years corresponds with the widespread adoption of PCV2 vaccines but it is unclear as yet whether this association is anything more than coincidence.

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