



Immunization of piglets during the postnatal period

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the lateral site P_1 (from 0 to 1 mm for carcasses with 40 % muscle to 2-3 mm for those with 55 % muscle). There was a more regular progression (2 mm) at the level of the loin and at the lateral site P_3 for the same classes of muscle contents.

b) As regards the utilisation of combined measures according to indexes, *maximum corrections* according to carcass weight did not exceed 3 mm for the individualized sites; corrections were *minimum* (1 mm) in the case of very fat pigs.

Modification of a fatness grade has to be related to the progression of backfat thickness measures made for the sites considered in each index; application of these results might contribute to an important improvement of the CEE classification of pig carcasses.

IV. — PATHOLOGY

Identification of two outbreaks in France of congenital tremor in piglets and first etiological studies

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Two outbreaks of congenital tremor in piglets with lesions of cerebellar hypoplasia were identified in France. No lesion of the spinal cord was recorded. The presence of neutralising antibodies against the strain 331 of Swine Fever in the sera of colostrum deprived piglets showing congenital tremor suggests an etiologic role for a virus of this type.

Immunization of piglets during the postnatal period

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The ability of young piglets to be immunized during the postnatal period was studied. The piglets were injected on day 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 10 after birth with Hen-Egg white Lyso-syme, an inert antigen, in incomplete Freund's Adjuvant and the seric antibodies were checked at weekly intervals. The results showed that animals injected within the first 3 days following birth showed a delay of 8 days in the appearance of the humoral antibodies, compared with animals injected later. The secondary immune response was similar in all animals. This partial inhibition is not directly linked to the corticoids present in the serum on the immunization day. Possible reasons for this impairment of the humoral immune response are reviewed.