

Contrôle de l'involution utérine au moyen de l'échographie transabdominale en mode B : validation de la technique

*Pierre THILMANT (1), Sophie PANIAGUA (2), Frédéric FARNIR (2), Dominiek MAES (3), Jean-François BECKERS (2),
Martine LAITAT (2)*

(1) Centre Provincial Liégeois de Productions Animales (anc. CIAP), rue de Saint Remy, 5, 4601 Argenteau, Belgique

(2) Université de Liège, Boulevard de Colonster, 20, 4000 Liège, Belgique

(3) Université de Gand, Salysburylaan, 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgique

mlaitat@ulg.ac.be

The use of trans-abdominal B-mode ultrasonography to assess uterine involution in sows: validation of the technique

The present study was performed on 14 cull sows. The day before slaughter, a trans-abdominal B-mode ultrasonography was performed to measure three uterine parameters: the maximum uterine height, the diameter of the uterine horns and the presence of intra-luminal uterine fluid. After slaughtering, uterine volume, uterine weight, and the length and width of horns were measured. The objective was to validate ultrasonography as a technique to assess uterine involution by comparing post-mortem measures and live animal ultrasonography measures recorded on-farm. The maximum uterine height (8.3 ± 1.3 cm) was positively correlated with uterine weight (1552 ± 756 g), uterine volume (1564 ± 739 ml), and length of horns (127 ± 33 cm) and width of horns (4.0 ± 1.2 cm) ($p < 0.05$). The diameter of the uterine horns (1.6 ± 0.7 cm) was positively correlated with uterine weight and width of horns ($p < 0.01$) and with uterine volume ($p < 0.05$). The presence of intra-luminal uterine fluid was positively correlated with length of horns ($p < 0.01$). These results, though performed on a small number of animals ($n=14$), suggest that ultrasonography may be a useful technique in assessing uterine involution in sows.