

2019 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases

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Presentation Abstracts

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83 - Spray Irrigation with Animal Wastewater: Modeling Infection Risks and Ammonia Toxicity

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Session: Disease Modeling, Nov 4, 9:30 AM

Objective

Quantify the annual risk of infection or ammonia toxicity from irrigation with animal wastewater. Risk of infection with Legionella pneumophila or non-tuberculosis Mycobacteria (NTM) was calculated for untreated wastewater and compared to the hazard of ammonia in anaerobically digested wastewater.

Methods

Concentrations of pathogens or ammonia from a previous study were combined with an air dispersion model to determine exposure levels for farmers. The US EPA reference concentration for ammonia was used as a threshold, while dose-response equations were used to calculate the annual probability of bacterial infection.

Results

The results of a "worst case" model showed that the highest predicted ammonia concentration was significantly lower than the reference concentration, suggesting that ammonia toxicity due to inhaled wastewater is unlikely. However, even when parameter uncertainty was considered, the annual probability of infection with L. pneumophila and NTM from irrigation with untreated wastewater surpassed the threshold of 10-4per year for all scenarios.

Conclusions

The conclusion of this study is that animal wastewater should be anaerobically digested at thermophilic temperatures prior to being used for spray irrigation.

Financial Support

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

84 - Using dynamic time warping algorithms and spatiotemporal analyses of swine condemnations for syndromic surveillance

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Session: Disease Modeling, Nov 4, 9:45 AM

Objective

Slaughterhouse data has recently been used to enhance animal disease surveillance in many countries, however has been largely underused for syndromic surveillance in the United States. We characterize spatiotemporal patterns and system dynamics of whole carcass swine condemnations in the US. We illustrate the value of data mining and machine learning approaches to more cost-effectively identify: emerging trends by condemnation reason, areas and time periods with higher than predicted condemnation rates, and regions or time periods with similar trends.

Methods

Swine slaughter and condemnation data from 2005-2016 were obtained for slaughterhouses inspected by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Time series of condemnation rates by condemnation reason, type of pig, state and month were generated. Data time warping (DTW) and hierarchical clustering methods were used to identify states with similar patterns in the rate of condemnation cases by cause and type of pig. Spatiotemporal scan statistics were used to identify states and months with significantly higher number of condemnation cases than expected. Clusters were compared to historic infectious disease outbreaks in the swine industry.

Results

Between 2005-2016, 1,109,300 whole swine carcasses were condemned. The top causes for condemnation were abscess/pyemia, septicemia, pneumonia, icterus, and peritonitis, respectively. DTW and cluster analysis revealed clear spatiotemporal patterns in the rate of condemnations, many with a strong seasonal component. Several clusters were detected in timeframes where widespread outbreaks had occurred.

Conclusions

Timely evaluation of spatiotemporal patterns in swine condemnations may provide critical information in predicting disease outbreaks. Identification of spatiotemporal hot spots can direct investigation of primary on-farm risk factors contributing to condemnation. Risk mitigation through targeted decision-making and improved management practices can minimize carcass condemnations and animal losses, improving economic efficiency, profitability and sustainability of the US swine industry.

Financial Support

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