

# Analytical Methods

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4 1 Approaches for determination of florfenicol and thiamphenicol in pork  
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7 2 using a chemiluminescent ELISA  
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12 4 Xiaoqi Tao<sup>1,2</sup>, Zhifei He<sup>1,2</sup>, Xingyuan Cao<sup>3</sup>, Haiyang Jiang<sup>3</sup>, Hongjun Li<sup>1,2\*</sup>  
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17 6 <sup>1</sup>College of Food Science, Southwest University, Chongqing, 400715, China  
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20 7 <sup>2</sup>Chongqing Engineering Research Center for Special Foods, Chongqing, 400715,  
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22  
23 8 China  
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25 9 <sup>3</sup>Department of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Veterinary  
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28 10 Medicine, China Agricultural University, Beijing 100193, China  
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58 \* Address correspondence to Hongjun Li, College of Food Science, Southwest University, Tiansheng Road 2#,  
59 Beibei, Chongqing, 400715, China. E-mail: [983362225@qq.com](mailto:983362225@qq.com)  
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4 12 **Abstract**  
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7 13 A chemiluminescent competitive indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay  
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9 14 (CL-ciELISA) for detection of florfenicol (FF) and thiamphenicol (TAP) residues in  
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11 15 pork has been first developed. The 50% binding inhibition ( $IC_{50}$ ) value of the  
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13 16 CL-ciELISA was  $0.15 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for FF with the cross-reactivity of 48.4% for TAP. FF  
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15 17 and TAP were co-extracted from pork with ethyl acetate, obtaining recoveries of  
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17 18 80.0-93.3% (FF) and 80.0-88.3% (TAP) above the limit of detection (LOD). The  
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19 19 LODs were  $0.015 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for FF and  $0.030 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for TAP, respectively. Moreover,  
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21 20 field pork samples were analyzed with the developed CL-ciELISA and the results  
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23 21 correlated well with those obtained using traditional ELISA and a previously reported  
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25 22 liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), confirming the  
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27 23 utility of CL-ciELISA for quantitation of FF and TAP in pork with a good accuracy  
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29 24 and reliability. Moreover, the CL-ciELISA method has been first established for  
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31 25 detection of FF and TAP by far.  
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## 27 Introduction

28 Florfenicol (FF), thiamphenicol (TAP) and chloramphenicol (CAP), broad spectrum  
29 antibiotics with similar structural formulas (Table 1), are widely applied in veterinary  
30 practice for prevention and treatment of many bacterial infections. However, CAP is a  
31 hemotoxic substance for humans and can cause bone-marrow depression, aplastic  
32 anaemia and acute leukaemia,<sup>1</sup> and consequently it has been banned from use in  
33 food-producing animals in China, USA and EU.<sup>2,3,4</sup> TAP, a methyl-sulfonyl analogue  
34 of CAP and less toxic, could induce haematological changes in the mouse and rat,  
35 paralleling the dose-dependent, reversible marrow depression reported in man.<sup>5</sup>  
36 Based on toxicological studies, a maximum residue limit (MRL) for TAP was set at  
37 20.0-50.0  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for all food-producing species in the target tissues of muscle, fat,  
38 liver, kidney and milk in China, EU and Japan.<sup>2, 6, 7</sup> FF is a derivative of TAP and  
39 synthesized by substitution of a fluorine atom for the hydroxyl group at the 1,  
40 3-propanediol moiety. However, the use of FF in animal husbandry has the potential to  
41 result in the presence of residues in tissues and the increased emergence of resistance  
42 of pathogenic bacteria that could have potential health risks to humans.<sup>8</sup> The MRLs  
43 for FF and/or its metabolite florfenicol amine (FFA) in various food-producing  
44 animals are fixed at 100.0-3000.0  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  by many countries or organizations.<sup>2,6, 9</sup> In  
45 particular, FF is used as the marker residue for pork in USA, Taiwan, Japan, and  
46 Canada.<sup>10, 11</sup> Hence, it is of great importance to develop sensitive, reliable and  
47 available methods for FF and TAP detection in animal-derived food samples for  
48 ensuring food safety.

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4 49 Various instrumental methods have been described for determination of TAP and/or  
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7 50 FF in foods of animal origin, including gas chromatography (GC),<sup>12</sup> gas  
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10 51 chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC–MS),<sup>13</sup> liquid chromatography–mass  
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12 52 spectrometry (LC–MS),<sup>14</sup> liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry  
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14 53 (LC-MS/MS),<sup>15,16,17,18,19</sup> surface molecularly imprinted Sol–Gel polymer,<sup>20,21</sup> and  
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17 54 copolymer of divinylbenzene and N-vinylpyrrolidone.<sup>22</sup> Several immunoassays for  
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20 55 detection of FF have been recently reported.<sup>23,24</sup> However, there were only two  
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23 56 reported methods for analysis both of FF and TAP in one immunoassay.<sup>25,26</sup> We  
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26 57 have previously published two articles for determination of FF and its metabolite FFA  
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28 58 in animal meat products,<sup>27,28</sup> in which the polyclonal antibodies can bind with FF  
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31 59 and FFA with high cross-reactivity (CR), only with CR of 4.0% for TAP, then not  
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34 60 suitable for determination of TAP in animal meat products. The objective of this work  
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37 61 was to develop a rapid, sensitive, routine and selective method for the determination  
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40 62 of both of residual FF and TAP in pork. The chemiluminescent enzyme-linked  
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43 63 immunosorbent assay (CL-ELISA) offers the possibility of improving the sensitivity  
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46 64 of immunoassay to at least 2-3 orders of magnitudes compared to conventional  
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49 65 colorimetric detection. The light intensity of enhanced chemiluminescence reaches a  
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52 66 maximum within 3 min, thus providing rapid detection of the analytical signal. These  
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55 67 advantages of chemiluminescent techniques make them useful system for detecting  
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58 68 trace residue of TAP and FF in animal products. In this study, in order to improve the  
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61 69 sensitivity of immunoassays, a firstly reported chemiluminiscent competitive indirect  
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64 70 ELISA (CL-ciELISA) for the determination of trace FF and TAP applicable in pork

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4 71 was developed and optimized (Figure 1).  
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7 **72 Materials and methods**  
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9 **73 Materials and Reagents**  
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11 **74 (a) Apparatus**  
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14 **75** Chemiluminescence was measured with Veritas Microplate Luminometer (Turner  
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16 **76** BioSystems, Sunny Vale, CA, USA). The colorimetric ELISA was measured by  
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18 **77** Sunrise microtiter plate reader (TECAN, Groedig, Austria). Transparent 96-well  
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20 **78** microtiter ELISA plates for colorimetric assay and 96-well chemiluminescent opaque  
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22 **79** high binding plates were purchased from Costar (Cambridge, MA, USA). UV-Vis  
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24 **80** spectrophotometer (Model 751GW) was from Shanghai Analytical Instrument  
25  
26 **81** (Shanghai, China). All buffers were prepared using Milli-Q H<sub>2</sub>O system (18 MΩ/cm)  
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28 **82** (EMD Millipore Corporation, Belleria, MA, USA).  
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38 **84 (b) Buffers**  
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41 **85** Coating buffer (CB, pH 9.6) was made with 1.59 g Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and 2.93 g NaHCO<sub>3</sub> in 1  
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43 **86** L of purified water. A 0.01M phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, pH 7.4) was prepared  
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45 **87** by dissolving 8.0 g NaCl, 0.2 g KCl, 0.24 g KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, and 3.63 g Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> ·12H<sub>2</sub>O in  
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47 **88** 1 L of purified water. Blocking buffer was prepared by 0.01 M PBS and 1% BSA (pH  
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49 **89** 7.4). PBST was made with 0.01 M PBS and 0.05% Tween-20. A 0.02 M sodium  
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51 **90** phosphate (PB, pH 7.4) was prepared with 1.1 g NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> ·2H<sub>2</sub>O and 5.16 g  
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53 **91** Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> ·12H<sub>2</sub>O in 1 L of purified water.  
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4 93 (c) Standards  
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7 94 FF, TAP, CAP and FFA were purchased from Schering-Plough Corp. (Kenilworth, NJ,  
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9 95 USA); clenbuterol (CLE), sulfadiazine (SUL), ciprofloxacin (CIP), penicillin (PEN)  
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11 96 were purchased from Shanghai Caienfu Technology Co. Ltd. (Shanghai, China). The  
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13 97 stock solution ( $2 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$ ) was stored at  $-20 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and working standards in the  
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15 98  $0.015\text{--}16.2 \text{ } \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  range were prepared from the stock solution by serial dilution in  
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17 99  $0.02 \text{ M PB}$ . The CAP, FF and FFA, stock solutions were prepared in methanol; CLE  
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23 100 and SUL were prepared in ethanol; CIP and PEN were prepared in purified water;  
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25 101 TAP was prepared in dimethylformamide.  
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31 103 (d) Analytical grade reagents  
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33 104 N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS, Catalog# 130672), N, N-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide  
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35 105 (DCC, Catalog# 36550), N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF, Catalog# D4551), human  
36  
37 106 serum albumin (HAS, Catalog# A6608), ovalbumin (OVA, Catalog# S7951), Freund's  
38  
39 107 complete (Catalog# F5881) and incomplete adjuvants (Catalog# F5506), goat  
40  
41 108 anti-rabbit IgG-horseradish peroxidase (HRP) conjugate (Catalog# SAB3700972) and  
42  
43 109 tetramethylbenzidine (TMB, Catalog# 860336) were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis,  
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45 110 MO, USA). All other chemicals and organic solvents were of reagent grade and were  
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47 111 from Beijing Chemical Co. (Beijing, China).  
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57 113 (e) The chemiluminescence substrate solution called Super Signal was purchased from  
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59 114 Pierce (Rockford, IL, USA).  
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4 115 Preparation of immunogen and coating antigen

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6 116 The haptens were synthesized by coupling FF with succinic anhydride (SH),<sup>29</sup> or  
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9 117 maleic anhydride (MH).<sup>30</sup> Briefly, a solution of FF (3.57 g, 10 mmol) in dry pyridine  
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12 118 (30 mL) was added to SH (3.0 g, 30 mmol) at room temperature. After stirring for 24  
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15 119 h, the mixture was concentrated with a rotary evaporator. The residue was dissolved  
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18 120 with ethyl acetate (40 mL) and then was washed 3 times with hydrochloric acid (0.1  
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21 121 M, 40 mL) followed by purified water (40 mL) for 3 times. The solvent was  
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23  
24 122 evaporated and dried in vacuum for 48 h. The FF-SH was obtained as a pink solid. In  
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26 123 the same way, FF-MH was obtained as a white solid.

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28 124 The hapten FF-HS was coupled to HSA by the active ester method to prepare  
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31 125 immunogen (FF-HS-HSA).<sup>29</sup> Briefly, the hapten FF-HS (50 mg, 0.11 mmol) dissolved  
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34 126 in DMF (4 mL) was mixed with NHS (27 mg, 0.23 mmol) and DCC (49 mg, 0.24  
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37 127 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. HSA (50 mg, 0.00073  
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40 128 mmol) was dissolved in 14 mL of PBS to which 2 mL of DMF was added. The  
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43 129 solution of an active ester was added dropwise to the stirred protein solution. This  
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46 130 solution was stirred overnight and dialyzed against PBS (0.01M) for 72 h at 4 °C.  
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49 131 Then the solution was centrifuged at 1,000 g for 5 min at 4 °C to discard sediment.  
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52 132 The coupling ratio of FF-HS to HSA was approximately 10:1 and the concentration of  
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54 133 FF-HS-HSA was 8.4 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>.

55 134 The coating antigens, FF-MH-OVA, were synthesized by mixed anhydride reaction.<sup>31</sup>  
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58 135 These contents were dialyzed against PBS (0.01M) for 72 h at 4 °C and then  
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60 136 centrifuged at 1,000 g for 5 min at 4 °C to discard sediment. The coupling ratio of



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4 137 FF-MH to OVA was approximately 7:1 and the concentration of FF-HS-OVA was 9.0  
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7 138 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>.

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12 140 Production of polyclonal antibodies (PAb)

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15 141 The procedures of antibody production and characterization of PAb were the same as  
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17 142 that reported by Luo.<sup>25</sup> Especially, after five booster injection, the sera were collected  
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20 143 and purified by ammonium sulfate precipitation. The concentrated PAb solution was  
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23 144 then supplemented with an equal volume of glycerol and stored at -20 °C until testing.

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25 145 The concentration of the PAb was 17.6 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>.

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31 147 Procedure of CL-ciELISA and traditional ELISA

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33 148 Opaque high binding plates were coated overnight at 4 °C with 100 µL of  
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36 149 FF-MS-OVA dissolved in coating buffer (0.15 µg mL<sup>-1</sup>). The plates were washed with  
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39 150 260 µL/well PBST manually three times and blocked with 200 µL/well of blocking  
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42 151 buffer and the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 1 hour. After the plates were washed  
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45 152 as described above, then 100 µL/well of standard in 0.02 M PB or sample solution,  
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47 153 followed by 50 µL/well of anti-FF PAb at a dilution of 1/100,000 in 0.02 M PB were  
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50 154 added, respectively. The competitive reaction was allowed to take place for 30 min at  
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53 155 room temperature. After washing five times, a 100 µL/well peroxidase-labeled goat  
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55 156 anti-rabbit immunoglobulins (1/5000 dilution of in PBST) was added, and plates were  
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58 157 incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. After washing five times, the peroxidase activity was  
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60 158 revealed by adding 100 µL/well of a freshly prepared substrate mixture of Super

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4 159 Signal substrate solution. The intensity of light emission was measured at 425 nm with  
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7 160 a chemiluminescence reader immediately after the addition of chemiluminescence  
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10 161 substrate and results were expressed in relative light units (RLU).

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12 162 The procedure of traditional ELISA was the same as CL-ciELISA procedure described  
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15 163 above except the substrate addition and the measurement. The transparent 96-well  
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18 164 microtiter ELISA plates were incubated for 15 minutes at room temperature after  
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21 165 addition of 100  $\mu\text{L}$ /well TMB substrate, and the absorbance was measure at 450 nm  
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23 166 after stop-solution addition (50  $\mu\text{L}$ /well 2.0 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  ).  
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#### 27 28 168 Optimization of CL-ciELISA

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31 169 Several physicochemical factors influencing immunoassay performance were  
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34 170 investigated in CL-ciELISA. In order to assess the influence of buffer ionic strength,  
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37 171 Tween-20, pH and competitive time and temperature, standard curves and PAb were  
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39 172 prepared as follows: (1) PAb and standards were added to serial dilutions of  
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42 173 Tween-20 (from 0 % to 0.1 %, v/v) in 0.02 M PB (pH 7.4); (2) Standards and a  
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44 174 constant concentration of PAb was diluted by PB (pH 7.4) at different concentrations  
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47 175 (0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2 mol/L); (3) Standards and a constant concentration of PAb  
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49 176 in 0.02 M PB at different pH values (from 6.6 to 8.0). Meanwhile, the competitive  
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52 177 reaction was taken place at room temperature or 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30, 45, 60, 75 min,  
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55 178 respectively.

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60 180 Data analysis

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4 181 Standards and samples were run in quadruplicate wells, and mean  
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6 182 chemiluminescence intensity values were divided by  $RLU_{max}$  (chemiluminescence  
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9 183 intensity in the absence of analyte). The ratio is defined as  $B/B_0$ . Standard curves  
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12 184 were obtained by plotting  $B/B_0$  against the logarithm of analyte concentration and  
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15 185 fitted to a four-parameter logistic equation using Origin (version 8.0, Microcal, USA)  
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18 186 software packages

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20 187 
$$y = \{(A-D)/[1 + (x/C)^B]\} + D$$

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23 188 where A is the asymptotic maximum 1, B is the curve slope at the inflection point, C  
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25 189 is the x value at the inflection point (corresponding to the analyte concentration that  
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27  
28 190 reduces  $RLU_{max}$  to 50%, corresponding that the value of  $B/B_0$  is 0.5), and D is the  
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31 191 asymptotic minimum ( $RLU_{background\ signal}/RLU_{max}$ ).

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36 193 Cross-reactivity (CR)

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39 194 The specificity of the PAb was assessed by evaluating the extent of CR with three  
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42 195 compounds structurally related and four another structurally unrelated to FF in  
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45 196 optimized CL-ciELISA and their  $IC_{50}$  values were compared to  $IC_{50}$  of FF. CR was  
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48 197 calculated as follows:

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$$CR\% = IC_{50, FF}/IC_{50, cross-reactant} \times 100\%$$

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55 200 Sample preparation

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58 201 A 3 g pork sample was homogenized and mixed with 3 mL of double distilled water  
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60 202 in a 50 mL tube. After vortexing for 1 min, 6 mL of ethyl acetate was added and the

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4 203 mixture was shaken for 10 minutes at room temperature, then centrifuged at 4000 g  
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7 204 for 10 min, 4 mL of the organic supernatant was dried by nitrogen at 60 °C. The  
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10 205 residue was dissolved in 2 mL of 0.02 M PB and 1 mL of hexane. The mixture was  
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12 206 vortexed gently for 1 min. After centrifugation for 5 min at 4000 g, the lower fraction  
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15 207 was transferred to a new tube. Then 100 µL of the solution was added to opaque high  
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18 208 binding plate microtiter wells for measurement.

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## 210 Analysis of field pork samples

211 Twenty pork samples were collected from retail outlets in Chongqing. The samples  
212 were homogenized and stored at -20 °C until use. Each sample was divided into three  
213 portions; one was analyzed by the CL-ciELISA, one was analyzed by traditional  
214 ELISA and the third by LC-MS/MS. LC-MS/MS analysis of FF and TAP was adopted  
215 according to previous report.<sup>32</sup>

216

## 217 Results and discussion

### 218 Specificity of the PAb

219 The PAb from the rabbits showed high titer (1:100,000) in CL-ciELISA. The CR of  
220 some related compounds such as FFA, TAP and CAP were tested. There is no  
221 significant CR except for TAP with 48.4% and FFA with 0.3% (Table 1). The CR of  
222 other structurally unrelated drugs including CLE, SUL, CIP, PEN were also tested. No  
223 CR was observed. The PAb in our previous studies<sup>27, 28</sup> can bind with FF (CR of  
224 100% in both studies) and FFA with high CR of 134.6% and 81.2, only with CR of

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4 225 4.0% and 4.4% for TAP, respectively. The different specificities for determination of  
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7 226 the FF, FFA and TAP could be explained by the different immunogens and coating  
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9 227 antigens-FFA-formaldehyde-BSA (FFA-F-BSA) and FF-glutaric  
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11 228 anhydride-ovalbumin (FF-G-OVA) in our previous studies,<sup>27,28</sup> FF-succinic  
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14  
15 229 anhydride-human serum albumin (FF-HS-HSA) and FF-maleic anhydride-OVA  
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17  
18 230 (FF-MH-OVA) in this study.

### 231 Physicochemical parameter optimization

232 The  $RLU_{max}/IC_{50}$  ratio had been shown to be a useful parameter to estimate the effect  
233 of a certain factor on the CL-ELISA performance. The highest ratio indicated highest  
234 sensitivity.<sup>33</sup> In this study, optimum parameters of the established CL-ciELISA were  
235  $0.15 \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  per well of coating antigen FF-MS-OVA, 30 minutes of competition  
236 time and the use of 0.02 M PB (pH 7.4) as a PAb (1:100,000 dilution) and standard  
237 analyte diluent buffer (data not shown). Under these conditions, higher  $RLU_{max}$  and  
238 lower  $IC_{50}$  values representing optimal assay conditions were obtained.

239

### 240 Assay sensitivity

241 The sensitivities of the developed CL-ciELISA for FF and TAP represented by  $IC_{50}$   
242 values, were  $0.15 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and  $0.31 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The linear working range for  
243 FF determined as the concentrations causing 20%—80% inhibition of  
244 chemiluminescence intensity was  $0.028\text{—}4.77 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  (Figure 2). The sensitivity of  
245 the CL-ciELISA for FF was about 14 times greater compared to traditional ELISA  
246 method with colorimetric detector developed by our own study ( $IC_{50} = 2.13 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )

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4 247 (Figure 2), about 6.8 times more sensitive compared to the colorimetric ELISA ( $IC_{50}$   
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7 248  $=1.02 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) in previous report,<sup>25</sup> about 166.7 times more sensitive compared to the  
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10 249 lowest  $IC_{50}$  ( $25.0 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) in previous report.<sup>26</sup> Moreover, the  $IC_{50}$  values for FF in our  
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12 250 previously published articles about determination of FF and its metabolite FFA in  
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15 251 animal meat products,<sup>27, 28</sup> were  $0.21 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and  $0.24 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively.  
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### 253 Matrix effect elimination

254 To apply a new method in real sample analysis, a matrix effect is an important issue to  
255 be considered, especially in animal tissues due to the complicated matrix. The  
256 simplest way to overcome such a problem was diluting and/or masking the matrix  
257 effect with the same or similar matrix. In this study, interferences are quantified by  
258 comparing a standard inhibition curve of FF (0, 0.01, 0.05, 0.2, 0.6, 1.8, 5.4, 16.2  
259  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) with a standard curve of FF generated in the blank pork extract matrix (0,  
260 0.01, 0.05, 0.2, 0.6, 1.8, 5.4, 16.2  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ). The  $IC_{50}$  values for CL-ciELISA and  
261 traditional ELISA were 0.15 and 0.16  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The linear working ranges  
262 for FF determined as the concentrations causing 20%—80% inhibition for both assays  
263 were 0.028—4.77  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and 0.029—4.84  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The superimposition  
264 of the calibration curves suggested that there was no significant matrix effect (Figure  
265 3). Then, the pork samples can be analyzed using the standard inhibition curve instead  
266 of the matrix curve.

### 267 268 Limit of detection

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4 269 The limit of detection (LOD) was calculated as the mean of the measured content of  
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7 270 blank pork samples ( $n = 20$ ) plus three standard deviations (mean + 3SD). The each of  
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10 271 20 blank pork samples was obtained by 20 different animals and analyzed according  
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12 272 to the developed CL-ciELISA. The LOD for FF was  $0.015 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  and the LOD for  
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15 273 TAP was  $0.03 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  (data not shown). The good performance of developed  
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18 274 CL-ciELISA was good enough to screen the trace FF and TAP residues in pork.

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23 276 Precision and recovery

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25 277 To confirm that the developed CL-ciELISA performed well around the LOD, the  
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28 278 blank pork samples were fortified at  $0.0075$  ( $1/2$  LOD),  $0.015$  (LOD) and  $0.03$  ( $2$   
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31 279 LOD)  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  with FF, and  $0.015$  ( $1/2$  LOD),  $0.03$  (LOD), and  $0.06$  ( $2$  LOD)  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$   
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34 280 with TAP prior to analysis, respectively. All samples fortified at  $0.015$  and  $0.030$   
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37 281  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for FF, and  $0.030$  and  $0.060 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  for TAP resulted in positive readings.  
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39 282 Each sample was evaluated 10 times in duplicate and on three consecutive days to  
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42 283 verify the repeatability. The average intra-assay and inter-assay recoveries of FF and  
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45 284 TAP in the pork fortified at concentrations greater than or equal to the LOD were at  
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48 285 least  $83.3\%$ , with coefficients of variation (CV) less than  $15\%$ . However, the  
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51 286 recovery of FF and TAP from pork samples fortified at a concentration of  $1/2$  LOD  
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54 287 was highly variable (percent recoveries ranged from  $60.0\%$  to  $173.3\%$  with the CV of  
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57 288  $36.4\%$ - $100.0\%$ ) (Table 2). Hence, the developed CL-ciELISA could detect the  
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60 289 presence of FF above the LOD ( $0.015 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) and TAP above the LOD ( $0.030$   
290  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) and will eliminate the possibility of false-positive and false-negative results.

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4 291 Moreover, two more concentrations between the working range (around IC<sub>50</sub> and 80%  
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6 292 inhibition) for each of FF (0.15 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 1.5 µg kg<sup>-1</sup>) and TAP (0.3 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 3.0  
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9 293 µg kg<sup>-1</sup>) were selected to evaluate the recovery and precision. The intra-assay and  
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12 294 inter-assay recoveries of FF and TAP were in the range of 80.0–86.7%, respectively.  
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15 295 The CVs of intra- and inter-assay with FF and TAP ranged from 7.5% to 10.8% and  
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17 296 from 8.0% to 12.5%, respectively (Table 2).  
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#### 22 298 Analysis of FF and TAP in field pork samples

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25 299 To evaluate determination capability of the developed CL-ciELISA, 20 field pork  
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28 300 samples were analyzed by the developed CL-ciELISA, traditional ELISA established  
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31 301 in this study and LC-MS/MS with the LODs of 0.2 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> for FF and 1.0 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> for  
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33 302 TAP (Table 3).<sup>32</sup> In Table 3, the results of field pork samples (for example P1, 3.7±0.2  
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35 303 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> VS 3.5±0.2 µg kg<sup>-1</sup>) measured by CL-ciELISA and traditional ELISA, were  
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38 304 consistent. However, the CL-ciELISA may underestimate the FF+TAP residue  
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41 305 concentrations when compared to those produced by the LC-MS/MS method (for  
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44 306 example P11, 9.8±0.8 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> VS 6.8 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> for FF and 8.9 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> for TAP). This  
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47 307 underestimation occurred because the sum of FF and TAP was represented as µg  
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50 308 FF/kg with the CR of 48.4% for TAP. The apparently limitation of the CL-ciELISA  
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53 309 does not affect its usefulness as a screening tool because it will still indicate the  
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56 310 presence of FF+TAP above their detection limits. The results demonstrated that the  
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59 311 developed CL-ciELISA could screen FF and TAP in the incurred samples as the  
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312 LC-MS/MS and traditional ELISA did. Thereafter, the developed CL-ciELISA was



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4 313 reliable for screening of trace FF and TAP residues in pork.  
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9 315 **Conclusion**  
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11 316 Chemiluminescent detection has been proved to be an effective analytical technique  
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13 317 for use in veterinary drugs monitoring owing to its high sensitivity, low cost and ease  
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15 318 of handling. We have firstly developed a sensitive CL-ciELISA for quantitation of FF  
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17 319 and TAP in pork with a good accuracy and reliability, which makes it a useful tool for  
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19 320 screening purposes.  
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28 322 **Acknowledgements**  
29

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31  
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33  
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5 391 **Legends of Figures and Tables**

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7 392 Figure 1 The scheme of CL-ciELISA for determination of FF and TAP in pork

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11 394 Figure 2 Normalized standard curve of CL-ciELISA for FF under optimized

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13 395 conditions compared to the standard curve obtained by traditional ELISA for FF

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17 397 The standard inhibition curve concentrations of FF for CL-ciELISA were 0, 0.01, 0.05,

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19 398 0.2, 0.6, 1.8, 5.4, 16.2  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and for traditional ELISA were 0, 0.1, 0.5, 2.0, 6.0, 18.0,

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21 399 54.0, 162.0  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values for CL-ciELISA and traditional ELISA were 0.15

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23 400 and 2.13  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The linear working ranges for FF determined as the

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25 401 concentrations causing 20%—80% inhibition for both assays were 0.028—4.77

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27 402  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and 0.33—45.59  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , respectively.

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31 404 Figure 3 Inhibition curves of FF in 0.02 M PB and extraction of pork matrix

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35 406 Table 1 Percentage of cross reactivities of some structurally related and unrelated

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37 407 compounds in CL-ciELISA

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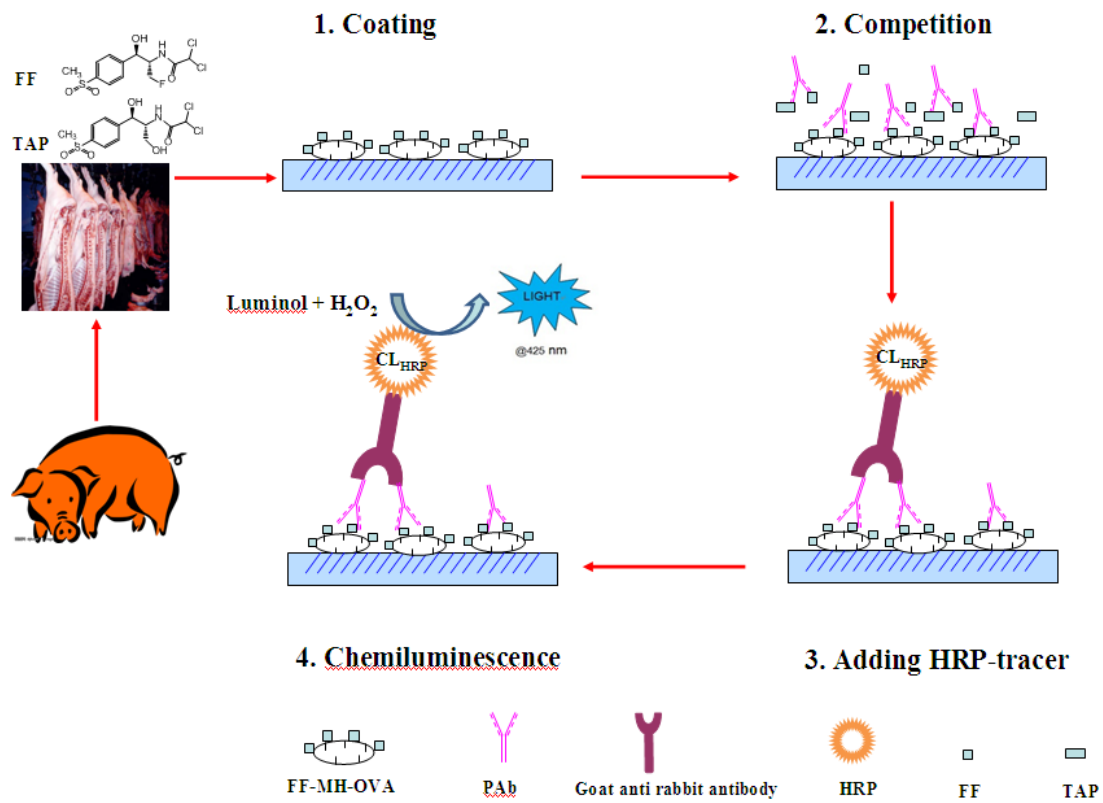
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41 409 Table 2 Intra- and inter-assay variations of pork spiked with FF and TAP

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45 411 Table 3 Determination of field pork samples collected from retail outlets in

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47 412 Chongqing by the CL-ciELISA, traditional ELISA and LC-MS/MS

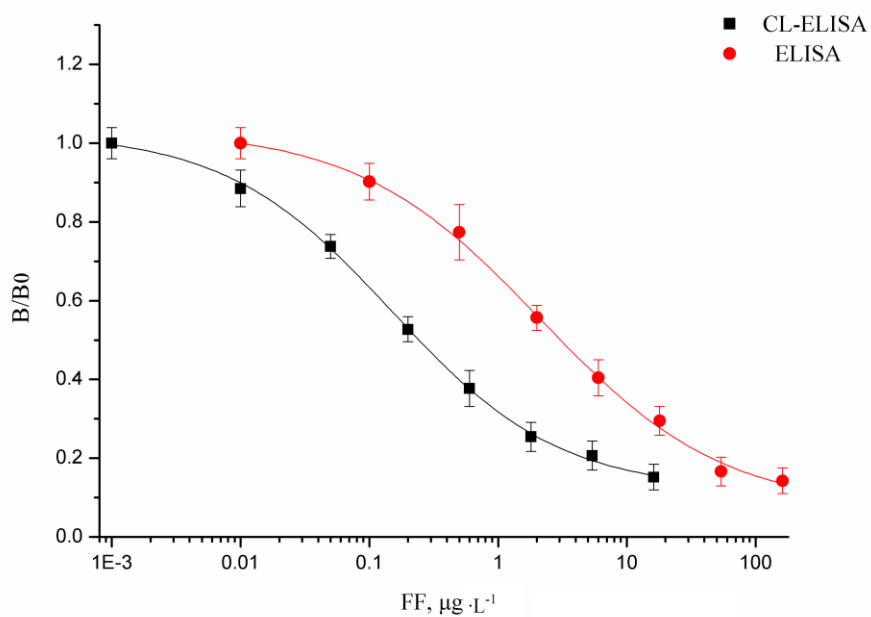
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415 Figure 1 The scheme of CL-ciELISA for simultaneous determination of FF and TAP

416 in pork

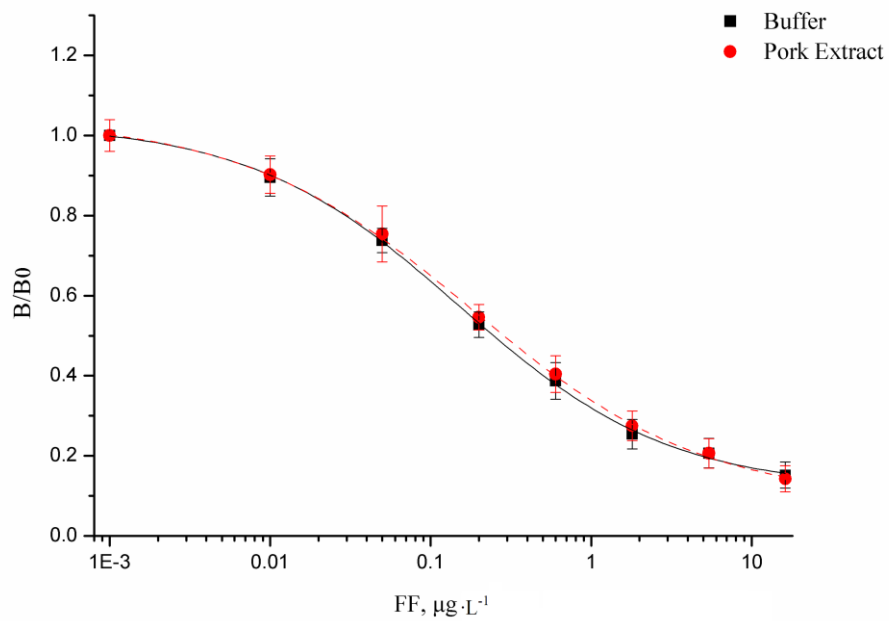


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419 Figure 2 Normalized standard curve of CL-ciELISA for FF under optimized

420 conditions compared to the standard curve obtained by traditional ELISA for FF



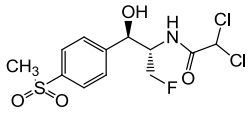
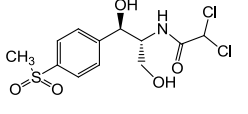
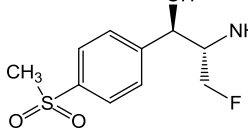
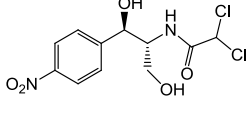
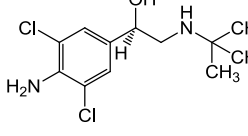
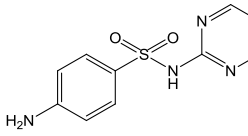
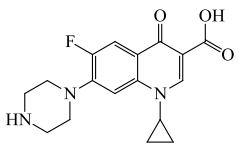
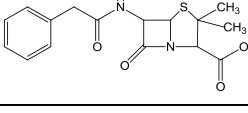
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423 Figure 3 Inhibition curves of FF in 0.02 M PB and extraction of pork matrix



424 Table 1 Percentage of cross reactivity of some structurally related and unrelated  
 425 compounds

Compound	Structure	IC <sub>50</sub> (μg L <sup>-1</sup> )	CR (%)
FF		0.15	100.0
TAP		0.31	48.4
FFA		50	0.3
CAP		>180	<0.1
CLE		>1000	ND*
SUL		>1000	ND
CIP		>1000	ND
PEN		>1000	ND

428

429 \* not detectable

430

431

Table 2 Intra- and inter-assay variations of pork spiked with FF and TAP

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Drug	Added ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )	Intra-assay <sup>a</sup>			Inter-assay <sup>b</sup>		
		Measured ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )	Recovery (%)	CV (%)	Measured ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ )	Recovery (%)	CV (%)
FF	0.0075	0.012 $\pm$ 0.006	160.0	50.0	0.013 $\pm$ 0.007	173.3	53.8
	0.015	0.013 $\pm$ 0.0009	86.7	9.0	0.014 $\pm$ 0.001	93.3	7.1
	0.030	0.027 $\pm$ 0.002	90.0	7.4	0.025 $\pm$ 0.003	83.3	12.0
	0.15	0.12 $\pm$ 0.009	80.0	7.5	0.13 $\pm$ 0.009	86.7	9.0
	1.50	1.23 $\pm$ 0.10	82.0	8.1	1.29 $\pm$ 0.14	86.0	10.8
TAP	0.015	0.022 $\pm$ 0.008	146.7	36.4	0.009 $\pm$ 0.009	60.0	100.0
	0.030	0.025 $\pm$ 0.003	83.3	12.0	0.026 $\pm$ 0.003	86.7	11.5
	0.060	0.051 $\pm$ 0.005	85.0	9.8	0.053 $\pm$ 0.006	88.3	11.3
	0.30	0.25 $\pm$ 0.02	83.3	8.0	0.24 $\pm$ 0.03	80.0	12.5
	3.0	2.4 $\pm$ 0.2	80.0	8.3	2.6 $\pm$ 0.3	86.7	11.5

433 <sup>a</sup>Intra-assay variation was determined by 10 replicates on a single day434 <sup>b</sup>Inter-assay variation was determined by 10 replicates on 3 consecutive days

435 Table 3 Determination of field pork samples collected from retail outlets in  
 436 Chongqing by the CL-ciELISA, traditional ELISA and LC-MS/MS  
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Samples	LC-MS/MS		CL-ELISA	ELISA
	FF ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	TAP ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	FF +TAP ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	FF +TAP ( $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )
P1	2.4	2.8	3.7 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.5 $\pm$ 0.3
P5	9.8	5.0	12.2 $\pm$ 0.8	15.3 $\pm$ 1.1 <sup>a</sup>
P9	27.5	15.2	40.6 $\pm$ 3.2	38.6 $\pm$ 3.8
P11	6.8	8.9	9.8 $\pm$ 0.8	8.7 $\pm$ 0.5
P15	21.0	13.7	30.2 $\pm$ 2.0	27.5 $\pm$ 3.4
P20	0.9	< LOD	0.9 $\pm$ 0.04	< LOD
P2-P4, P6-P8, P12-14, P16-19	< LOD			

438 <sup>a</sup>Each value is the mean of five replicates