

Ending the routine tail docking of pigs in industrial systems is possible: the example of Finland

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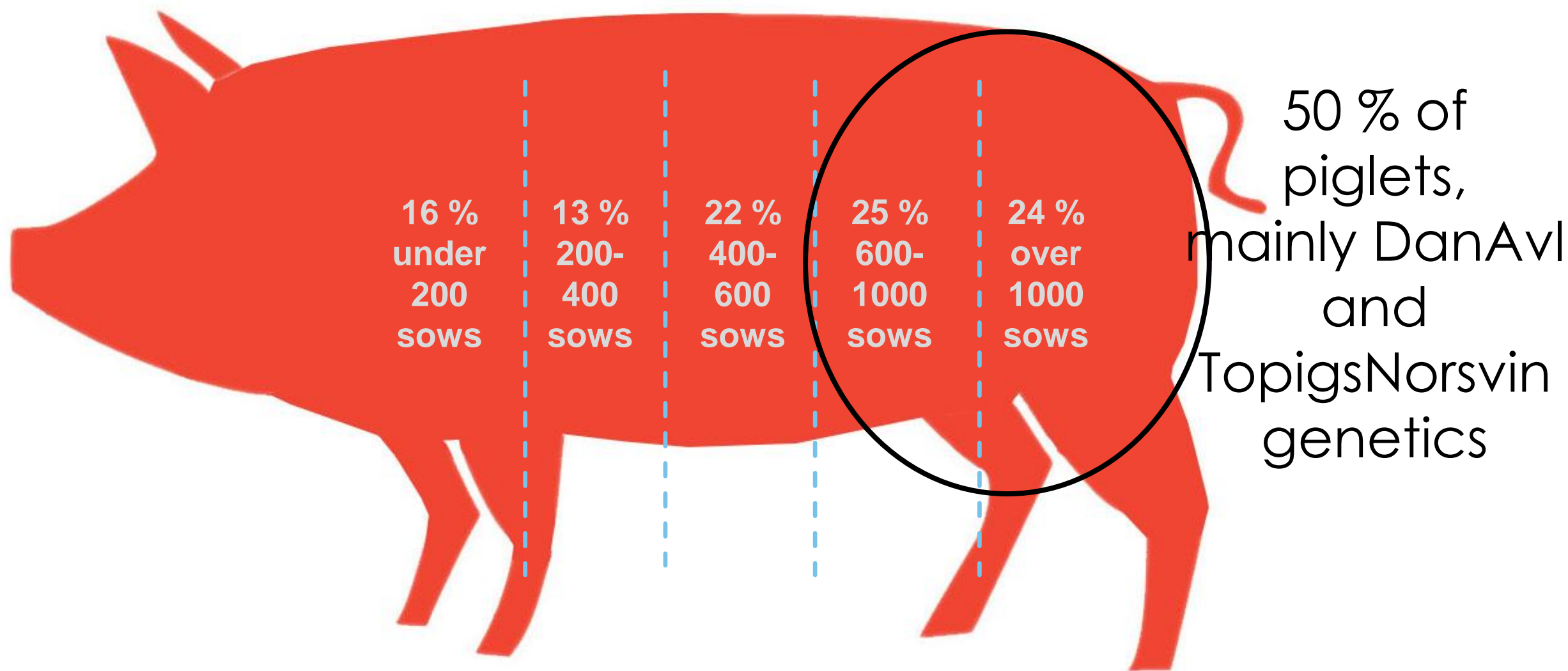
VICE PRESIDENT FINNISH PORK PRODUCERS

Introduction

- Reducing tail-docking, best practice VIDEO
- Movie filmed on my farm in August 2017 by the EU Commission
- 3.500 sows. 100% DanAvl zig-zag genetics.
- Pigs over 100 years, a lot of pigs 55 years

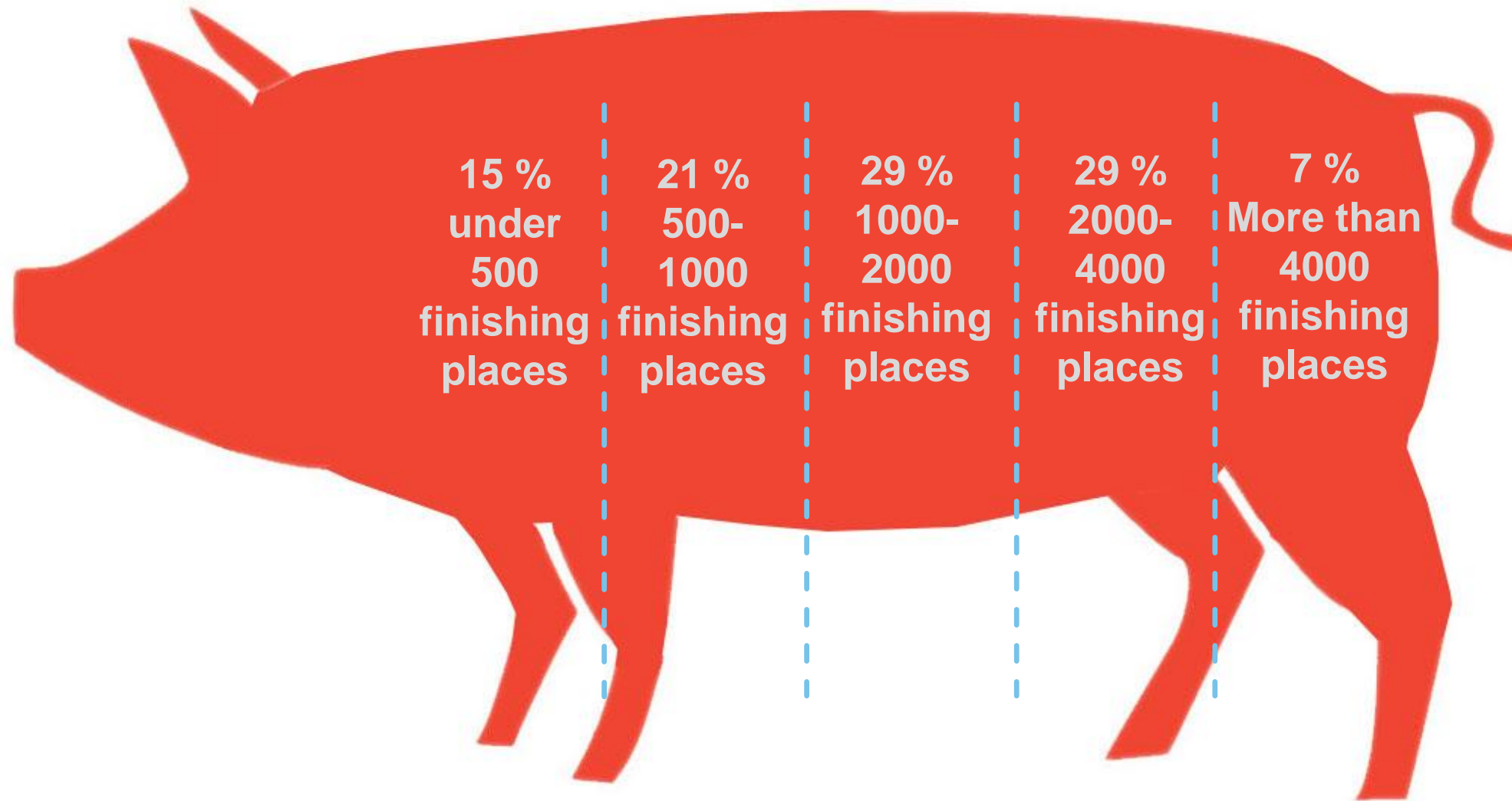
Structure of piglet production, Finland 2015

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Structure of finishing pig production, Finland 2015

4



Slaughterline data

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	Year	Total reject %	Part. reject %	Arthritis %	Abscences %	Pneumonia %	Pleuritis %	Tail biting %
Atria rejects 800 000/year	2017	0,4	7,8	2,9	4,4	1,1	8,9	1,5
	2016	0,3	6,9	3,0	4,1	1,4	7,4	1,4
	2015	0,3	7,0	3,3	4,1	1,3	6,5	1,6
	2014	0,3	7,7	4,0	4,6	1,2	2,3	2,3
Heikkilä + fattening 90 000/year	2017	0,3	7,7	2,8	4,8	0,8	7,3	1,9
	2016	0,3	7,1	3,0	4,6	1,2	7,0	1,9
	2015	0,3	7,4	3,4	4,6	1,1	6,6	2,0
	2014	0,3	9,2	4,2	6,3	1,6	2,8	3,7

Welfare Quality results of finnish finishing pigs

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*125 farms 2009 (Germany, Spain, France and UK)

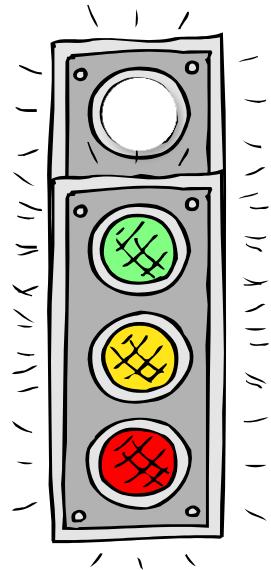


EXCELLENT

GOOD

ACCEPTABLE

NOT MEASURED



Random, 
62 farms

44%

56%

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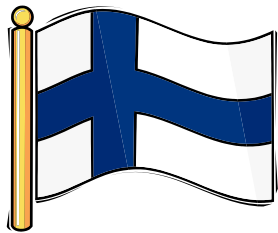
ESP/FRA/GB/
GER 125
farms*

—

41%

59%

—



Strengths: health, behaviour
Difference is statistically significant

Directives EU/Member State AUDITING?

► 91/630/EEC

Neither tail docking nor tooth clipping must be carried out routinely **but only when there is evidence, on the farm**, that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred **as a result of not carrying out these procedures.**

► 98/58/EC

No new rules.

► 2001/93/EC and 2008/120/EC

Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred. **Before carrying out these procedures, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities. For this reason inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed.**

Transfer period lenght?

- Finland's animal welfare law change was signed 7.11.2002, the tail docking ban was introduced 1.1.2003
= **transfer period of 57 days.**
- Today we have **15 years of experience with long tails**
- *Member States may apply stricter provisions on their own territory than those laid down in this Directive. In this case, they shall inform the Commission of any such measures beforehand.*
- Today, 7.11.2017, it would also be **a transfer period of 57 days** to better animal welfare 1.1.2018.

Open questions

- **Old stables** - Animal welfare control
 - How long is the allowed farm level transfer period for the directive order: “*inadequate environmental conditions or management systems **must be changed***”.
 - Is one year sufficient?
- **New stables** - Is tail docking allowed at all? What about investment subsidies for new stables with tail docking?
- Finland has a solution, so **why new research projects?**
Structural corruption, money to research projects?

Where should EU animal welfare subsidies go

- Tail docking affects every pig every day, **docked tail is sensitive all life long**
- A curled tail is a good **happiness indicator**
 - **Animal happiness is higher target than welfare!**
- E.g. free farrowing concerns only 3-4% of pigs 25% of time

My advice to keeping pigs with tails:

- Wellbeing is the starting point. Avoid tail biting by **prevention**.
- Provide enough room for feeding (pen size, trough length) – all pigs have to have access to food simultaneously. Don't limit feeding.
- Take care of warm and draught-free resting area. No ammonia from manure.
- Take care of proper ventilation and air quality.
- Give stimulation and enrichment material preventatively, before problems arise. My farm straw automates and gummisticks.
- Take good care of animal health.
- Accept some extra costs

Benefits

- I have learned **a new attitude** towards the issue
- The pig tail, even when bitten, is **an indicator of pig welfare**
- Positive imago -> consumer trust and acceptance -> pig meat **market share**
- Positive imago = every single farmer can **be proud in daily life**
- European production standard -> good animal welfare
 - **Lowest antibiotics use for animals use rate in Sweden and Finland**
 - Other member states 2-20 times more antibiotics
 - Maybe important for the premium Chinese market?

SUMMARY PIGS WITH LONG TAILS

- ▶ 1. Good indicator for animal conditions and welfare
- ▶ 2. Directly connected with better conditions and welfare
- ▶ 3. Reduces antibiotics use
- ▶ 4. Possible with industrial production, but makes some extra cost
- ▶ 5. Extra cost acceptable in EU because animal welfare and food safety
- ▶ 6. As soon as EU-directive implemented, possible to use as argument in trade negotiations with third countries

China Communist Party 5-year congress 18.10.2017

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Thank you! - Questions?