

Meeting on actions to reduce tail biting and routine tail docking of pigs

DG AGRI CDG Brussels

5 December 2016

Des Maguire

Health and Food Audit and Analysis, DG Health and Food Safety

Meeting in Grange, Ireland, 4-6 October

Objectives

- Exchange of good practice
- Overview report on COM Study visits
- Farewelldock research
- State of play on implementing COM Recommendation



Meeting in Grange 4-6 October on rearing pigs with intact tails

- Webstream of meeting at:
- 4 October
- <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/meeting-on-actions-to-prevent-tailbiting-and-reduce-tail-docking-of-pigs-4>
- 5 October
- <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/meeting-on-actions-to-prevent-tailbiting-and-reduce-tail-docking-of-pigs-5>
- 6 October
- <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/meeting-on-actions-to-prevent-tailbiting-and-reduce-tail-docking-of-pigs-6>

Meeting in Grange 4-6 October on rearing pigs with intact tails

- Agenda, presentations and outcomes can be downloaded from the CIRCABC site at:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp>

- The overview and individual study reports can be obtained at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview_reports/index.cfm

- A listing of recent, current and planned research on this area is available at:

<https://www.fli.de/en/institutes/institute-of-animal-welfare-and-animal-husbandry-itt/departments-working-groups/working-group-pigs/research-projects-about-tail-biting/>

Overview report on COM Study visits

Visits to countries that rear pigs with intact tails.

Objectives:

- Identify good practices
- Consider how to incorporate them
- Achieve better implementation of Directive and Recommendation to protect pigs



Overview report on COM Study visits

- Mutilations mask problems - stress - tail biting
- Need high standards
- Good practices
- Organisation of the sector

Overview report on COM Study visits

Incorporating Good Practice from Study Visits

- Germany, Denmark, France and Netherlands active strategies
- CAs in ten/fourteen Member States considering good practices in developing future strategy



Farewelldock Project

Goals

- Estimate the relative harms associated with tail docking and tail biting
- Evaluate the efficacy of preventive measures against tail biting which could reliably reduce the need for tail docking
- Supply necessary information for quantitative risk assessment and stimulate the development towards a non-docking policy in the EU



Farewelldock Project

Outcome

- Many research outcomes
 - See [www. Farewelldock.eu](http://www.Farewelldock.eu)
- 4 presentations
 - **Project Overview & Immediate and long term consequences of tail docking and tail biting for pig welfare**
 - **Use of straw to reduce tail-biting as an alternative to tail-docking**
 - **Early detection of tail biting and the role of health**
 - **COST action (GroupHouseNet) activities related to Tailbiting**



State of play on implementing COM Recommendation

COM Questionnaire to MS Aug 2016

- Establish baselines:
 - **Levels of Tail biting and**
 - **Tail docking**
- MS Strategies to prevent tail-biting and reduce tail-docking of pigs
- Farm risk assessment as per COM Rec 2016/336
- MS compliance criteria as per COM Rec 2016/336 and Directive 2008/120/EC

Baselines: Tail biting

Tail Biting%: CA data from five MS:

DK 2015 :	0.64	(SH)
FI 2013/14:	1	(SH)
LT	1	(farm)
SE (2006-16)	1.6-2.3	(SH)
UK (NI-2016)	1-3	(SH?)

Baselines: Tail Docking

Tail Docking%: not recorded in almost all MS:

DK (industry estimate)	97%
IRL (2010 SH study)	99%
PT	65%
LT	50%

MS Strategies to prevent tail-biting and reduce tail-docking of pigs

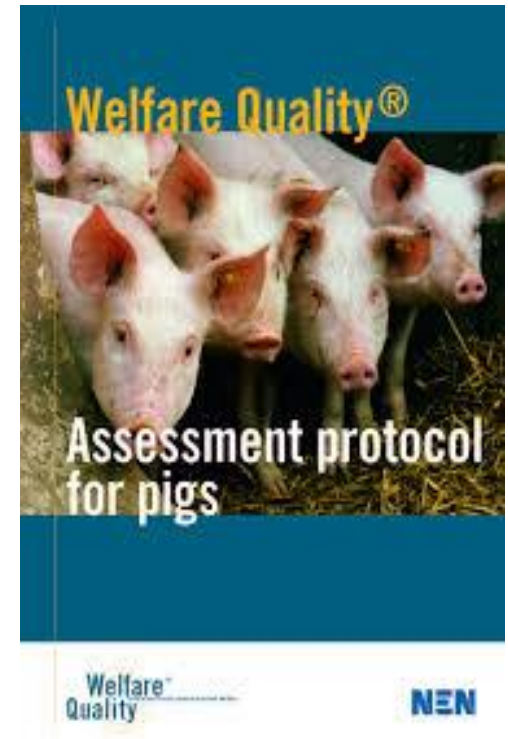
Active	Germany, Denmark, France the Netherlands
Planning	Ireland 2017
Other Actions	5 MS educational campaigns
No Strategy	Remaining MS*

State of play on implementing COM Recommendation

Farmer risk assessment as per COM Rec 2016/336

4 MS already in place

- 4 MS planning to put in place
- 2 awaiting risk assessment tools delivery
- 1 will ask farm advisory service to perform
- Remaining MS – little information available



State of play on implementing COM Recommendation

MS compliance criteria as per COM Rec 2016/336

- DK, DE, NL in progress, IRL (developing)
- LT using REC on farm checks
- PT, FI, SE yes
- UK/HU - refer to SMR requirements
- UK refer to QA, MT- new strategy

Conclusions from Meeting

- Multi-factorial problem - multi-faceted solution
- CA + industry + funding needed
- Strategies ARE being implemented in some MS
- However strategies need to be developed in ALL MS
- EU Input



Actions to reduce tail biting and routine tail docking of pig

Does industry have statistics or ideas for obtaining them on:

- **Tail biting**
- **Tail docking**

Does industry have or is it developing initiatives to work with COM/CAs to meet project goal at

- **EU Level**
- **National level**

Thank you for your attention!

