



Verein zur Förderung der Offenstallhaltung von  
Schweinen e.V.  
(Association for the Promotion of Open Housing of Pigs)



Appreciation and added value from the barn to the counter

# Today's topics



## The jungle of labels

private + retail + proposal of the Borchert Commission  
+ consumer - wish - of farmers

## Our farm

why we rebuilt the farm from 1997 to 2024  
+ our experiences and wisdom until today...

## The Association for the Promotion of Open housing of Pigs e.V.

Members + Minimum criteria + Tasks





# The jungle of labels

Private  
Initiatives



Animal husbandry compass  
Food Retail  
(Stallhaltung = in barn,  
Außenklima = outdoor climate )



# Animal welfare labels become husbandry labels

(translation of the yellow graphic on page 5)



A pig is not only made of noble cuts !  
Only 50% of the pig is consumed here!

Just a change in boar genetics takes more than a year !



About 50% of birth weights below 900g do not make it to slaughter !!!

[Hoofs (2013) VIC Sterksel, SPF Waiboerhoeve]

Protection of animals and animal welfare is achieved only if everything is low :  
antibiotic consumption  
+ morbidity  
+ mortality

## **Translation of the yellow graphic in slide 4 „ Animal welfare labels become husbandry labels”**

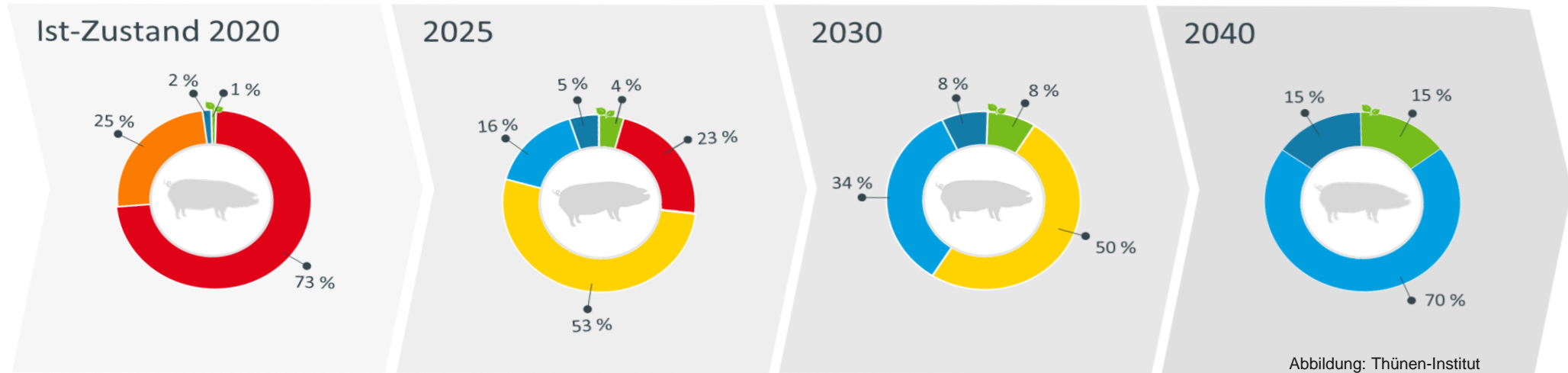
### **Criteria of the state animal welfare label for pigs**

Improvement from birth to slaughter

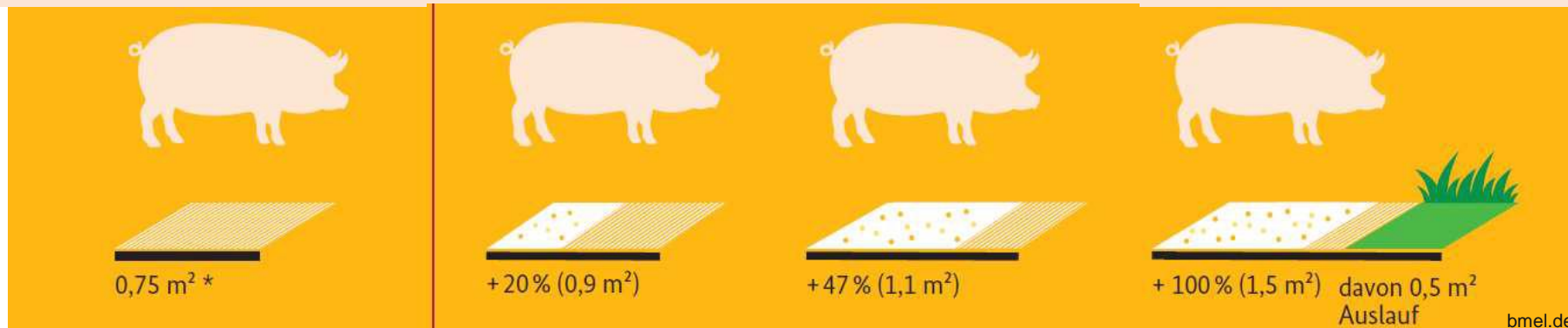
1. space
2. roughage and manipulable materials
3. structuring of the box
4. building material for a nest
5. suckling phase
6. tail docking
7. castration of piglets
8. drinking water
9. self-control with indoor climate check and drinking water check
10. animal welfare training
11. collection of animal welfare indicators
12. transport to the slaughterhouse
13. slaughter

# Timetable and changes in market shares

## Possible scenario according to recommendations of the Competence Network for Livestock Husbandry



Minimum standard (red)    First level (yellow)    Second level (blue)    Third level (dark blue)    Organic (green)







# German Regulation for the protection of farm animals

## Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung TierSchNutzV

Transition period to adapt the housing

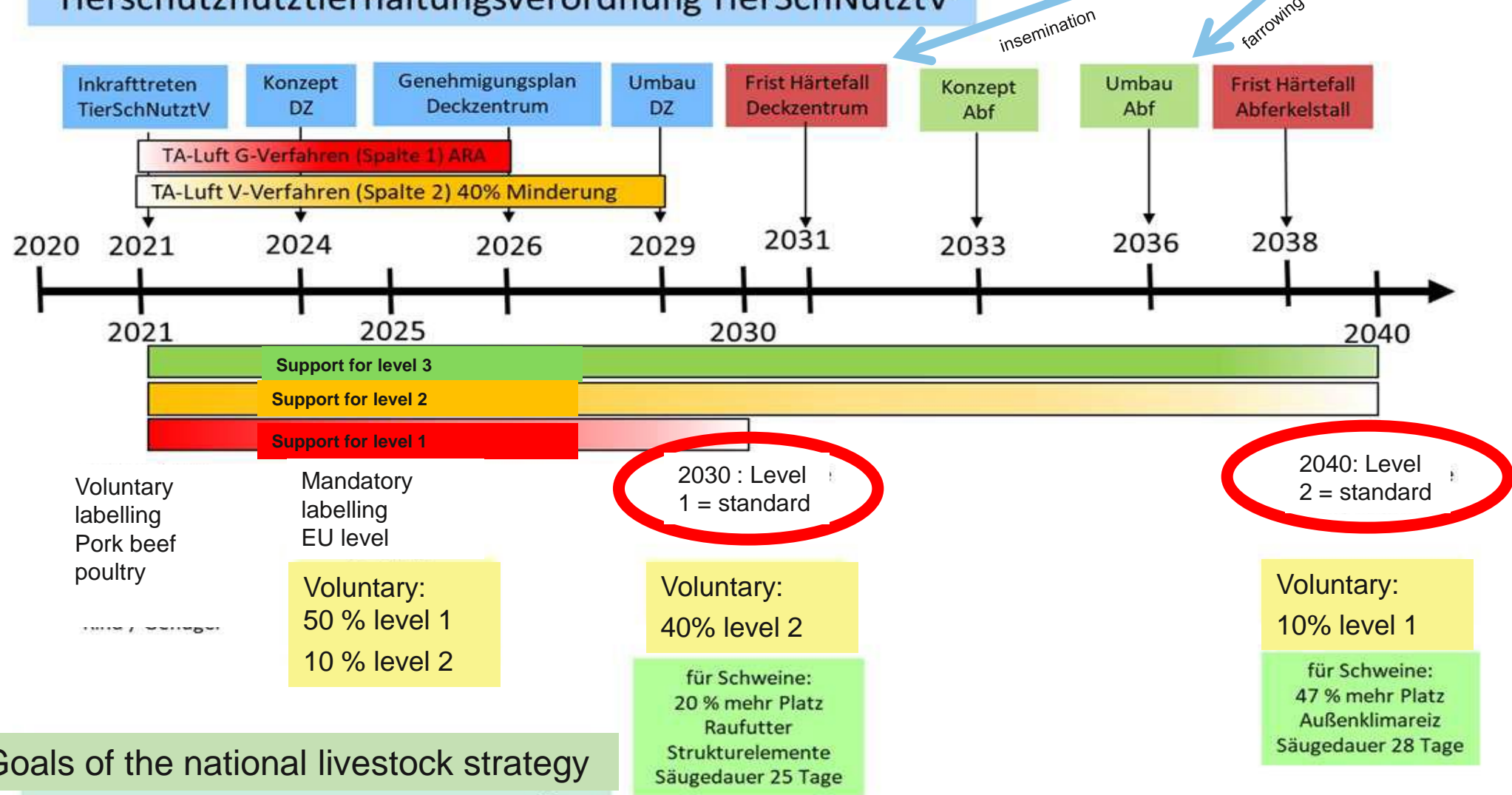


Abbildung: Bernhard Feller LWK NRW

# Which label do consumers want?

## What label do farmers want?



### Consumer - wish - of farmers

1. freshness + taste
2. regionality
3. animal welfare
4. no residues / environment
5. social justice
- 
- Price
- 

Organic

Metaanalyse von Prof. Dr. U. Hamm Uni Kassel

*Small-scale farming*

*For the sake of food security:  
morality must be law and must be worthwhile  
and create trust in the future!*

a modest family income

but a Mercedes-Benz must be for the cattle trailer!

*we can only produce organic  
if there is only demand for organic products*



# Farm Ahrens-Westerlage today



89 ha arable crops

of which 30% corn with negative nitrogen balance  
of which 2 ha voluntary biodiversity area

2 ha permanent grassland

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2 salaried employees

1 manager

---

1490 pig fattening places

with 1.5 sqm and outdoor run  
or 1200 pig fattening places  
according to organic guidelines

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4 suckler cows

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since 2017 strongly N+P reduced  
feeding +

since 2018 GMO-free feeding



6-phase feeding exclusively from our own  
food production with 70% self-produced and  
30% purchased food components

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since 2014 partially undocked tails

since 2018 100% undocked tails

with on average (2018-22):

- 927 g daily gain
- 2.84:1 kg feed conversion (at 4.5% crude fibre)
- Use of antibiotics (median = 50% of farms) around the median, never above 3rd quartile
- Animal Health Index (green, yellow, red) mostly green, rarely yellow, never red
- 1.67% losses, every dead pig is photographed for possible monitoring
- Salmonella category always in I
- 2.4% worm livers

# The pig (according to Rudi Wiedmann)

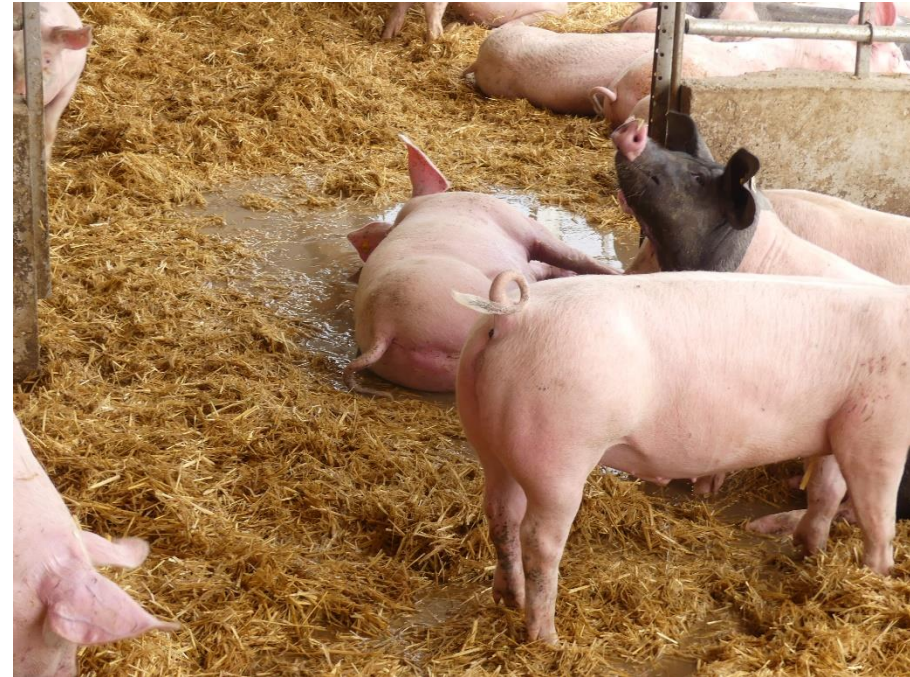


- a lot of appetite, 80% of the waking day looking for food (floor feeding)
- easily stressable (heart attack)
- fresh air fanatics —————→
- sociable with a clear hierarchy
- structure their habitat  
(sleeping, eating + activity, toilet)
- can't stink
- can smell better than dogs ("Truffle pigs")
- curious, intelligent, can have fun (well-being is measurable by the grunts of pigs and the conductivity of the meat!)



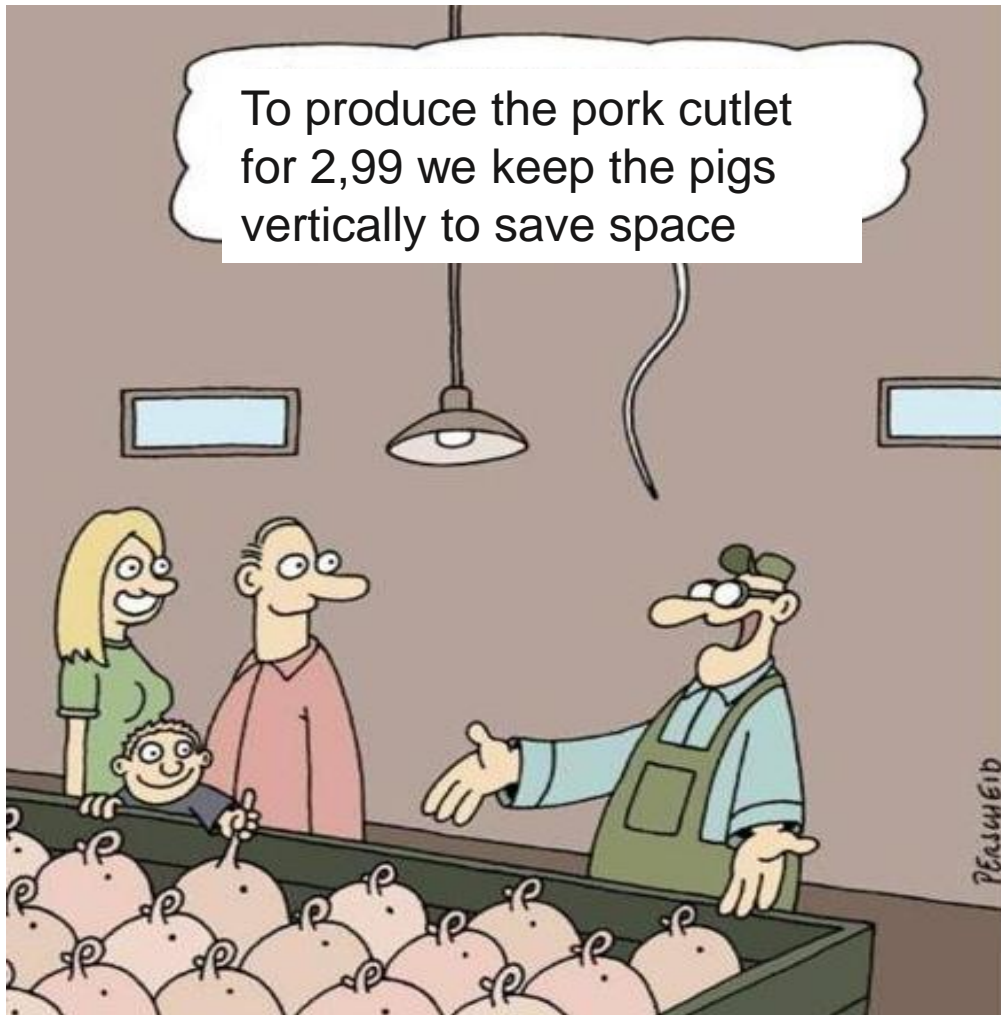
5 degree outside temperature

# Water wallow instead of Wallow of feces





# Class or mass ?!



"In Germany, no other branch of the economy – with the exception of agriculture – thinks that mass and cheap products can survive on the domestic and world market!"

(Prof. U. Hamm, Uni Kassel)

63 € cost advantage / pig of USA, CAN, ESP compared to southern Germany

(Prof. E. Bahrs, Uni Hohenheim)



# At the beginning there were only two diggers



- 1997 my father read the first book of Rudolf Wiedmann, got in touch with him immediately and two soulmates became friends
- 2001 completion of Pigport 2
- 2006 abandonment of dairy cattle farming and conversion of the building for pig fattening
- 2009 completion of Pigport 3 with run-out area
- 2015 first visit by Bert Mutsaers (owner of Bedford Schinkenmanufaktur Osnabrück)
- 2016 idea by Bert Mutsaers to found an association for the promotion of open housing of pigs
- 2017 conversion with run-out area „Diele“
- 2018 conversion with run-out area „Kammstall“
- 2019 conversion with run-out area „Omas Stall“



2x Pigport 2  
2001  
+run-out ares 2023

Pigport 3  
with run-out area 2009

Kammstall 1988  
+run-out area 2018

conversion cattle  
barn 2006  
+run-out area 2017

Omas Stall 1911+1968  
+ run-out area 2019  
with feces and  
urine separation



# NEC Directive 2016 / 2284 / EU: 29% reduction in NH3 emissions in 2030 compared to 2005



since the TA-Luft (clean-air regulation) 2002

a Pigport 2 (and Pigport 3? actually not, because with outdoor run area ! but what is the definition of outdoor run?)

a freely ventilated, non-insulated barn with partial slatted floor and covered, littered lying area

leads to 33 % less NH3-emissions

since TA-Luft 2021

a closed pig barn with forced ventilation and 2000 fattening places (no animal welfare), whose

- exhaust air purification system consumes 100.000 kWh, leads to 70% less NH3-emissions
- slurry cooling system consumes 50.000 kWh, leads to 50% less NH3-emissions
- partial slatted floor with manure belt (separates feces and urine) leads to 60% less NH3-emissions

September 2022, HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein (Bundesforschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft in Österreich)

**new** Outdoor climate barn with separation of urine and feces : 80% less NH3-Emissionen,

95% less odours

# At what point does a pig call an outdoor run “outdoor run” ??



- Pigport 2 (2001) <https://youtu.be/U0CvfV0v0GY>
- Pigport 3 with run-out area (2009) <https://youtu.be/ZiLApSW0-uo>
- Conversion of „Diele“ with outdoor run(2017) <https://youtu.be/Au-NDTXZZJ0>
- Conversion of „Kammstall“ with outdoor run) [https://youtu.be/pbiR\\_vqgbgU](https://youtu.be/pbiR_vqgbgU)
- Conversion of „Omas Stall“ with outdoor run(2019) <https://youtu.be/j8xhnCOmDdw>
- Digging in the straw <https://youtu.be/OeXaDi97nc0>
- To cool down, the compromise wallow <https://youtu.be/Oi2Y680NhSE>
- Our goal, free farrowing [https://youtube.com/shorts/XXjKB\\_ic4DQ?feature=share](https://youtube.com/shorts/XXjKB_ic4DQ?feature=share)
- Pigport 2 little straw in summer, everything open <https://youtu.be/iHHYFwBvAaQ>

## What is the emitting surface of the pigpen ?



# Authorization of outdoor run areas for pig housing with mechanical ventilation



Emissions assessor sets a safety factor of 30% for a force- ventilated barn with an outdoor run area

Approval only with livestock reduction

Because the permitting authority is afraid of the expensive court rulings, which the “lawyers of the environment” have often brought them !  
There has never been a lawsuit by the “lawyers of the Animals” !!

## Not with us

We have a land-based animal husbandry of **2 LSU / ha**

- 160 kg N from manure with two-phase standard feed
- 130 kg N from manure with strongly N/P-reduced feed
- N-Balance: + 21 kg (must be less than 50)
- P-Balance: + 8 kg (must be less than 10)

and 20 ha in B (=undersupplied)

### According to Aarnink 2016, Wageningen, UR Livestock Research:

- Barn with forced ventilation and with partially slatted floor:  
**1,5 – 5 kg NH<sub>3</sub>** / fattening place + year
- Freely ventilated organic barn (2m<sup>2</sup> per animal):  
**0,5 – 5 kg NH<sub>3</sub>** / fattening place + year

3,64  
TA-Luft  
2,43

[Ammonia emission from organic pig houses determined with local parameters ]

# Hopefully clean lying areas



well-behaved piglets

„You can't teach an old dog new tricks!“

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first day and days are crucial

clean the lying surface several times a day and sprinkle with lime, sawdust or CCM silage

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The nest / lying area is the most pleasant space in the stable

warm in winter and in summer everything else has to be cold, wet or drafty

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at >25 degrees only straw for manipulation

it does not work without shovel, pushcart and rubber broom + allergy to such tools must not be!

# Hopefully intact curly tails



getting piglets with an intact tail

if not intact = inflammation, partial damage and losses

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different temperature zones + daily entertainment

individual temperature requirements + daily fresh straw with beans or silage

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Observe, observe, observe

e.g. many hanging tails that are not curled ➡ immediately search for the cause

if biting

- ➡ finding and separating perpetrators
- ➡ treat and separate victims if necessary
- ➡ creating variety and new stimuli

e.g. sisal rope, fir green, elderberry branches, willow wood, alfalfa,  
stinging nettles, forest soil, changing of boxes, running in the corridor, ...

- ➡ Separation and recovery pens
- ➡ for at least 5% of the stock
- ➡ (are empty most of the time !)

# The members of the association

founded in April 2016 with  
currently 109 members :

- 13 sponsors
- 56 farmers
- butchers + processors + slaughterhouses
- regional REWE und EDEKA
- fitters of fattening stables
- feed manufacturers
- producer groups
- animal protection associations
- advisers from the chambers of agriculture
- scientists such as the founding members  
Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Große Beilage (TiHo Hannover) and  
Prof. Dr. Hermann Van den Weghe (Uni Göttingen)





# The minimum criteria



- Housing system with outdoor climate with two separate climate areas accessible at all times (micro and macroclimate).
- At least 1.50 m<sup>2</sup> of free space per final fattening animal or final fattening place (from 50kg live weight), so that the pigs can set up functional areas (resting, feeding & activity, defecation).
- Direct and visual contact to the outdoor climate through **at least 0.2 m<sup>2</sup> opening surface/animal**. An outdoor run is sufficiently large if it provides at least 0.4 m<sup>2</sup> per pig.
- Solid floor lying area inside the stable must be at least 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> / animal and be covered with straw. At high outside temperatures, minimal bedding is accepted. But it must always be ensured that all animals have manipulation material simultaneously in the barn or outdoor run. A lack of manipulation material combined with heat stress can easily lead to tail biting. The lying area must always be inside. The lying area must not be defined in the outdoor run.
- An adjustable suitable air flow must be available.
- Suitable **cooling options** in summer must be provided
- Feed must be used without genetic engineering, at least 20% of the feed must come from the own farm or the region.
- Sufficient amount of **hospital pens** in which the lying area is provided with straw litter must exist.

0,27 m<sup>2</sup> / pig + 0,16 m<sup>2</sup> / pig



0,2 m<sup>2</sup> / animal = 10 times the window surface of a conventional pen (0,75 m<sup>2</sup> \* 3%) or = 3,2 times DIN A4

# The minimum criteria



- Free access to substrate or roughage from the ground. If the entire lying area is covered with long straw, the provision of further entertainment materials is not mandatory. If other materials are used as bedding, the animals must be provided in addition with suitable organic, long-fibre manipulation material (e.g. long straw, hay or silage) at free disposal. The roughage must retain feed quality.
- A high level of animal health has to be documented based on indicators for animal welfare-related diseases, damages to the body and behavioral deviations according to the current specifications of the KTBL (guideline "Animal welfare indicators, practical guide - pig" of the KTBL). Depending on the indicator, the survey and the documentation must take place either on the basis of the animal-specific findings at the slaughterhouse or directly on the farm.
- The transport route to the slaughterhouse must not exceed 300 km.
- Three years after switching to open housing, all pigs have to enter the fattening farm with curled tails. From the 2nd batch after the initial audit, at least 10 % of the animals must enter with a curled tail.

# The minimum criteria



## Recommended complementary criteria

outdoor areas should be **covered** (sun protection + emission protection)

- The roof over the run-out area should be **open on both sides of the eaves**.
- The opening area for new buildings should be at least **0.3 m<sup>2</sup>/animal**.
- For new buildings, an run-out area of at least **0.5 m<sup>2</sup>/animal** should be available.
- The outer wall of the run-out area should be a **maximum of 0.6 m high** (better visibility).

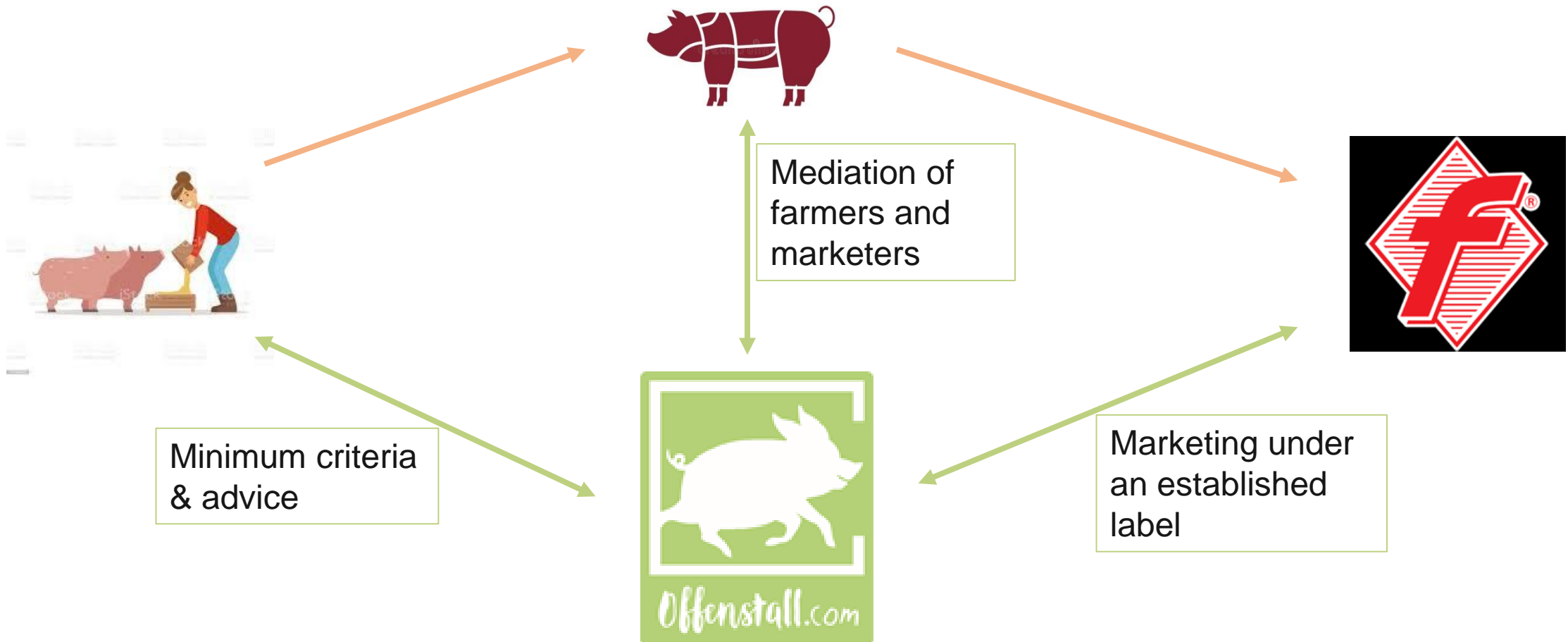
0,38 m<sup>2</sup> / pig + 0,54 m<sup>2</sup> / pig



A run-out area may be netted for wind refraction (against drafts) and to protect against diseases (against birds)!!!

**Rains when the pigs need rain and not when St. Peter makes it rain!!!**

# The tasks of the association in the value chain





# The search for stores





# Thank you for your attention !

