Pig’ Castration – farmers perspective
Situation in Europe

- Chirurgical castration as the most frequently used method

- Most significant experience with immunocastration - Colruyt Belgium

- Portugal and Spain have a majority of castrated males
Why do we castrate?

- Avoid boar taint

- Important factor
  - Age at slaughter
  - Weight at slaughter
  - Genetics
Differences between countries

- Portugal and Spain slaughter with less weight, which implies younger age

- Central/Northern Europe want heavier carcasses

- To improve meat quality, the introduction of the terminal Duroc boar implies a greater need for castration
Used methods

* Surgical castration with anesthesia

* Surgical castration without anesthesia (up to 7 days of age)

* Whole males

* Immunocastration
## Economic interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Castrated males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Entire males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry weight (kg)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exit weight (kg)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed (kg)</td>
<td>218.68</td>
<td>195.23</td>
<td>191.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed (kg)/Pig (kg)</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed cost (kg)</td>
<td>0.908</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed cost for 120kg pig</td>
<td>86.26</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>77.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Producer’s interest

- From an economic point of view - entire males
- Can't take risks of boar taint
- Need to investigate effective methods for detecting boar taint
The pig farmer must be able to choose between the three solutions:

- Surgical castration with anaesthesia
- Entire males
- Immunocastration