

# 1st EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare 'EURCAW-Pigs'



PAFF Standing Committee  
Section Animal Health and Welfare





# EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

Art. 95 of 'The Official Controls Regulation':

"The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, designate European Union reference centres for animal welfare that shall support the activities of the Commission and of the Member States"



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EURCAW-Pigs



Hans Spoolder



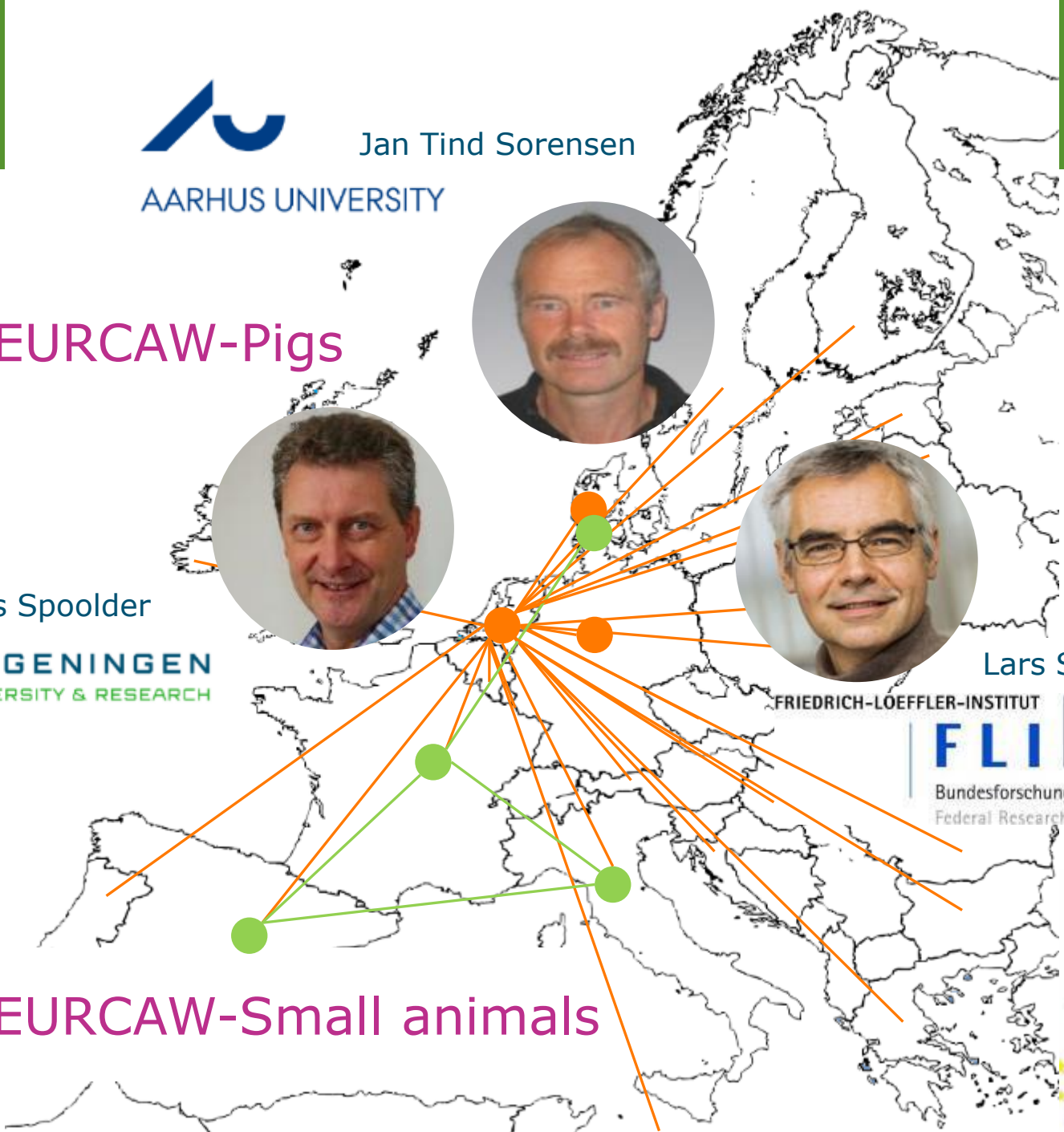
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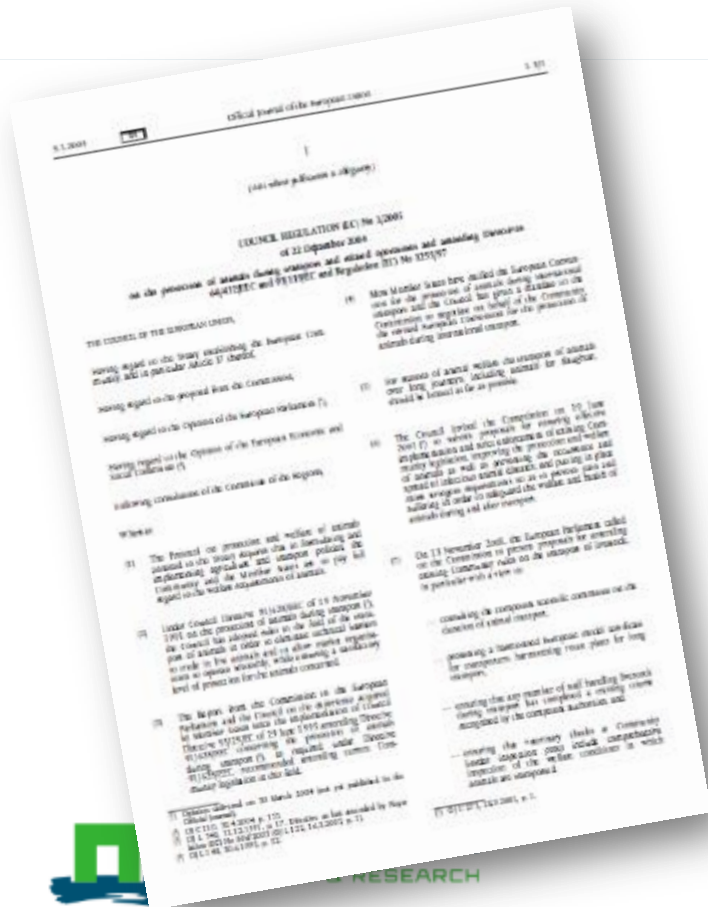
EURCAW-Small animals





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# Main role: to provide technical information on



- On-farm pig welfare: Directives 98/58/EC and 2008/120/EC
- Animal transport: Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005
- Protection of animals at the time of killing: Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009



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# Target groups

- Competent Authorities, Policy Workers and their 'support bodies': science, training, communication

# EURCAW Main Activities

Art 96 of 'The Official Controls Regulation':

1. COORDINATED ASSISTANCE
2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES
3. ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS
4. TRAINING COURSES
5. DISSEMINATION

# 1. Coordinated Assistance

- **We met with our target groups (in 2019):**
  - EU Animal Welfare Platform
  - National Contacts for Reg (EU) 1099/2009
  - National Contacts for Reg (EU) 1/2005
  - National Reference Centres: FR, SE, FI, GR, IT
  - Better Training for Safer Food
  - **EURCAW Regional meetings**

# 1. Coordinated Assistance



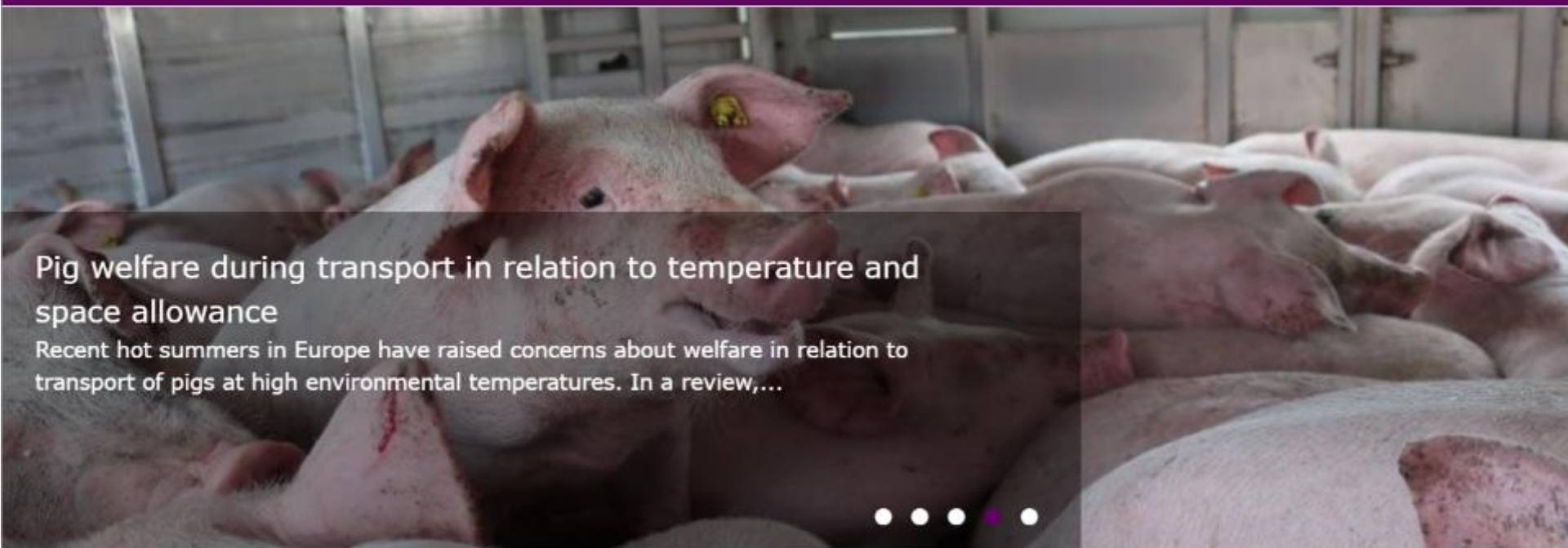
European Reference Centre  
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## Pig welfare during transport in relation to temperature and space allowance

Recent hot summers in Europe have raised concerns about welfare in relation to transport of pigs at high environmental temperatures. In a review,...

*EURCAW-Pigs' website offers relevant and actual information to support enforcement of pig welfare legislation in EU Member States*



# 1. Coordinated Assistance

website offers relevant and actual information to support enforcement of pig welfare legislation in EU Mem

## Knowledge base

for specific documents and enforcement? Search the Knowledge base.



Knowledge base

## EURCAW-Pigs on Twitter

May 18, 2020



**EURCAW-Pigs**  
@eurcaw

Thematic factsheets of the Centre give a quick and easy overview of prioritized welfare areas. Thematic factsheets are now available for 'Tail biting and tail docking' and 'Farrowing housing and management', and can be found on the 'Scientific output' page [eurcaw.eu/en/EURCAW-Pigs...](http://eurcaw.eu/en/EURCAW-Pigs...)



**Scientific output**  
[eurcaw.eu](http://eurcaw.eu)

To EURCAW-Pigs on Twitter

## Questions to EURCAW

For technical and scientific questions on pig welfare, please send us an email with your question.



## Recent Q2E inquiries

- [Effects of nose rings on pig welfare on-farm and during transport](#)
- [To what extent can jute enrichment for pigs be considered 'edible'?](#)

# 1. Coordinated Assistance



## Husbandry

- > [190509-01 How many hospital pens should a pig farm have?](#)
- > [190509-02 What sort of enrichment should be offered to individually housed pigs?](#)
- > [190509-03 Does ASF spread through enrichment materials?](#)
- > [190509-04 How do you assess if the climate in the pig barn is 'adequate'?](#)
- > [200122-01 To what extent can jute sacks as enrichment for pigs be scored as 'edible'?](#)
- > [200218-01 Effects of nose rings on welfare of pigs on-farm and during transport](#)

## Slaughter and killing

- > [190527-01 Does the size of a pig affect the quality of a CO2 stun?](#)
- > [Q2E - 200324-01 - Are there alternatives to CO2 stunning of slaughter pigs which are more welfare friendly?](#)

## Transport

- > [200218-01 Effects of nose rings on welfare of pigs on-farm and during transport](#)

# 1. Coordinated Assistance



Questions to EURCAW

191209-01

12 May 2020

## Question to EURCAW-Pigs: Verification of weaning age

12 May 2020

### Question

Received: 19 December 2019

When visiting a farm it is not always clear if the piglets are not weaned too early. Can EURCAW-Pigs provide a method to verify the average weaning age of piglets, based on information available to the inspector? The answer should take into account the different nurse sow systems.

### Answer

Several EURCAW experts contributed to the response below. The EURCAW secretariat did the final editing, and may be contacted for queries: [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu).

In short, the answers are:

- On a smooth running multiplier farm that keep sows on the unit during pregnancy, there should be maximally 6.9 times as many sows nursing compared to sows not nursing for an average weaning age of 21 days. This figure is maximally 6 for an average weaning age of 24.5 days.
- On farms where sow reproductive performance cannot be determined, is not reliable or of low

## 2. Scientific & Technical studies

### Agenda



[To full agenda overview](#)

### Dossiers on welfare topics



Welfare of pigs during husbandry  
Directives 98/58/EC and 2008/120/EC



Welfare of pigs during transport  
Regulation (EC) No 1/2005



Welfare of pigs at slaughter and killing  
Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009

### Newsletter

Do you want to stay up-to-date on pig welfare and enforcement matters? Subscribe to the EURCAW-Pigs newsletter.

[Subscribe](#)

**For welfare science related to heat stress and overcrowding during transport, go to EURCAW-Pigs' review**

# 2. Scientific & Technical studies

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transport  
pigs at  
water and  
killing

Dossier

### Climate control and space allowance during transport

**This dossier aims to help Competent Authorities and other stakeholders with issues related to climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs.**



Climate control and space allowance during transport is important, e.g. for the homeostatic control of body temperature of the animals. Thermoregulation is necessary for pig welfare (as it affects thermal comfort, heat stress, cold stress and survival). The pig's ability to thermoregulate depends on maintaining a balance

between heat production and heat loss. It is affected by environmental



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- Council R No 1/200 protectio

# 2. Scientific & Technical studies

## Legislation



The legal requirements related to climate control and space allowance during transport can be found in Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005.

## Welfare indicators



Indicators to monitor pig welfare related to climate control and space allowance during transport.

## Knowledge



Background information and practical knowledge on the need for climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs. How these affect pig welfare, and how welfare problems can be limited in practice.

## Good practices



## Training courses



# 3. Welfare Indicators



European Reference Centre  
for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

Indicator factsheet – Risks for tail biting

Enrichment

## Suitability of materials



### When is enrichment material suitable?

- Providing a sufficient quantity of suitable materials is necessary to enable pigs to fulfill their innate need for

“(...) pigs must have permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation and manipulation activities, (...), which does not compromise the health of the animals.” {Annex I, Chapter I, point 4}

*Note: Listed requirements are not comprehensive.*

Assess all pigs on individual level. Make all pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why they should not be made to rise). Gait scoring should be performed on non-slippery floor.

# 3. Welfare Indicators

## Lameness score at farm level; percentage of pigs scored as 1

### Score 0: No or slight lameness

**Normal gait (fluid motion, same stride length, full weight bearing on all four legs)**

*Or*

**Slight lameness (stiff gait, shortened stride, increased spinal segment movement)**



### Score 1: Severe lameness

**Minimum weight bearing on the affected limb, quick alternation between weight bearing and no weight bearing of affected limb ("tipping")**





# 4. Training



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## Training

To facilitate training, EURCAW-Pigs offers suggestions for training and continuing education courses for inspectors. These are specifically targeted towards the eight prioritized welfare areas along the value chain (on-farm, transport, slaughter).

EURCAW-Pigs provides:

- (1) Examples of training plans and materials used in different Member States in English, to the extent possible.
- (2) Quality standards, advice, templates, and technical support. These are provided in English so that they can be used by all EU member states.

### Contact

For suggestions, comments or questions about the training activities and materials, please contact us:

Mail: [info.pigs@eurcaw.eu](mailto:info.pigs@eurcaw.eu)

# Progress of 8 dossiers 2019-2020

By the end of this month: legal info, scientific background, indicator factsheets

- **Tail biting and tail docking**
- **Temperature & Space during transport**
- **Farrowing housing and management**

Later this year:

- **Handling in lairage** (July 2020)
- **Pig stunning** (August 2020)
- **Group housing and mixing** (August 2020)
- **Fitness for transport** (Oct 2020)
- **On-farm killing** (Dec 2020)

# Developing Work programme 2021-2022

## Advisory Board meeting 3 July 2020

- Copa
- Cogeca
- UECEBV
- FESASS
- EFFAB
- Eurogroup for animals
- 4 Pfofen
- FVE
- FEFAC
- EURCAW-  
Small animals

## PAFF meeting 18 June 2020

**+ we will send you an e-mail asking for your suggestions**

# Developing Work programme 2021-2022

## Possible ideas for the coming programme:

### ■ Technical topics:

- **Transport of sows** and boars
- **Rearing entire boars**
- Design & management of **Control Posts**
- Measuring **farm welfare at abattoir?**

### ■ Skills:

- **Communication** (farmer/driver – inspector dialogue)

### ■ Methods:

- **Inspector stories / blogs**
- **Webinars**

- **Translations** in your language
- Link with **National Reference Centres**



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# Contact us



[www.eurcaw-pigs.eu](http://www.eurcaw-pigs.eu)



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