connecting agri&food

The work of the voluntary subgroup on ending piglet castration

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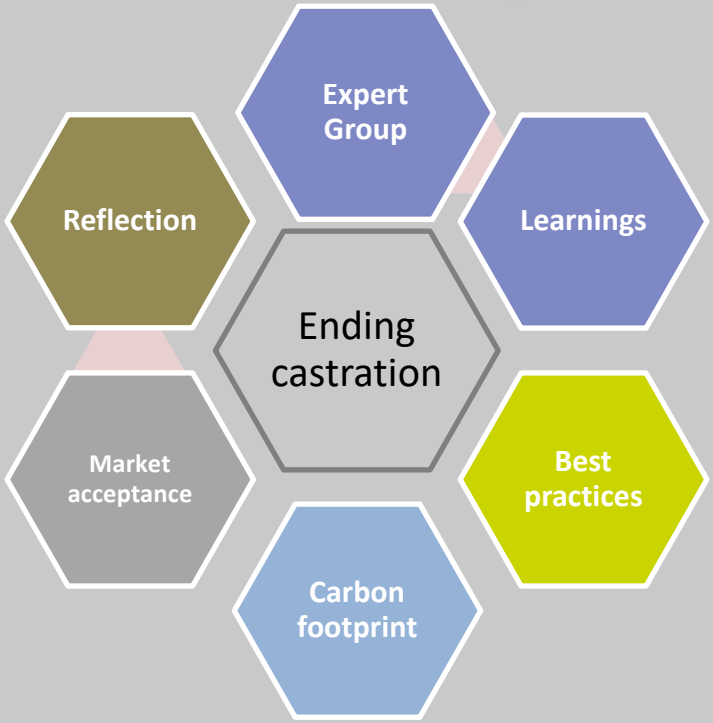
Content presentation

- Expert Group
- Learnings
- Best practices
- Carbon footprint
- Market acceptance
- Reflection



Work of the voluntary subgroup

Presentations last four meetings of the voluntary subgroup

- Use of analgesia and anaesthesia protocols
- Selecting products subject to derogation
- The 2nd progress report on ending castration
- Establishing best practices
- Protocols for using analgesia and anesthesia.
- At-line rapid instrumental method for boar taint detection
- Taintstop: a preventive measure to reduce Skatole
- Ending castration: a view on the Balkan perspective
- Consumers' view on pork
- Carbon footprint of entire male pigs and castrated pigs
- Practical experiences with boar taint detection
- Impact of feed composition on backfat thickness

Learnings

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- Ending piglet castration long-term and complex process
- Substantial impact on animal, farmer and environment
- Only supply chain wide solutions will really work
- Supply chains better and better equipped to become successful
- Farmers have learned how to adapt their husbandry practices
- Concerns about taste hamper consumer acceptability
- Boar taint and quality issues reduced with nutrition and genetics
- Genetics to balance feed efficiency and meat quality
- Still boar taint should be checked on the slaughter line

Best practices

Expert Group

Learnings

Best practices

Carbon footprint

Market acceptance

Reflection

- Entire male pigs housed separately from female pigs, in stable groups with sufficient provision of space in structured pens, with sufficient natural enrichment materials to explore
- Feeding pigs with adjusted diets will often solve fat quality problem.
- Increasing intramuscular fat content by breeding or nutrition will contribute to alleviate the toughness issue
- Selection, nutrition and management strategies to reduce boar taint.
- Meat less suitable for fresh meat consumption due to unusual odour can to a certain extent be sustainably used in processed products provided that appropriate measures are taken

Carbon footprint

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- Producing boars results in better feed utilization and lower footprint: reduced feed usage of 7% to 9%
- Lower footprint of boars would result for 100 million barrows in a lower footprint of 4.4 million tons CO2 eq. per year
- 100 million barrows that need 24 kg more feed equals to 300.000 ha savings of agricultural land

Market acceptance

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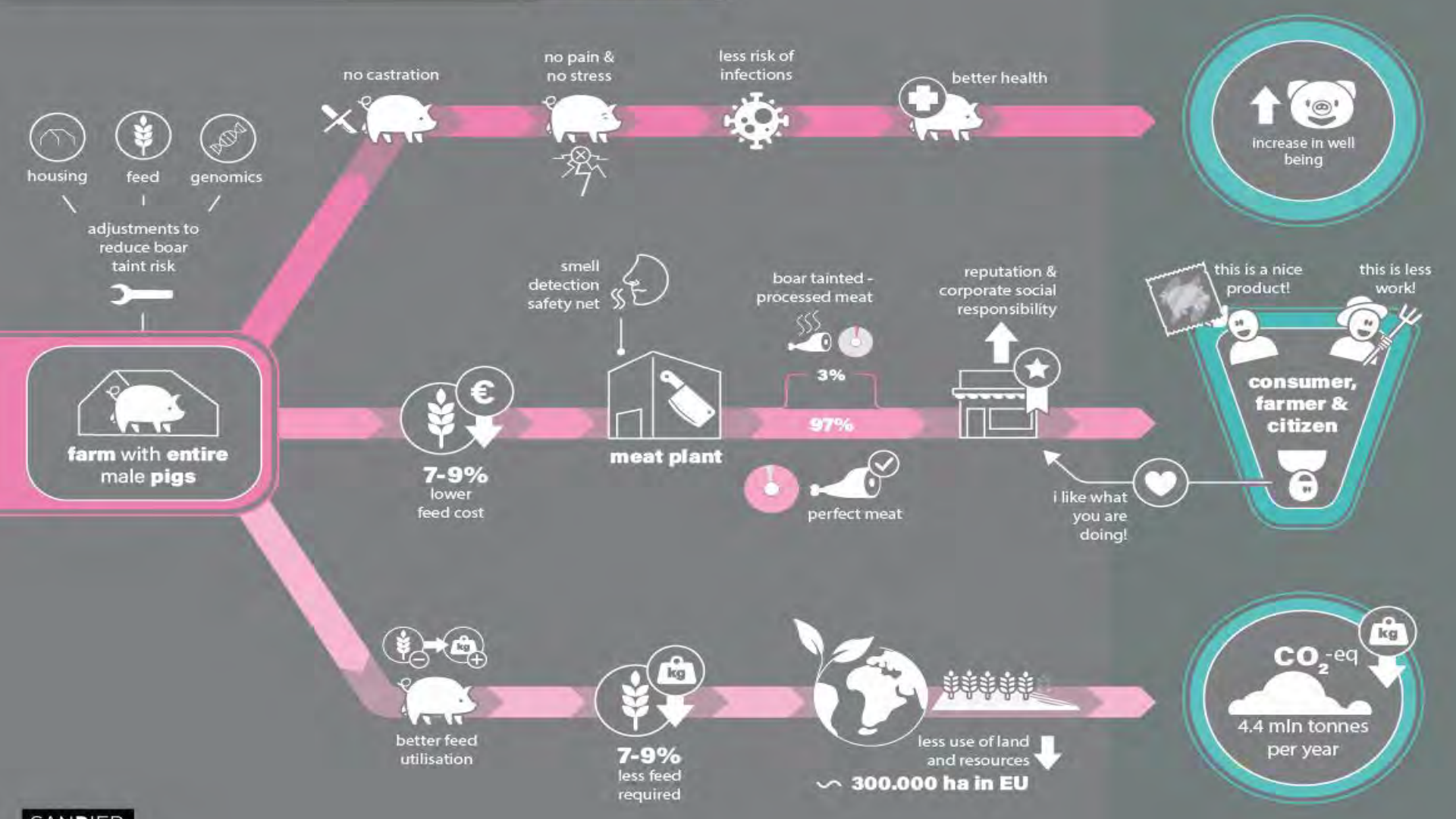
Market acceptance depends on several quality attributes

- Boar taint detection as safety net at the slaughter line crucial
- Farm management and housing system can play supportive role
- Some carcasses become too lean and less suitable (e.g., dry hams)
- For boar taint ánd (fat) quality preventive measures are available
- Perceptions exist on boar taint and on vaccination: facts matter!
- No castration results in a lower footprint

Reflection

- Ending castration is a potential win-win-win issue
- Lower carbon footprint brings additional added value for markets
- Ending castration may become important item in CSRD reporting
- Still some open ends: boar taint complex phenomenon
- Available knowledge on fact-based solutions not fully utilized
- Objectivity and fact-based working are key factors
- Farmers will be induced to implement effective genetics and feeding measures, with appropriate incentives and an equitable distribution of costs and returns


housing
feed
genomics
adjustments to reduce boar taint risk
farm with entire male pigs
no castration
no pain & no stress
less risk of infections
better health
increase in well being
smell detection safety net
meat plant
7-9%
lower feed cost
boar tainted - processed meat
3%
97%
perfect meat
reputation & corporate social responsibility
this is a nice product!
this is less work!
consumer, farmer & citizen
i like what you are doing!
better feed utilisation
7-9%
less feed required
less use of land and resources
300.000 ha in EU
CO2-eq
4.4 mln tonnes per year