



Action Plans

Feed back & discussion

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The four issues we discussed

1. The performance of risk assessment
2. What threshold to allow docking should be applied
3. Optimisation measures to be expected
4. How do CA's do their challenging work

1. The performance of risk assessment

COM REC EU 336/2016 recommends in Art 2A-2:
“MS to ensure farmers carry out risk assessment”.

Member States should ensure that farmers carry out a risk assessment of the incidence of tail-biting based on animal and non-animal based indicators

- Not legally binding, but carry “ legal weight”
- Recommendation was agreed by MS and pig sector

1. The performance of risk assessment

Countries are developing their own assessment systems

- a 'SchwIP light', based on 6 areas of the COMM REC
- a system designed with farmers and vets
- a new experimental system

Three countries signed a declaration to unite their approach... aiming to have done a first assessment round by the end of 2019.

- -> They are inviting others to join.

1. The performance of risk assessment

One country is investigating the possibility of having a risk assessment service by advisors, paid for by the government.

- -> questions of frequency and costs to be resolved.

Another suggests that industry drivers can be used to complement legal requirements.

- -> can you include risk assessment in a quality assurance programme?



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2. What tail docking threshold should apply?

(The subtitle was:

“When is it OK to tail dock the whole farm?”

Of course this is never OK. It should be a temporary emergency measure...)

2. What tail docking threshold should apply?

- 'Piglet importing countries' have the challenge of making farmers only buy pigs with long tails.
 - The exporter claims nobody wants long tails
 - The importer claims long tails are not offered
 - -> would an international agreement help

2. What tail docking threshold should apply?

- Several countries do not have a threshold level. Maybe it is too early to set a threshold, as we're not ready yet
- One country suggested to look at thresholds in relation to efforts made to reduce biting.
 - -> It would require farmers to record biting:
Measuring = Knowing = Increased awareness
 - -> More biting means more pressure on a remedial action plan?

2. What tail docking threshold should apply?

- 2% damaged tails at the abattoir was suggested as an average.
 - This is in docked pigs (presumably)
 - Please note that abattoir data will underestimate the true prevalence
 - -> it's better to check on farm if you can.
- The pig sub-group on Animal welfare is working on a protocol to determine when docking can (temporarily) be applied.

3. Optimisation measures to be expected

The directive is clear: something needs to be in place.

“Before carrying out docking, other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities”.

- Their success can be measured in terms of improved environment, or management, decrease percentage tail biting/other parameters.
- The ultimate indicator is a curly tail!

3. Optimisation measures to be expected

- The risks for tail biting are laid down in COM REC 336.
 - Presence of biting
 - Enrichment materials
 - Cleanliness
 - Thermal comfort & air quality
 - Health status
 - Competition
 - Diet
- Optimisation of these would seem logical.

3. Optimisation measures to be expected

- Asking farmers to build a new farm goes too far...
 - -> How much consideration do farm builders give to legislative requirements?
 - -> What can we do at the planning stage of new farms?

3. Optimisation measures to be expected

- Most of the countries actually do not ask for meaningful optimization measures...!
 - E.g. increasing space allowance is not a legal requirement and would not hold in court, when challenged.
- But does it have to be a big 'all or nothing'?
 - -> One suggestion was to start small: what can you do to keep the tails on in a few pens only....?



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4. How do CA's tackle the challenge of enforcing welfare rules?

- Preparation: ask what has to be inspected and how?
- Checklists and decision trees are used by some. They even have a dedicated protocol or handbook for welfare inspections
 - -> This should be detailed / specific enough
 - -> Can this be used across the EU?



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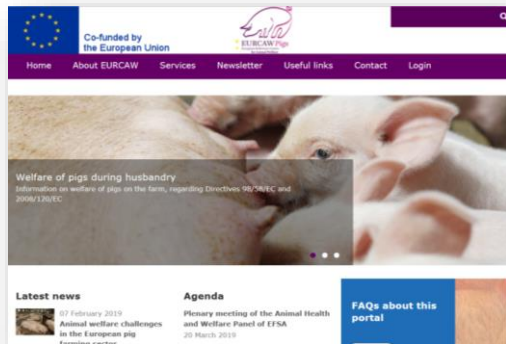
4. How do CA's tackle the challenge of enforcing welfare rules?

- One country has good experience with a team of 'specialised inspectors' in another area of enforcement:
 - Training a small group is easier than a large group
 - They quickly gain experience because they focus



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