

Online Survey after the NRCs & SBs meeting in 2021

The online survey was conducted after the first meeting between EU Member States National Reference Centre (NRCs), Supporting Bodies (SBs), and the three EURCAWs, which took place on July 1, 2021. It was sent to the sixty-five meeting participants via e-mail. Thirty-six participants (respondents) filled in the survey.

Affiliation of the respondents:

- NRCs: 12 delegates
- SBs: 13 delegates
- CAs: 6 delegates
- EURCAWs: 8 delegates

The aim of the survey was to better understand the EU MSs CAs needs and how we as the EURCAWs can structure a European Animal Welfare network, to improve the meeting for future events and to ask all participant about suitable iceberg indicators, they would suggest regarding the husbandry, transport and slaughtering of pigs in the EU.

Iceberg Indicators

EURCAW-Pigs had been asked to suggest 'Iceberg Indicators'. In general, animal-based indicators that help to identify more than one welfare consequence are commonly referred to as **Iceberg Indicators** (EFSA, 2022). Iceberg Indicators can be described as indicators which reflect a multitude of underlying welfare issues. Animal welfare is multifaceted and cannot be assessed using a single measure respectively Iceberg Indicator. However, they provide an initial overview on the welfare state, which could help to estimate the risk to animal welfare. These risk-based controls are required by the EU Control Regulation (2017/625). Similar to an iceberg, where most of it lies below the surface of the water and is thus not visible at first glance, Iceberg Indicators enable the assessment of behaviors or situations even if they are not currently being performed or not present. Iceberg indicators are not meant to replace a full and precise assessment of the welfare of animals but to give only a rough overview to target inspection.

Questions within the survey

Within the survey EURCAW-Pigs provided a preselection of potential 'Iceberg Indicators'. Respondents were asked for each sector (on farm, transport, slaughterhouse) to select one indicator that may serve as an 'Iceberg' or to suggest an alternative 'Iceberg Indicator'.



The following questions were raised:

welfare on farm:

- Docked and/or injured tails
- Mortality
- Frequency of medication use
- I suggest this alternative:

welfare during transport:

- Dead on arrival
- Exhaustion and/or fatigue
- I suggest this alternative:

welfare at slaughter:

- Effectiveness of stunning: percentage of animals that need re-stunning
- Equipment settings: gas concentration and duration of exposure; electrical parameters and point of application (on the body)
- I suggest this alternative:

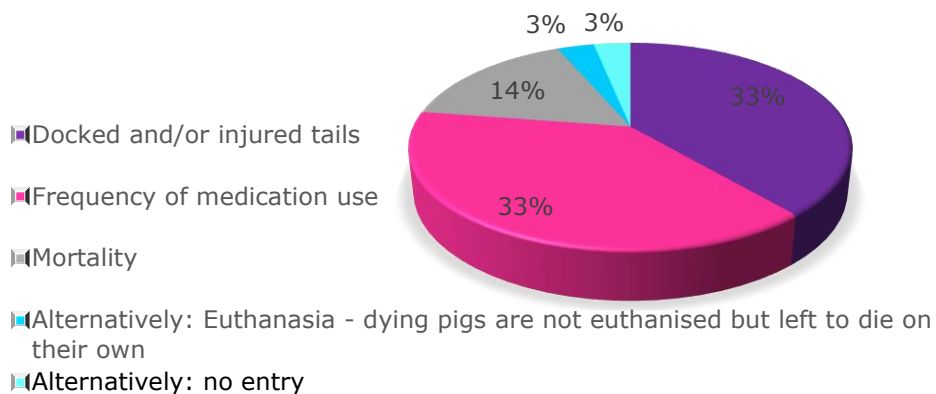
Results of the online survey

Iceberg Indicators to assess animal welfare on farm

| Iceberg indicator | Number | Percentage |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Docked and/or injured tails | 12 | 33% |
| Frequency of medication use | 12 | 33% |
| Mortality | 5 | 14% |
| Alternatively*: Euthanasia - dying pigs are not euthanised but left to die on their own | 1 | 3% |
| Alternatively: no entry | 1 | 3% |
| Response rate | 31 | 86% |

*Alternative suggested: Euthanasia - dying pigs are not euthanised but left to die on their own; general problem connected to genetic: large litter size, consequently a lot of very small and light piglets in the litter which are not capable to survive.

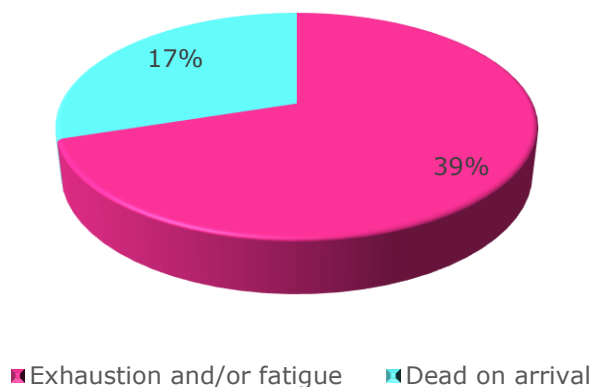
Iceberg Indicators for welfare on farm



Iceberg Indicators to assess animal welfare during/after transport

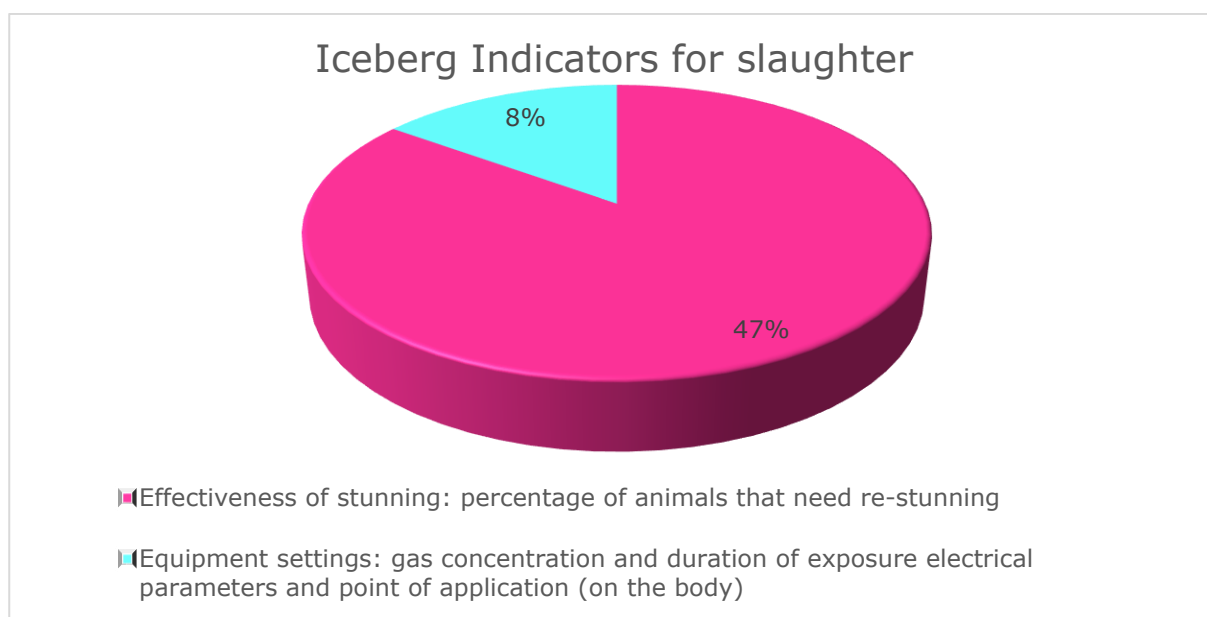
| Iceberg indicator | Number | Percentage |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Exhaustion and/or fatigue | 14 | 39% |
| Dead on arrival | 6 | 17% |
| Response rate | 20 | 56% |

Iceberg Indicators for welfare during transport



Iceberg Indicators to assess animal welfare during slaughter

| Iceberg indicator | Number | Percentage |
|---|--------|------------|
| Effectiveness of stunning: percentage of animals that need re-stunning | 17 | 47% |
| Equipment settings: gas concentration and duration of exposure electrical parameters and point of application (on the body) | 3 | 8% |
| Response rate | 20 | 56% |



Therefore, EURCAW-Pigs will develop three Iceberg Indicator Factsheets by the end of 2022, among these one for "Tail damage/tail lesions", one regarding "Fatigue and non-ambulatory pigs" and the last one regarding "Stunning effectiveness".