



B.Früh¹, M.Holinger¹², S.Dippel³, D.Bochicchio⁴, S.Edwards⁵, D.Holmes⁵, A.Prunier⁶,

G.Illmann⁷, J.Silerova⁷, D.Knop⁸, G.Rudolph⁹, C.Leeb⁹

¹FiBL, 5070 Frick, CH; ²ETH Zürich, 8092 Zürich, CH; ³Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, 29223 Celle, DE; ⁴CRA-SUI, Agricultural Research Council, 41018 San Cesario sul Panaro, IT; ⁵Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, UK; ⁶INRA, 35590 Saint-Gilles, FR; ⁷Institute of Animal Science, 10400 Prague, CZ; ⁸Beratung Artgerechte Tierhaltung eV, 37213 Witzenhausen, DE; ⁹University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), 1180 Vienna, AT

Are organic pig farmers satisfied with their situation and what are their goals?

Background

The ProPIG project aimed to assess animal health and welfare as well as environmental impact on organic pig farms across Europe and to develop farm specific improvement strategies. Additionally farmer's satisfaction with different areas of pig husbandry was evaluated.

Results

- * For the immediate future, most farmers were aiming to improve either health, performance or welfare.
- * Improving welfare was exclusively a topic for indoor or partly outdoor farmers, whereas improving performance was proportionally more often mentioned by outdoor farmers.
- * 9% and 38% of indoor farmers were very satisfied with the health and welfare situation, respectively, at the first visit whereas on outdoor farms 50% were very satisfied with both health and welfare.
- * Outdoor farmers were less satisfied with the production level.

Conclusions

Our results show that organic pig farmers, in general and especially when pigs are kept indoors, are aware of problems relating to animal health and welfare and are willing to improve.

Methods

- * Semi-qualitative interviews were conducted on 63 farms (34 indoor, 17 partly outdoor, 12 outdoor) during farm visits 1 and 3 within the project to evaluate the farmer's satisfaction with the status quo, perception of future aims and ideas for improvement.
- * The question concerning goals was posed as open question. Afterwards the answers were categorized into 11 categories. Because answers often included several issues, two categories were fitted per answer.

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Research question

Do goals and satisfaction of farmers differ between pig production systems (indoor, outdoor, partly outdoor) and are the farmers satisfied with their situation?

