



Intact tails in practice

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Grisekongressen

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Agenda

- Why long tails?
- Long tails in Denmark
- Long tails in Europe
- The WelFarmers project
- Challenges identified in WelFarmers
- Good practices - solutions
- Finnish pig production
- Long tails in Finland
- Recommendations for Danish farmers

Why long tails?

- The issue is not just the tail docking moment –
A docked tail is sensitive all life long

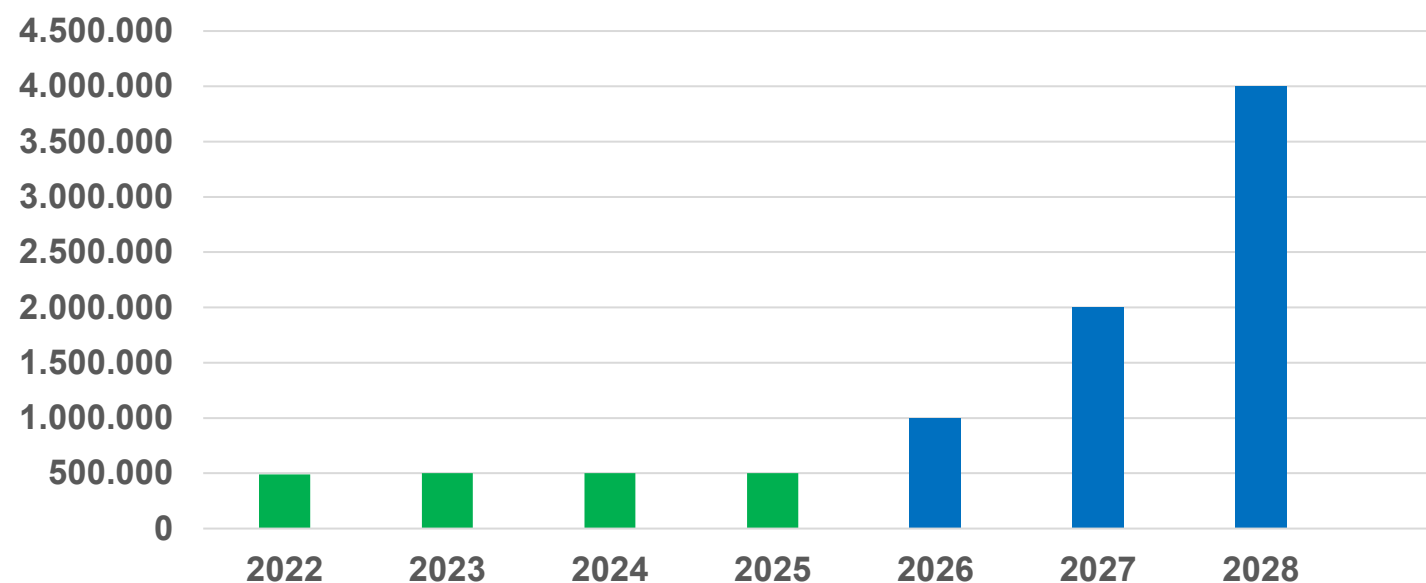
EU-law stating:

Neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out **routinely** but only where there is **evidence** that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred. Before carrying out these procedures, **other measures shall be taken to prevent tail-biting** and other vices, considering environment and stocking densities. For this reason, inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed.

Status long tails Denmark 2025

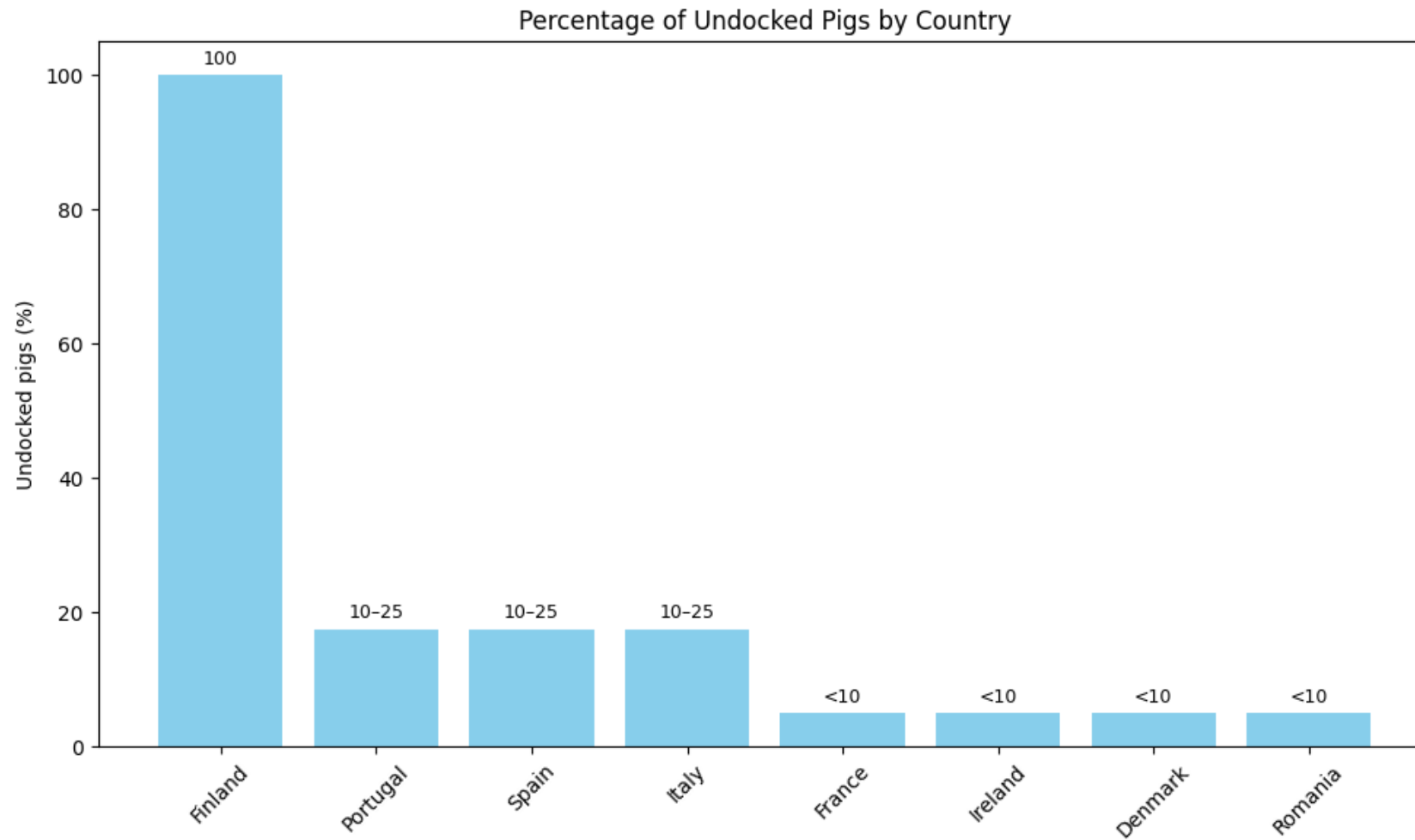
- 500.000 pigs out of 14 million
- 2026: 1 million out of 14 million
- The Taxbased Model (Omfordelingsmodellen)

Danish pigs produced with long tails



Source: Landbrug & Fødevarer, sektor for Gris

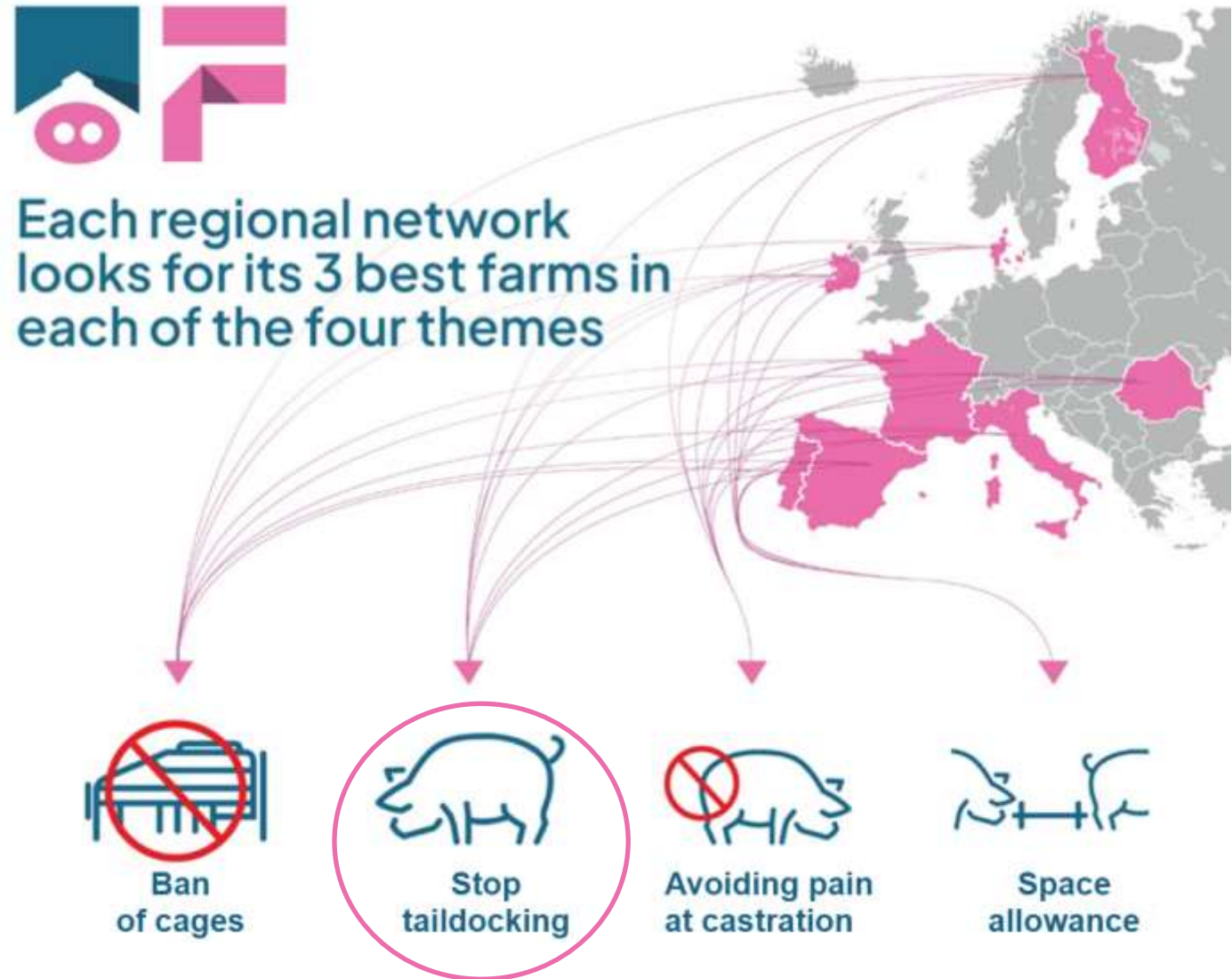
Status long tails Europe



Source: WelFarmers

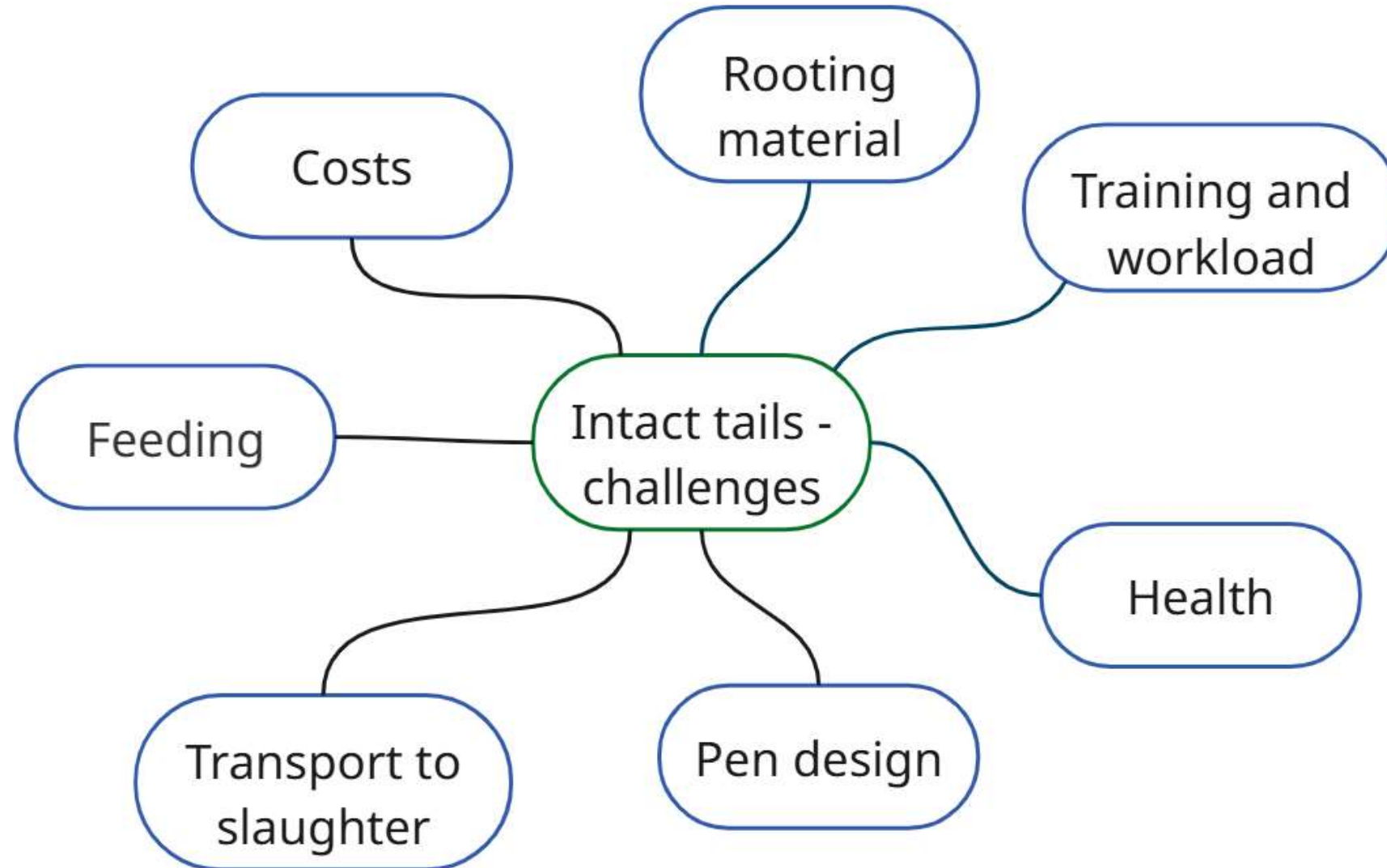
WelFarmers

- 8 EU countries
- 4 subjects
- 192 Good Practices from EU pig producers
- First 96 has been collected



Source: WelFarmers

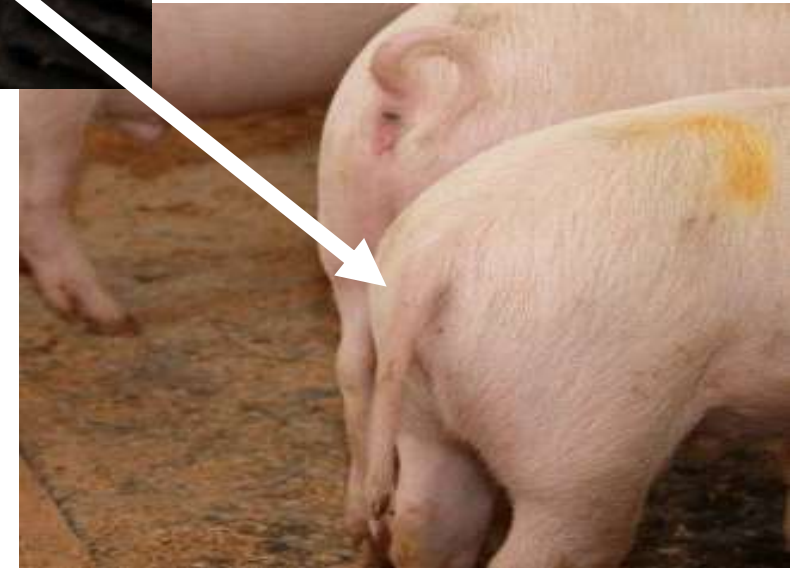
Challenges identified by the Danish Regional Network



Challenges – Rooting material



Challenges – Training and workload

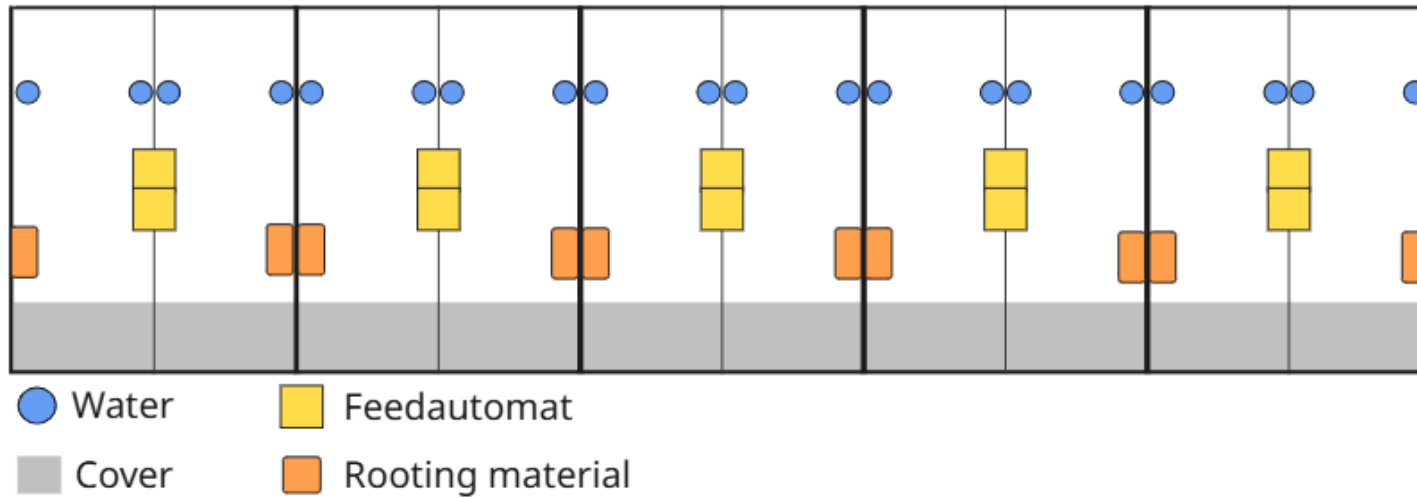


Challenges – Health

10



Challenges – Pen design

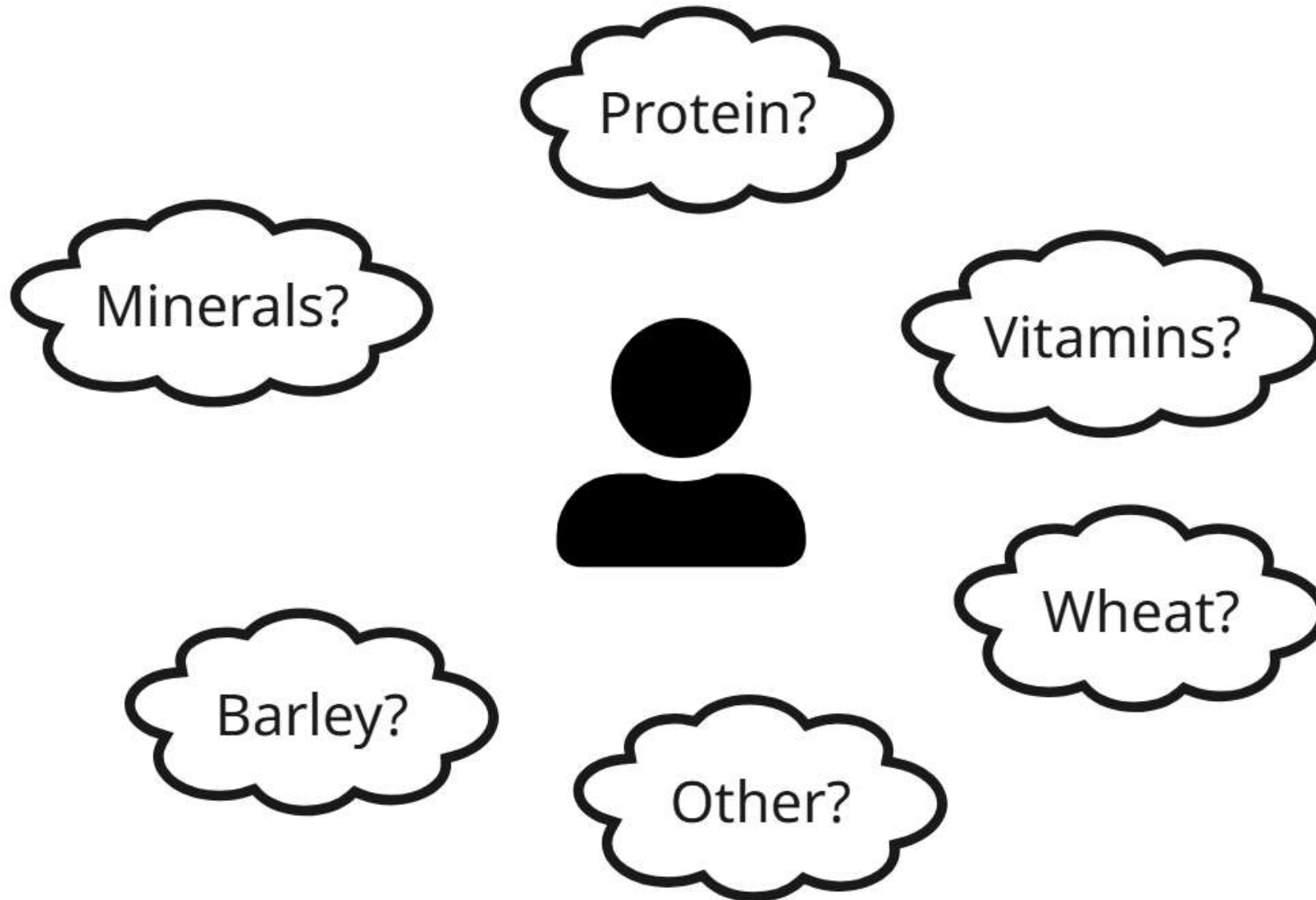


Challenges – Transport to slaughter



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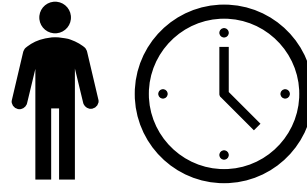
Challenges – Feeding



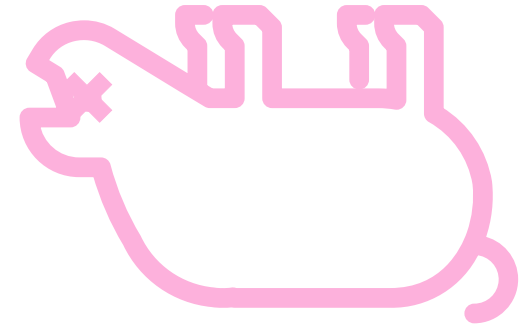
Challenges – Costs



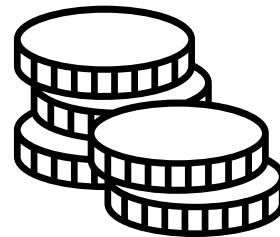
Rooting material



Workload and time

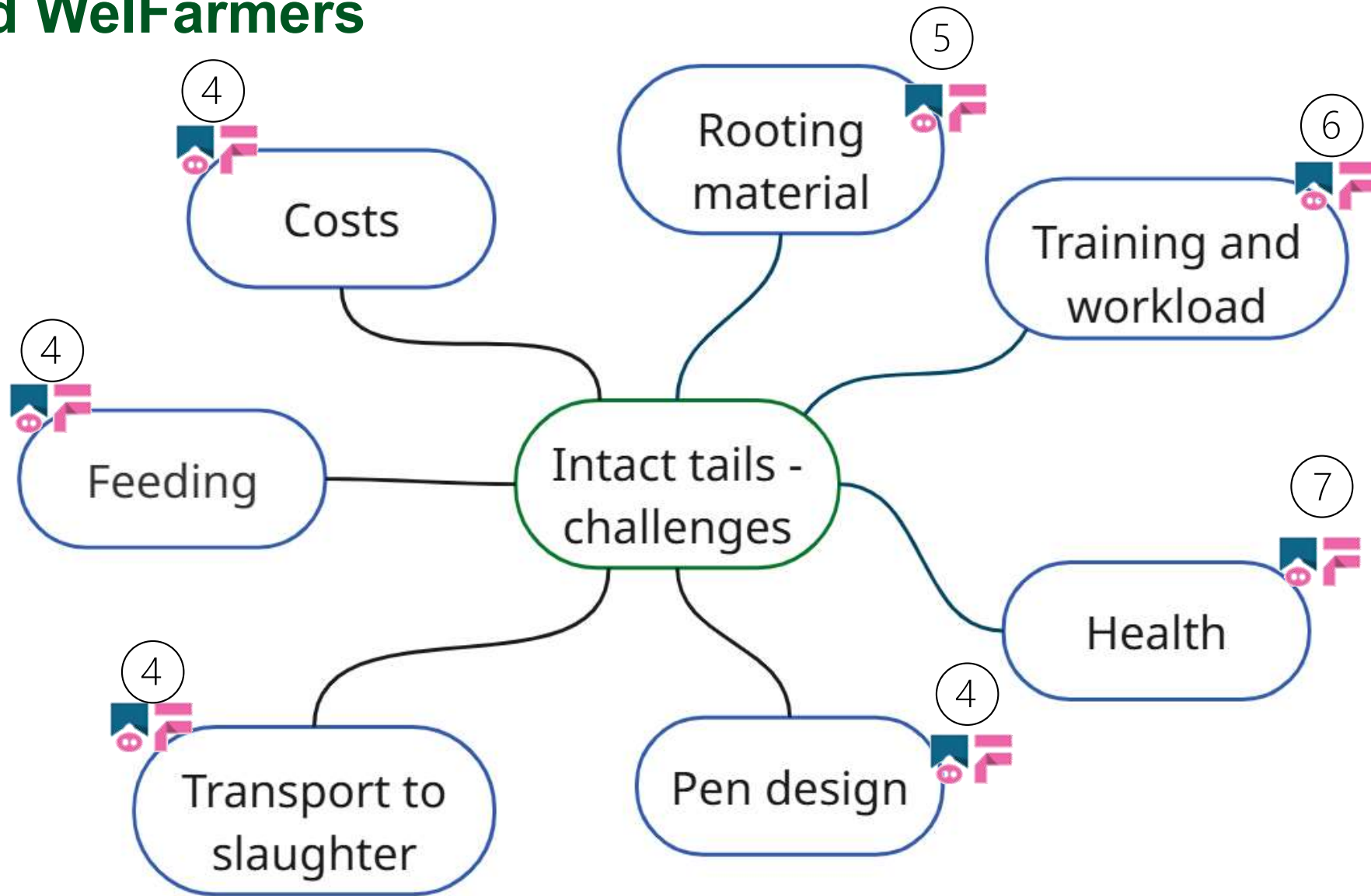


Dead pigs

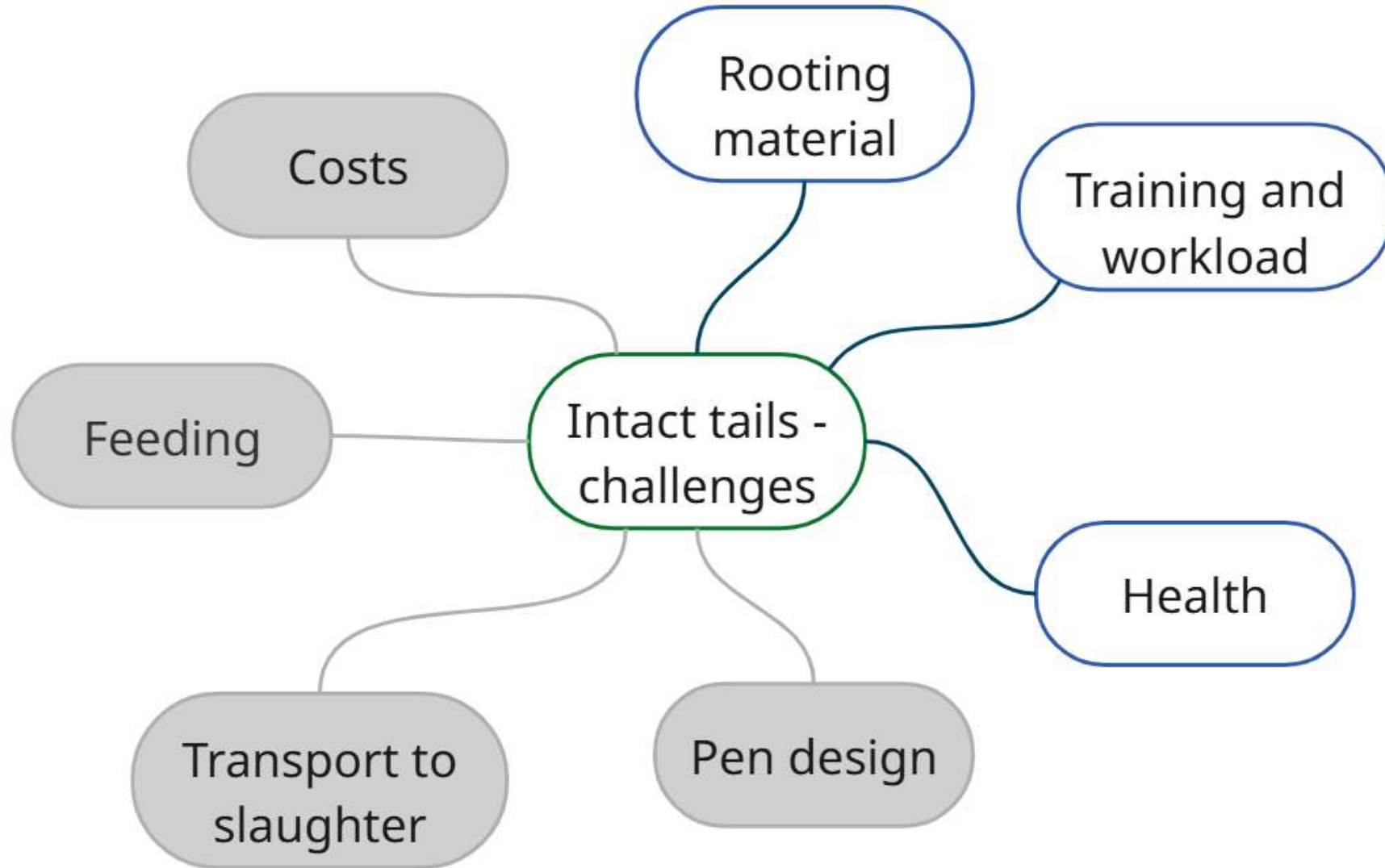


Challenges identified by the Danish Regional Network and WelFarmers

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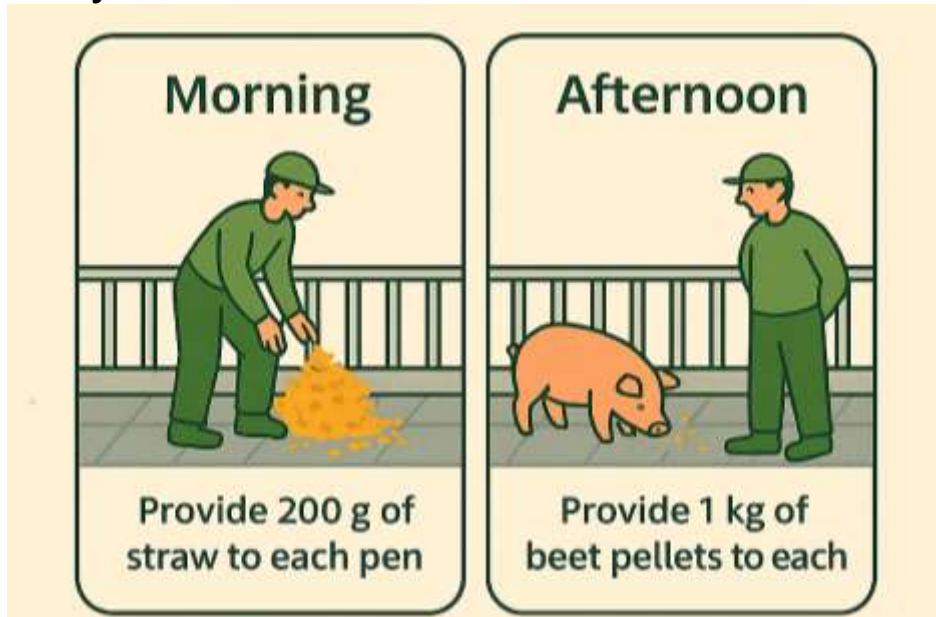
Good Practices for the Challenges



Good practices – Rooting material

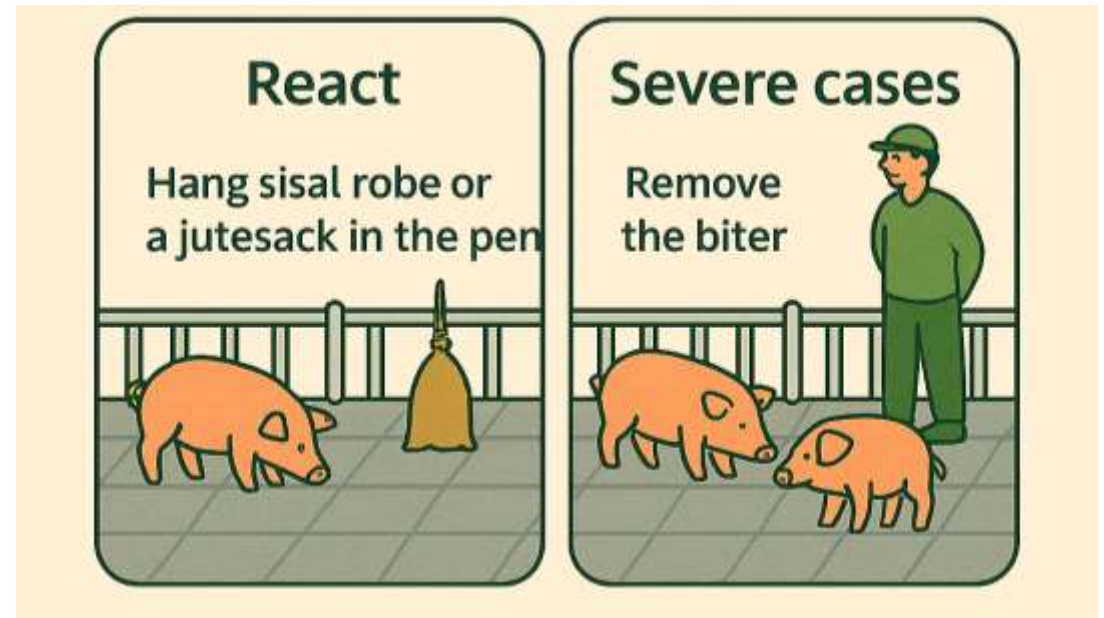
- More and changing rooting material

Daily



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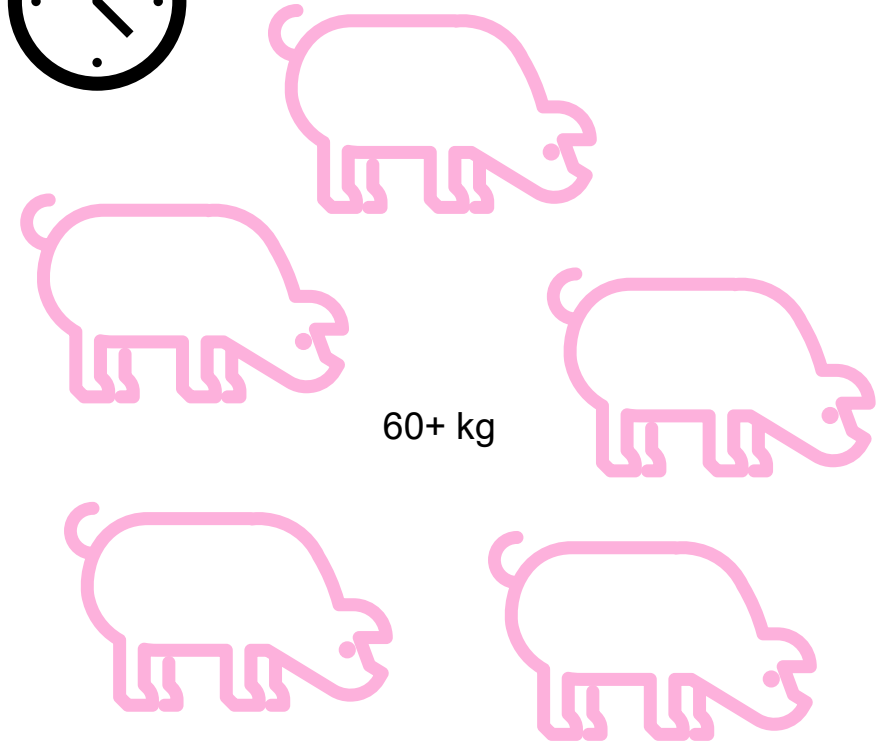
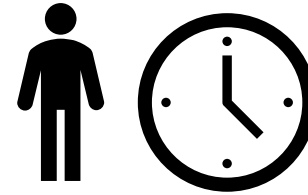
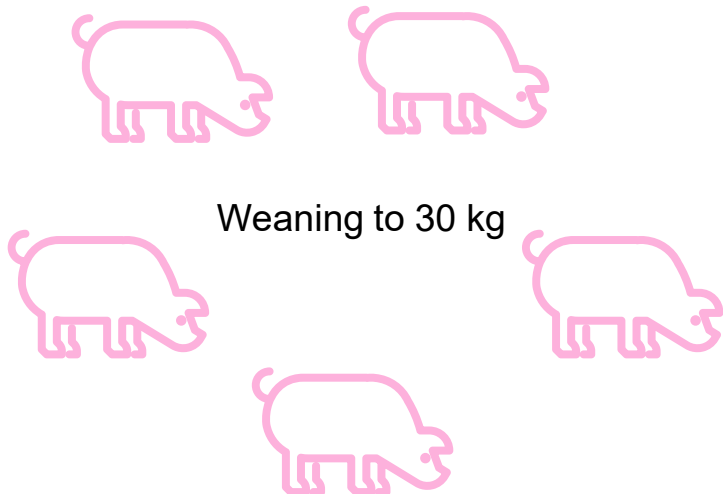
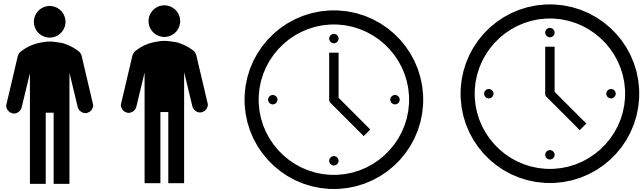
Tail biting outbreak



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Good practices – Workload and training

- Use your time based on risk



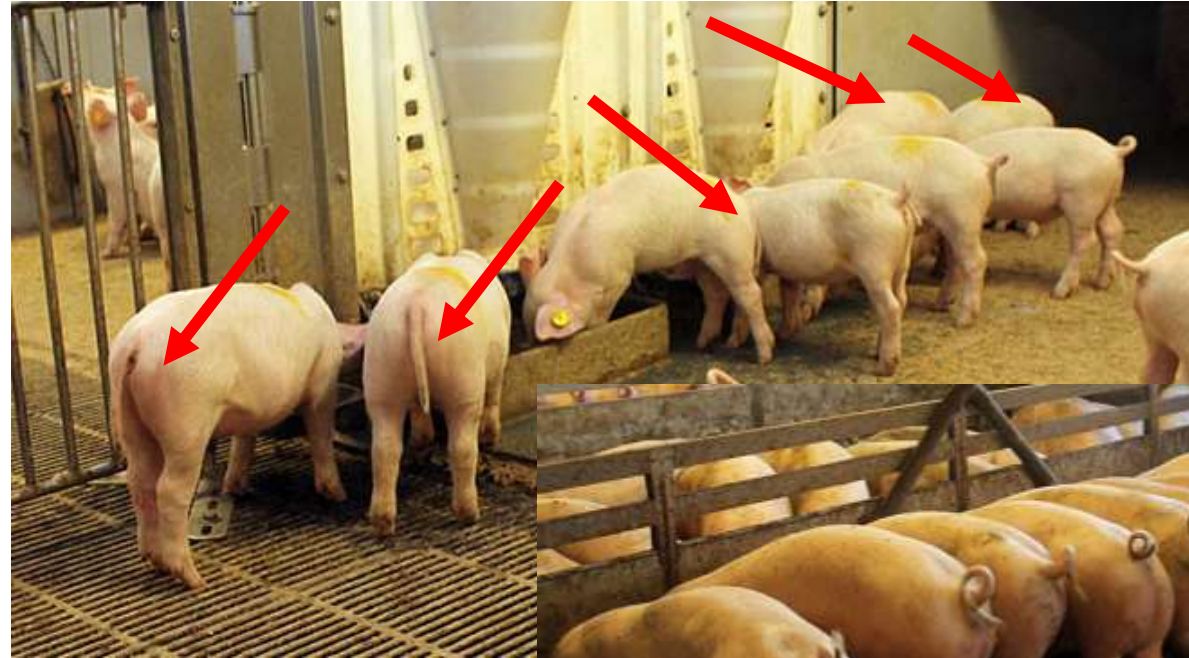
Good practices – Workload and training

- ✓ Use your time based on risk
- Hanging tails



Good practices – Workload and training

- ✓ Use your time based on risk
- Hanging tails



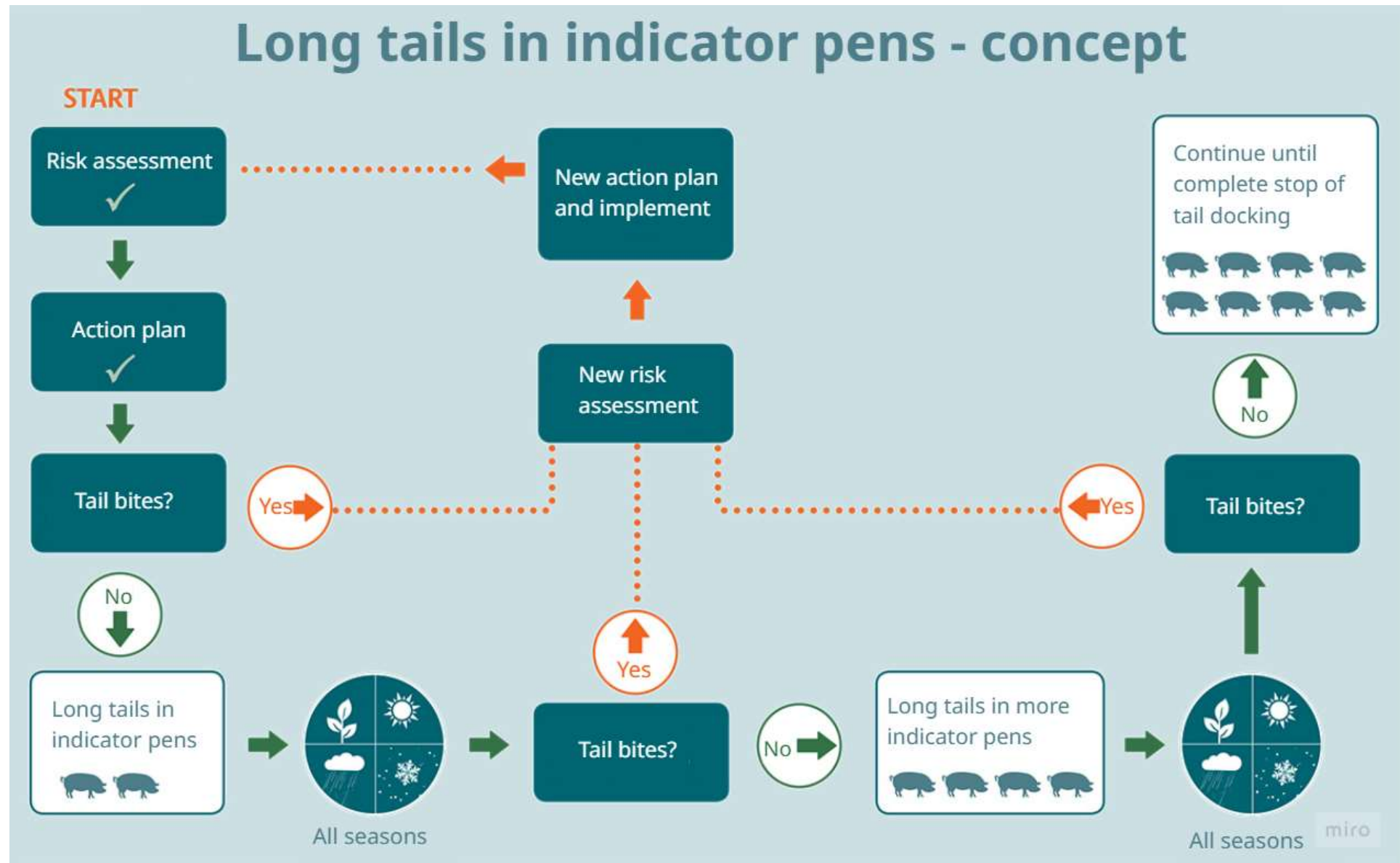
Good practices – Workload and training

- ✓ Use your time based on risk
- Hanging tails



Good practices – Workload and training

- ✓ Use your time based on risk
- ✓ Hanging tails
- Indicator pens



Good practices – Health

- Good preparation
- Early intervention
- Hanging tails
- Indicator pens



Agenda

- ✓ Long tails in Denmark
- ✓ Long tails in Europe
- ✓ The WelFarmers project
- ✓ Challenges identified in WelFarmers
- ✓ Good practices - solutions
 - Finnish pig production
 - Long tails in Finland
 - Recommendations for Danish farmers



PIG Consulting Oy, Aki Alitupa

Alituvan tila

The company produces approx. 62.000 35kg pigs/year

- ▶ Aki: entrepreneur for 22 years
- ▶ Fifth generation
- ▶ No piglet production in the previous generation
- ▶ In the agricultural business, the company has focused on pig production
- ▶ Turnover approx. 5.5-6.0 M EUR
- ▶ Farm own field approx. 300 ha



7 Limited liability companies – appr. 100 employees

PIG Consulting Oy

- ▶ Since 2015
- ▶ A concept for the development of pig farm management (PIG Consulting Oy)
- ▶ The customers companies produce about 50% of Finland's pork
- ▶ Over 15% of the piglets born in Finland are produced through this concept
- ▶ Staffing services for all livestock farms

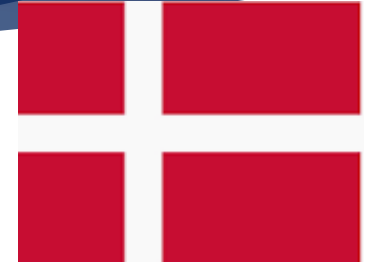
- ▶ All Inclusive Concept for piglet producing companies
 - ▶ Human resources management
 - ▶ Production control will be outsourced
 - ▶ Temporary staffing services
 - ▶ Training and hiring of Filipino workforce



Pig production in Finland



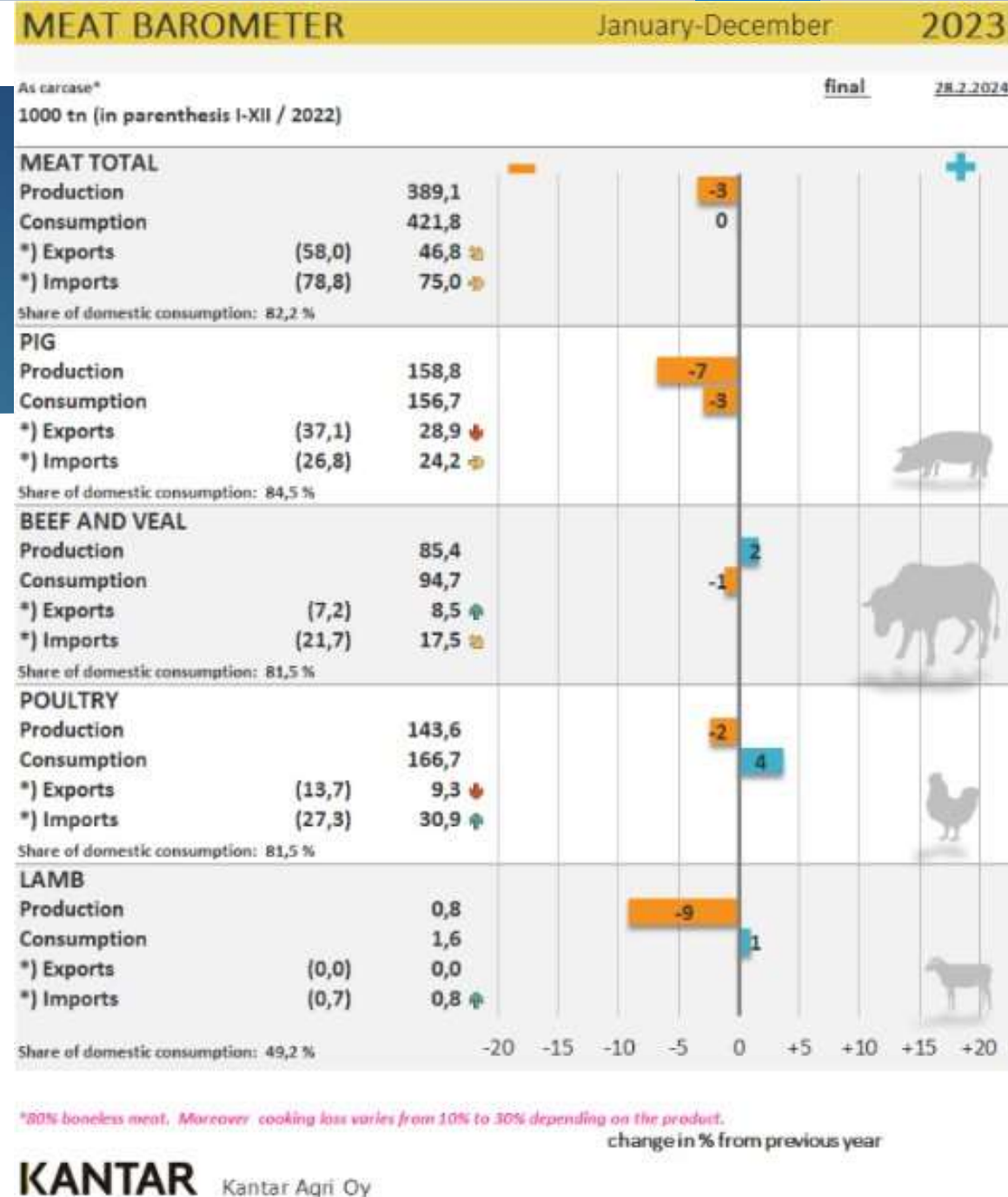
- ▶ 5,6 million people
- ▶ 70,000 Sows
- ▶ 2,1 million Weaners
- ▶ 2 million Slaughter pigs
- ▶ Avg. 270-280 year sows/farm



- ▶ 6 million people
- ▶ 943,000 Sows
- ▶ 29 million Weaners
- ▶ 14 million Slaughter pigs
- ▶ Avg. 800 year sows/farm

Pig production in Finland

- Pig production is the biggest meat sector in Finland
- Approx. 650 farms, but the number is decreasing: -10 % annual rate.
- Production plummeted in 2023 due to economic crisis



Alituvan tila



Farm production

- ▶ Approx. 35 piglets/sow/year sold
- ▶ Every week, around 1,250 piglets are weaned
- ▶ In addition, a separate intermediate nursery facility Mynäpossu Oy (40% of the pigs)
- ▶ 13 people work at the Alitupa farm

Transition time

- Finland's animal protection law change was signed 7.11.2002, the total ban of tail docking was introduced 1.1.2003
= **transition time of 54 days.**
- **Only few farms docked tails during years 1996-2002**
- Today we have **21 years of experience with long tails**

How to prevent tail biting?



1. Pen and feeding



Long feeding trough /
Space for eating

2/3 solid floor
- (legal requirements)



One litter – one pen

2. Rooting material

- ▶ 2/3 solid floor make it possible to use straw



3. Space

Weight, kg		Minimum floor area, m ² per pig	
< 10 kg		0,15	0,15
10-95 kg		0,17 + (weight kg/130)	10-20 kg – 0,20 21-30 kg – 0,30 31-50 kg – 0,40 51-85 kg – 0,55 86-110 kg – 0,65
95-107 kg		0,90	85-110 kg – 0,65
107-130 kg		1,00	> 110 kg – 1,00
> 130 kg		1,20	-



Weaners (32 kg) – 0,42 m² per pig



Weaners (32 kg) – 0,40 m² per pig

3. Space

- ▶ Compensation/support:

- ▶ More than 5% tail-bite at slaughterhouse = Non
- ▶ Less than 5% tail-bite at slaughterhouse = Compensation

- ▶ Example:

- ▶ The farm has 1,000 piglets.
- ▶ Two batches of 2,000 pigs were sold in the first part year and 2,000 pigs in the second part of the year.
- ▶ Compensation paid is $(€59 \times 4,000 \text{ pigs} \times 0.3 \text{ animalunits}) / 3.2 \text{ (average operating rate)} = €22,125$



4. Management

- ▶ Training of employees
- ▶ Be aware – one step ahead
- ▶ React immediately
- ▶ Spot the "biter"
- ▶ Check the environment
 - ▶ Ventilation
 - ▶ Feeding



Recommendations for Danish farmers

- ▶ Priority order
 - ▶ Space for the pigs
 - ▶ Feeding space per animal
 - ▶ Straw / rooting material
 - ▶ Train employees to react
 - ▶ Daily environment control



QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention

Kiitos huomiosta

Tak for opmærksomheden