



# German pig production under pressure

SEGES – GRISEKONGRES 2021 - Herning  
Roger Fechler

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Foto: DBV

[www.bauernverband.de](http://www.bauernverband.de)

- **A few figures of german pig production**
  
- **New German Legislation**
  - Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz)
    - Castration (since 01.01.2021)
  - Animal Welfare and Livestock Husbandry Ordinance
    - Sows, service-unit (since 29.01.2021, but transition period of 8 years)
    - Farrowing-unit (since 29.01.2021, but transition period of 15 years)
  
- **livestock-strategy („Borchert-Plan“)**
  
- **African Swine Fever**

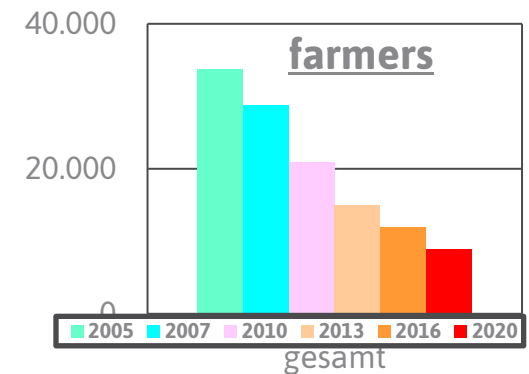
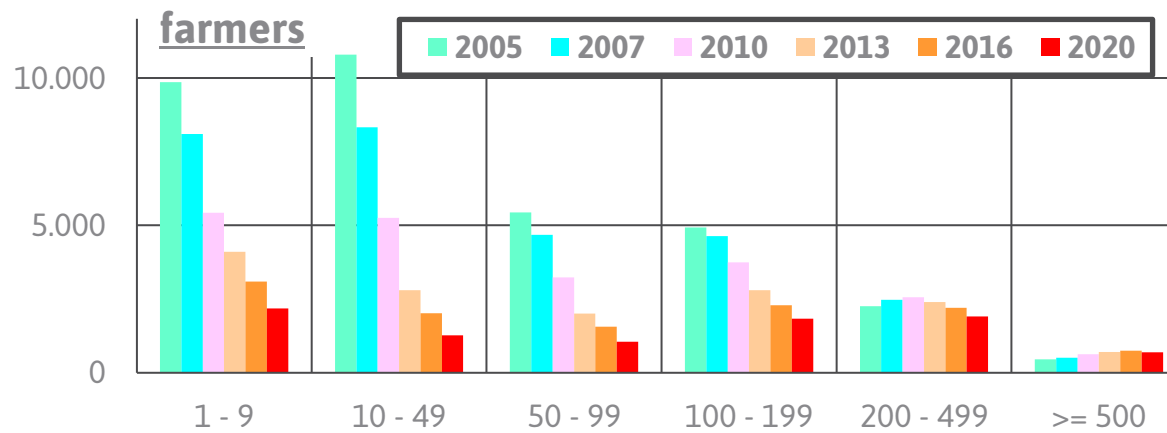
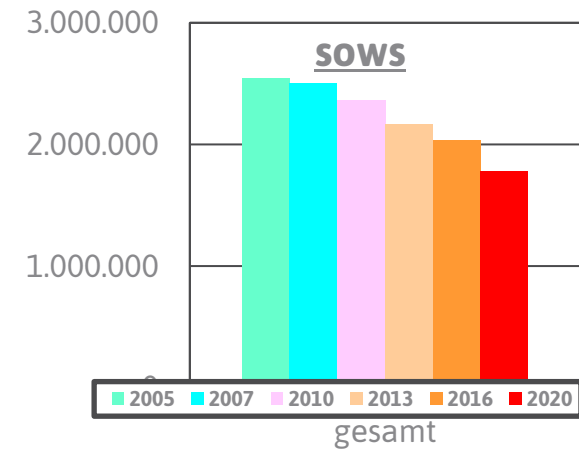
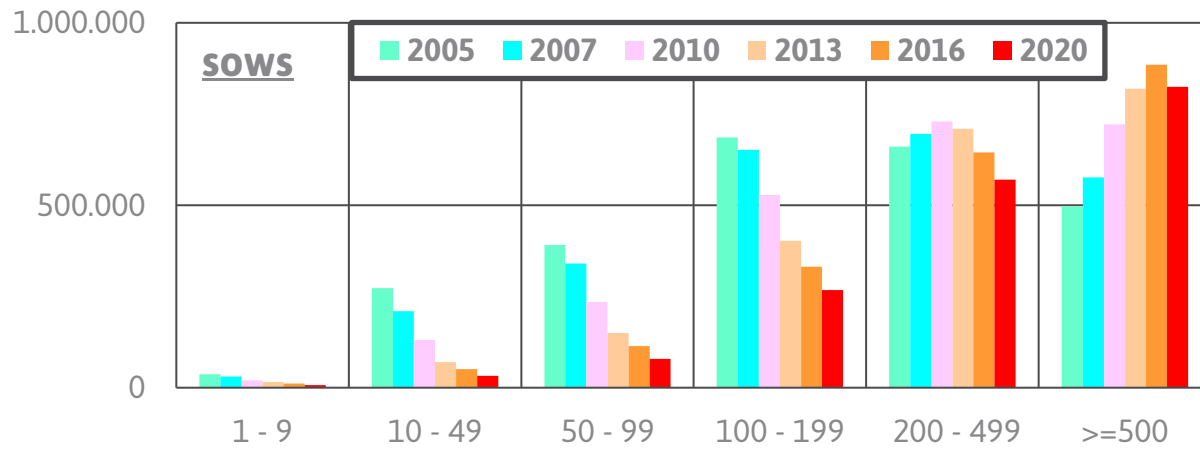
# A few facts on German pig production



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# Structural change: Sows and farms in Germany

Source: Agricultural structure survey, Destatis Fachserie 3 Reihe 2.1.3 (2005 based on Eurostat, >= 200 sows estimated)



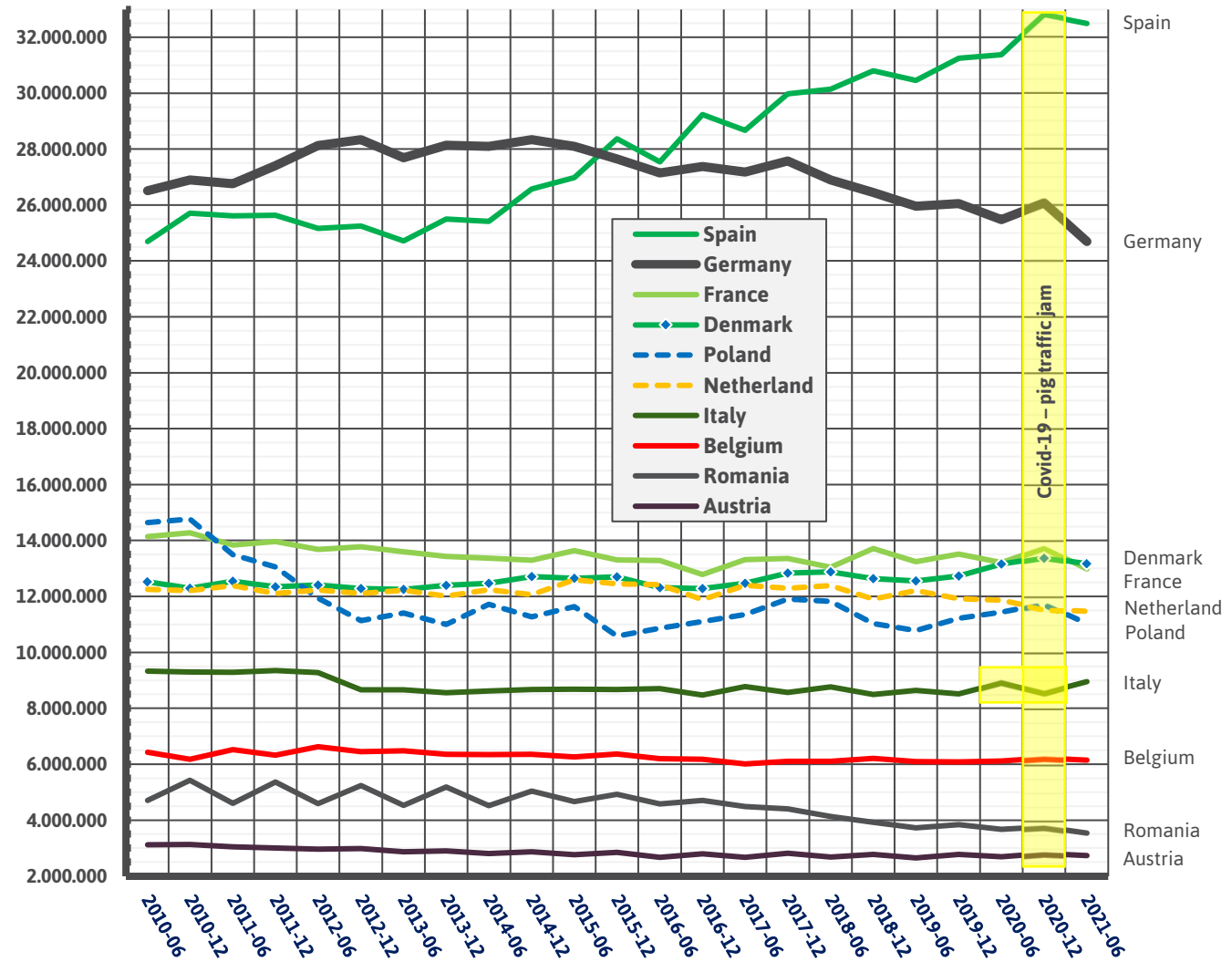
# Livestock in millions of pigs

Self-sufficiency, pig-meat, Germany:

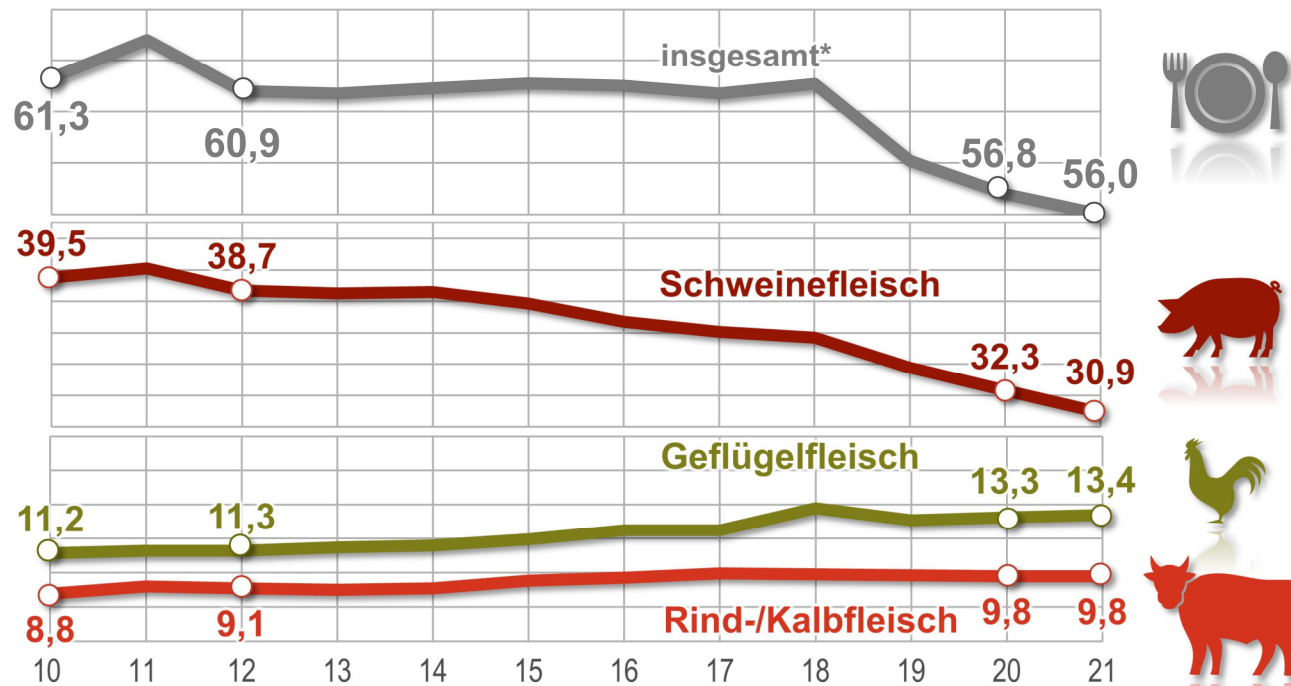
2019: 122%

2020: 127%

2021: 133% (estimated)



## Per capita consumption<sup>\*)</sup> of meat is falling in Germany in kg / year



\*) After deduction of bones, fodder, industrial utilization and losses 2020 vorläufig, 2021 AMI-Schätzung.

# African Swine Fever



# African Swine Fever

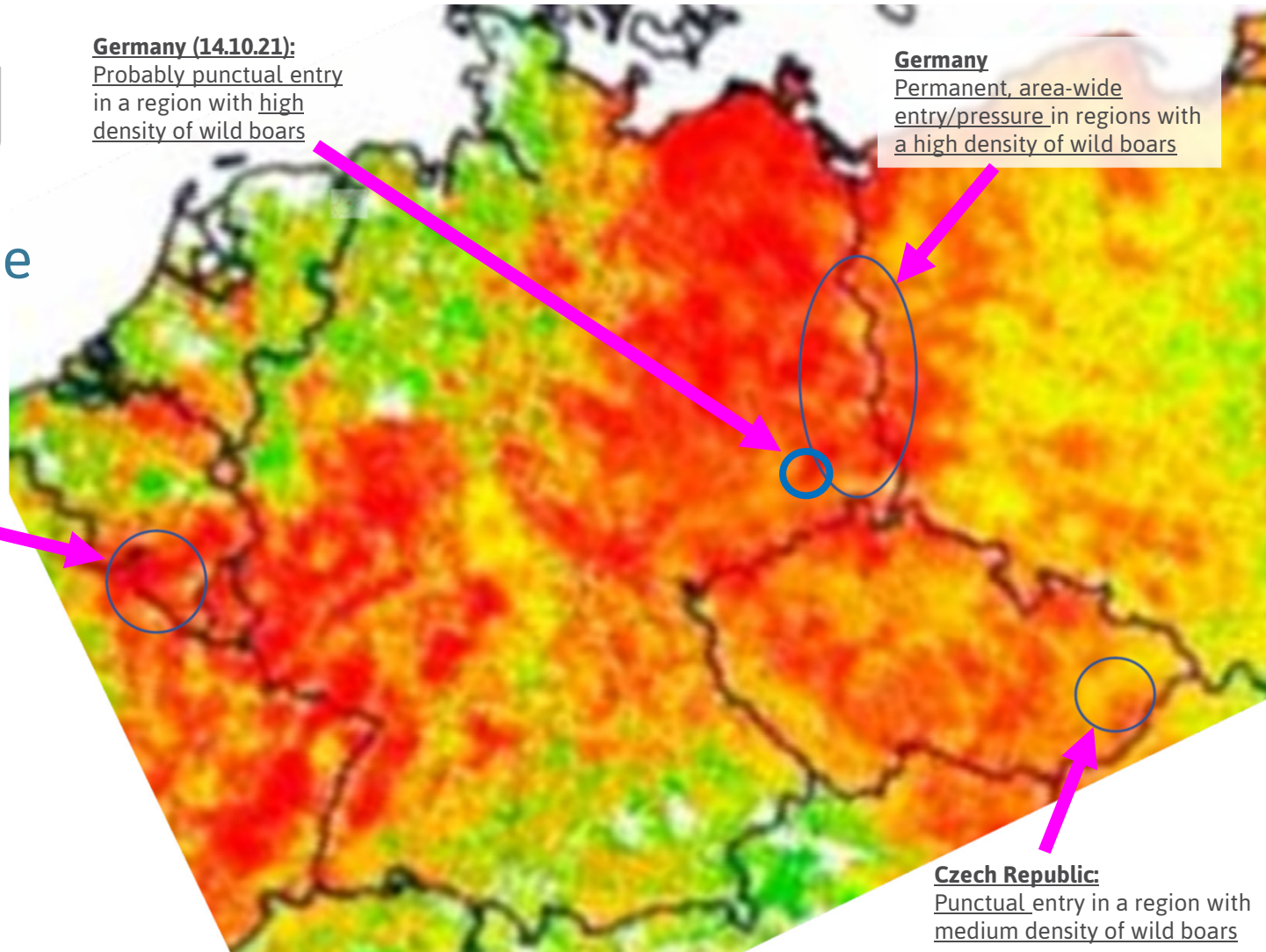
**Belgium:**  
Punctual entry in a region with high density of wild boars

## Wild boars density in Europe

- approximately -  
(green = low;  
red = high)

**Germany (14.10.21):**  
Probably punctual entry in a region with high density of wild boars

**Germany**  
Permanent, area-wide entry/pressure in regions with a high density of wild boars



**Czech Republic:**  
Punctual entry in a region with medium density of wild boars





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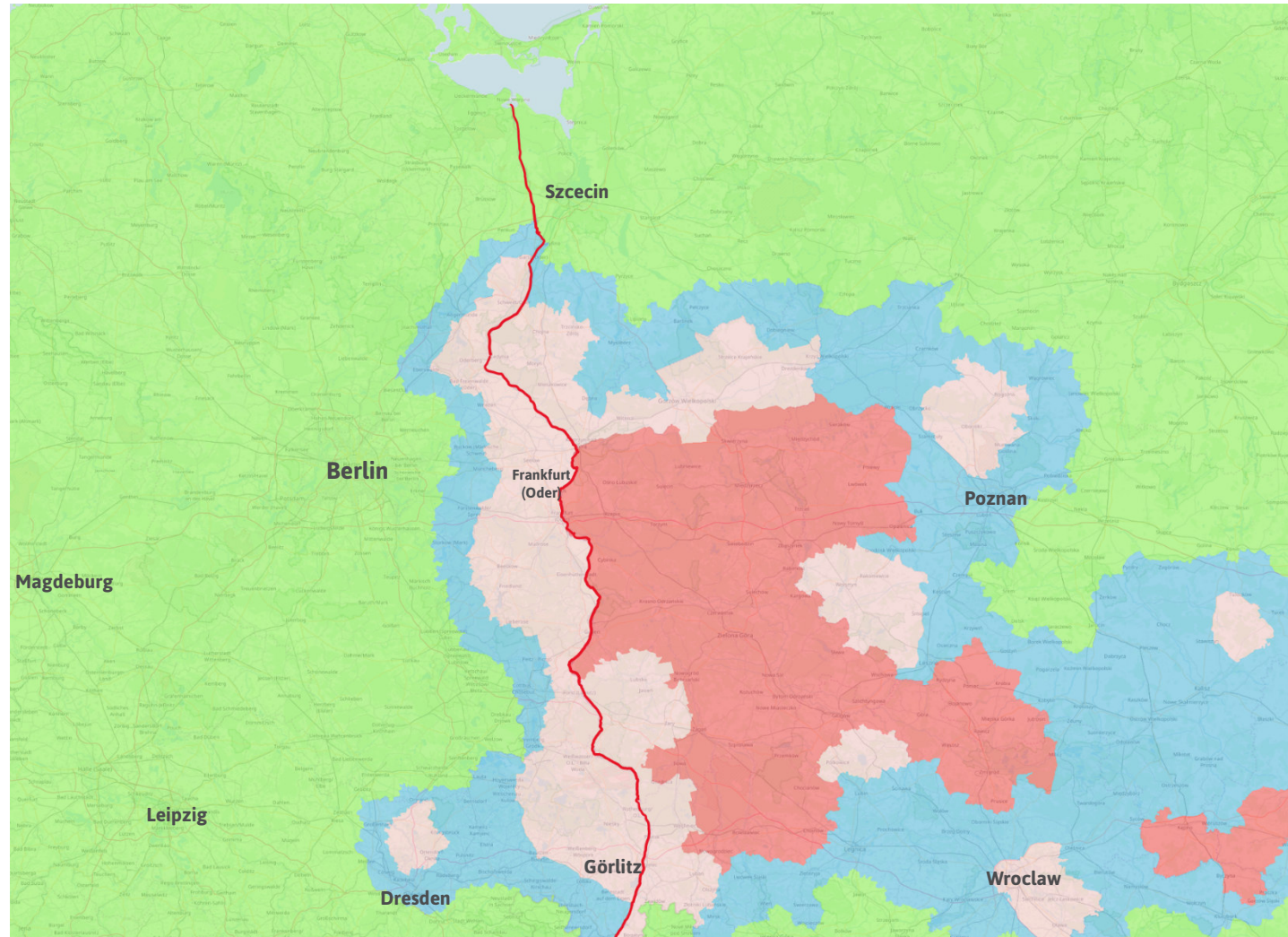
## African Swine Fever

### Restriction areas on the German-Polish border (21.10.2021)

Based on:

<https://santegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=45cdd657542a437c84bfc9cf1846ae8c>

Restricted zone I = blue  
Restricted zone II = pink  
Restricted zone III = red



# New German legislation

## Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz), End of castration without anesthesia, 01.01.2021

### **Possible procedures in germany and estimated current market-share:**

- young boars (15% – 20%)
- Improvac (1% – 2%)
- Ketamin/Azaperone (15% - 20%) only by a veterinarian
- Isoflurane (58% – 69%) permitted by a farmer with a certificate of competence

### **Not allowed resp. under investigation (possibly in 3 – 5 years at the earliest if the result of a current study by the BMEL is positive)**

- local anesthesia

**Current situation:** Local anesthesia does not meet the high standards of animal welfare that German scientists and politicians place on animal welfare based on **current German** knowledge.

## Animal Welfare and Livestock Husbandry Ordinance (Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung; 08.02.2021)

### Service-Unit:

- The **exit from crate keeping** must be provided within a **transition period of basically eight years**; 3 years (reconstruction-concept or exit-decision)  
+ 2 years (building application or exit) + 3 years (implementing barn conversion)  
+ 2 years (hardship).
- **After eight years**, sows can **only be fixed at the time of insemination**.
- The **existing crate stands** may continue to be kept within the **transition period** of eight years, **provided that** there is no structural obstacle to the pig when the limbs/legs are stretched out sideways.
- ...

## Animal Welfare and Livestock Husbandry Ordinance (Tierschutz-Nutztierhaltungsverordnung; 08.02.2021)

➤ ...

➤ **Future design of the breeding center in the period from weaning of the piglets to insemination**

- **Minimum floor area of 5 m<sup>2</sup>, including:**

- Minimum lying area per sow: 1.3 m<sup>2</sup>
- Activity area (*not regulation but recommendation: Escape distance of 15 m*)
- Retreat-area (the lower rank sow should be able to hide) “to a sufficient extent”
- Feeding and laying loungers (cages) or insemination-stands (cages)

➤ **Further regulations**, which also affect the area of **fattening pigs** with regard especially to the enrichment material (organic and rich in fibers)

## Animal Welfare and Livestock Husbandry Ordinance (Tierschutz-Nutztierhaltungsverordnung; 08.02.2021)

### Waiting-Area:

- At the time of insemination, begins the phase for the sows in the waiting area with the known area specifications from the current livestock husbandry ordinance.

No changes to the current legal situation for the waiting area.

- Group  $\leq 5$  sows: 2,50 qm
- Group with 6 – 39 sows: 2,25 qm
- Group  $\geq 40$  sows: 2,05 qm

## Farrowing-Unit:

### After a transition period of fifteen years:

- **Farrowing pens enlarged to 6,5 m<sup>2</sup>; min. 2,2 m length of the piglet protection basket.**
- Reduction of the **stay** in the piglet protection basket to **5 days**.



# Livestock strategy („Borchert-Plan“)

## Key question on the livestock husbandry debate

(Prof. Dr. Folkhard Isermeyer, President of Thünen-Institute)

### Where does Germany want to lead livestock husbandry:

- minimal costs in order to be able to keep up with global competition
  - predominantly cost-minimal, but supplemented by animal welfare and market segments (e.g. initiative for animal welfare or organic farming)
  - **a high level of animal welfare, mandatory for all livestock kept in Germany**
- ➔ **„BMEL competence network” is clearly pursuing option 3!**

## Further development in stages/levels

### Orientation of the levels on the BMEL-label (Draft) and on the type of housing designation of the food retail trade ([www.haltungsform.de](http://www.haltungsform.de)):

- **Level 1 / stable plus:** more space (+20%), more activity materials, etc.
- **Level 2 / improved stables:** additional space (+47%), structuring; climatic zones with contact to the outside climate if possible; partially **solid/closed ground**, etc.; new buildings with contact to the outside climate; conversions where possible with contact to the outside climate.
- **Level 3 / Premium:** more space than in levels 1 and 2 (+91%), exercise or grazing (cattle, poultry), etc.; this level should largely be based on the animal welfare standards of organic farming.

**Long-term goal:** transition to level 2 till 2040; from 2030 all farmers in level 1

## Livestock strategy („Borchert-Plan“)

- In July 2020 there was a **fundamental decision in the Bundestag** (= parliament) to advance this idea. Numerous details remain to be resolved.
- According to **current calculations**, the necessary financial volume in the form of necessary **annual payments to the farmers** (pigs, cattle, dairy, poultry) amounts of **of approx. 3.6 billion euros per year** (of which approx. 2 billion euros for pigs) after the complete conversion of the livestock husbandry in 2040!
- It should **compensate for the competitive difference** between the much higher animal welfare level in Germany compared to the EU.
- It **can or must be reduced** to the extent that the **level of animal welfare increases in Europe** and approaches the high level sought in Germany.
- The **counter-financing** should take the form of a so-called animal welfare tax for the consumer (**e.g. 0.40 euros / kg meat**).

- feasibility-study (02.03.2021)
- impact-assessment-study (03.05.2021)

**Download-Link for both studies and further information:**

<https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/tiere/nutztiere/umbau-nutztierhaltung.html#:~:text=Zentrale%20Ergebnisse%20der%20Folgenabsch%3%A4tzung%3Azuversichtlich%20in%20die%20Zukunft%20blicken.>

- **DBV-Position:**
  - "It works" - no further delays!
  - Sort priorities correctly:
    - clarify / provide financing (financing for the farmers)
    - secure earmarking of funds (re-financing)
    - end blockade of building rights
    - specify criteria

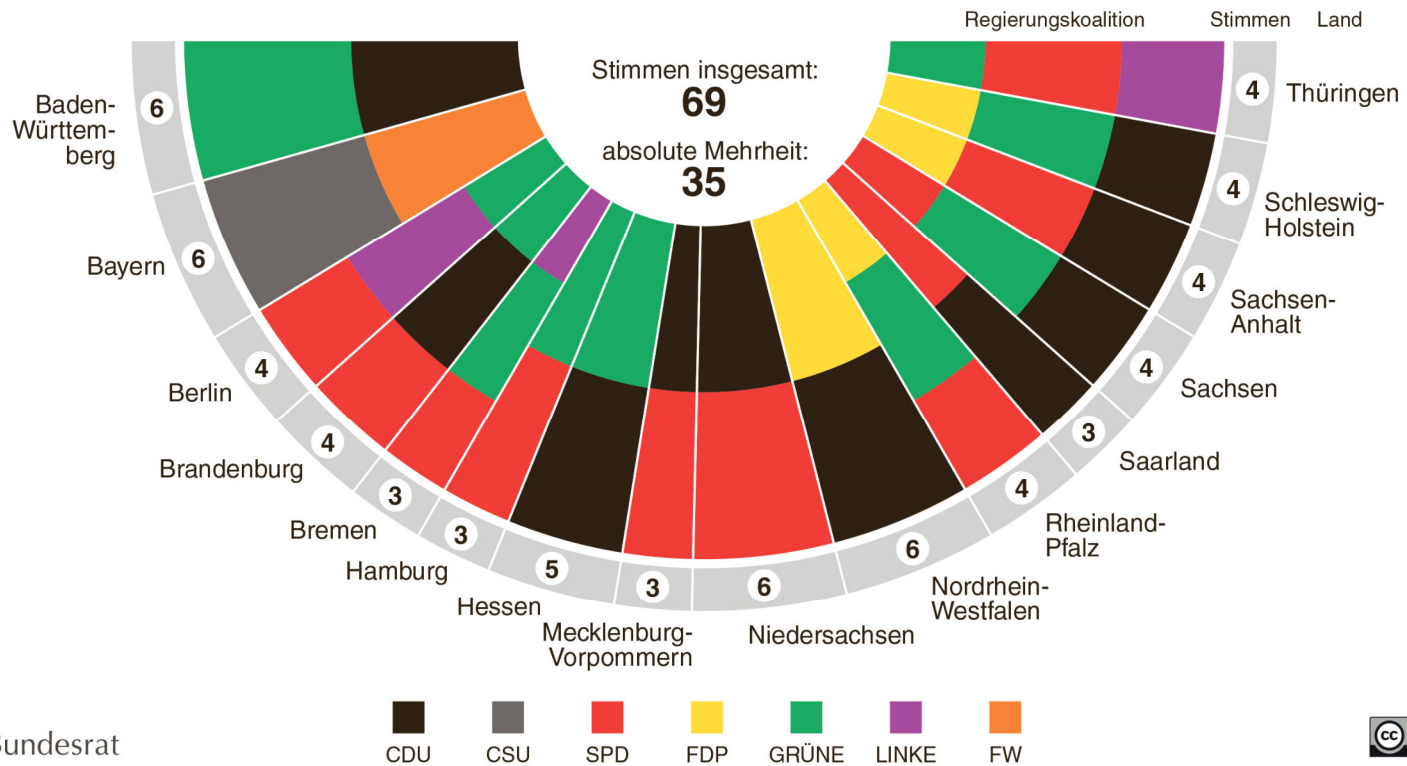
# Political environment in Germany (and Europe)

# Bundesrat (since 16.09.2021; Status: 21.10.2021)

Source: <https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/bundesrat/verteilung/verteilung-node.html>

## Die Zusammensetzung des Bundesrates

seit 16. September 2021





## 10 theses by DBV Vice President Werner Schwarz where agriculture will stand in 2046

Source: [https://www.topagrar.com/management-und-politik/news/werner-schwarz-10-thesen-zur-zukunft-der-landwirtschaft-12493737.html?utm\\_campaign=st%E2%80%A6](https://www.topagrar.com/management-und-politik/news/werner-schwarz-10-thesen-zur-zukunft-der-landwirtschaft-12493737.html?utm_campaign=st%E2%80%A6)

He made it clear for his 10 theses:

“I emphasize that I **do not represent what we want or what we are fighting for**. It also remains important to observe developments, opinions and trends yourself and to **continuously adjust your own assessment.**”

**7. The politically desired restructuring of agriculture will lead to significant shifts in emphasis, perhaps even to a break in the system.**

**My thesis:** We are facing a system break, as in energy production or the automotive sector.

**European and national politics** are willing to act determined, if not to say **ruthless, when it comes to protecting the environment and the climate** and for a long time will not take economic interests and competitiveness into account.

## Conclusion

- Germany is on the way to very high animal welfare standards.
- This high standards are required not only by **NGOs**, but also by **politicians** from almost all parties, leading scientists, official veterinarians, retailers and an increasing proportion of the public/citizen.
- If this path is taken further, Germany faces a system break and will decouple itself from the European market.
- This is possible because the European Union demands minimum standards but not a maximum limit.
- **German pig farmers expect that from now on all imports will meet the same increasing animal welfare standards as in Germany.**

## Conclusion

- It will be decisive for German farmers that politicians and above all the entire value chain from the slaughterhouses to processors, food retailers, system catering and restaurants to the consumer all together support this path through their actions (consumer-citizen-gap).
- An important element in safeguarding this path is a **mandatory labelling** of the husbandry and origin.
- In principle, it is not good if a single country within the European Union or within the European internal market deviates so far from the European standard.
- It would be desirable for the European Union to set out on a common path to better animal welfare in practicable, feasible steps for farmers in all Member States.



## Deutscher Bauernverband e. V.


Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7  
10117 Berlin

 DieDeutschenBauern

 @Bauern\_Verband

### Roger Fechler

Head of division for livestock and meat

 030/31904295

 r.fechler@bauernverband.net