

Producers' preferences for traits important in pig production

Anna Wallenbeck, Therese Ahlman, Magnus Ljung and Lotta Rydhmer Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Anna Wallenbeck@slu.se

Production conditions - mainstream or niche?



Swedish conventional



Organic

Niche production: Breeding goal is in most cases not related to the production environment.

(Rydhmer et al. 2012)

Differences between production and selection environment

Are the traits of importance in the production system included in the breeding goal?

Which traits are important in the production system?

Producers preferences - which goal traits are considered important

Aim:

To map which goal traits Swedish conventional and organic pig producers consider as important and how they value different traits

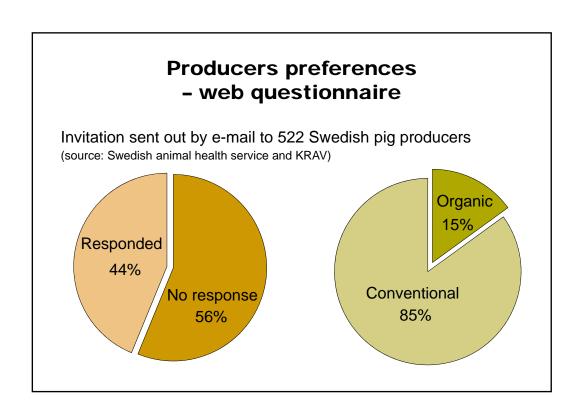


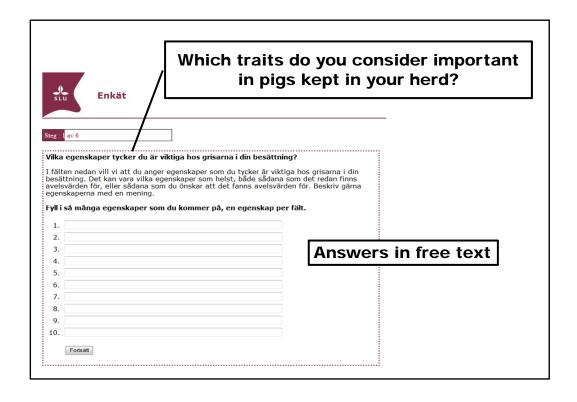


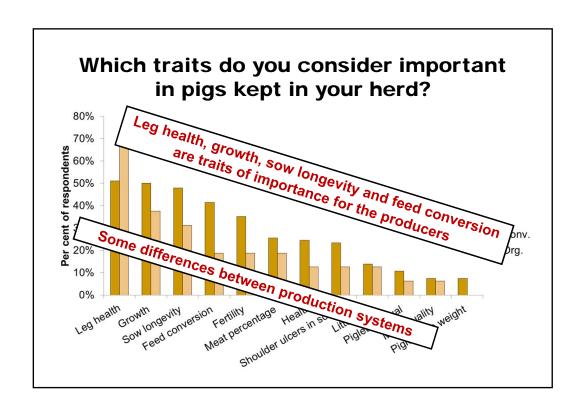
Producers preferences - web questionnaire

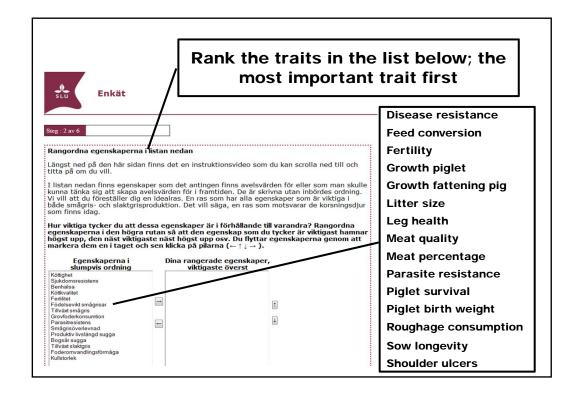
Four steps:

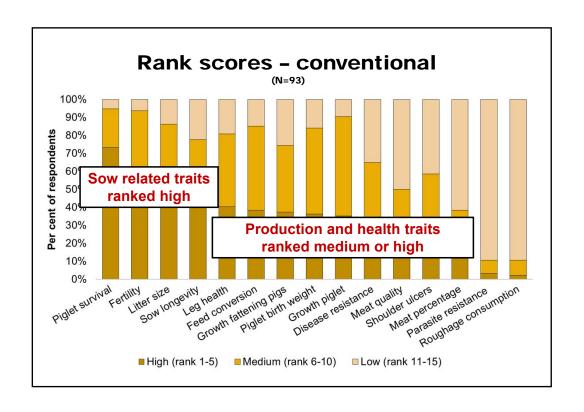
- 1. The producers state which traits they intuitively consider important in pigs, in free text
- 2. The producers rank 15 given traits against each other
- The producers weigh traits against each other given the estimated genetic gain (selection index included in the questionnaire)
- 4. The producers answer general questions about him/her self and the herd

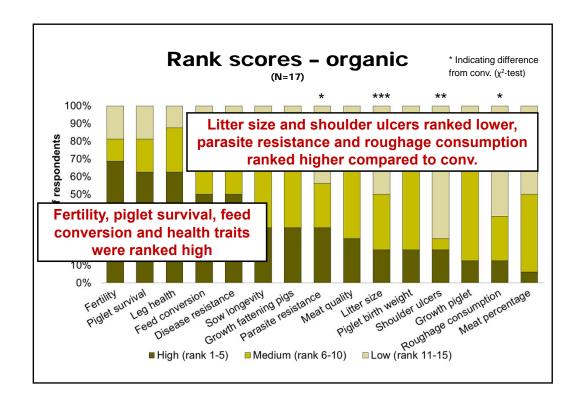


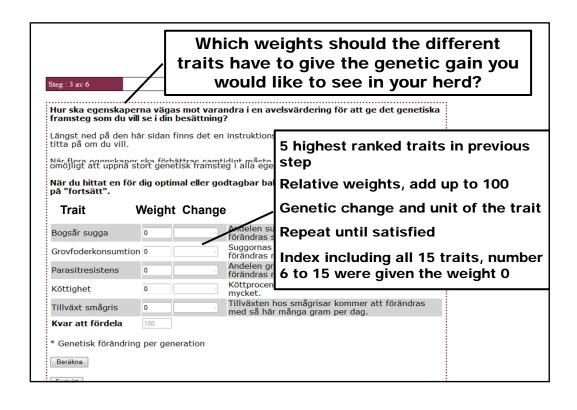












Desired genetic gain

	Conventional	Organic	Sign.
Piglet survival	+	+	N.S.
Fertility	+	+	N.S.
Litter size	-	-	N.S.
Sow longevity	+	+	N.S.
Meat quality	-	-	N.S.
Meat percentage	-	-	N.S.
Disease resistance	+	++	0.094
Parasite resistance	+	++	0.001

On average, producers accept a reduction litter size, meat quality and meat percentage in order to favour other traits

Desired genetic gain for parasite and disease resistance higher among organic producers

GLM: y = prod.system + prod.type + sex + prod.system * prod.type

Producers preferences - which goal traits are considered important

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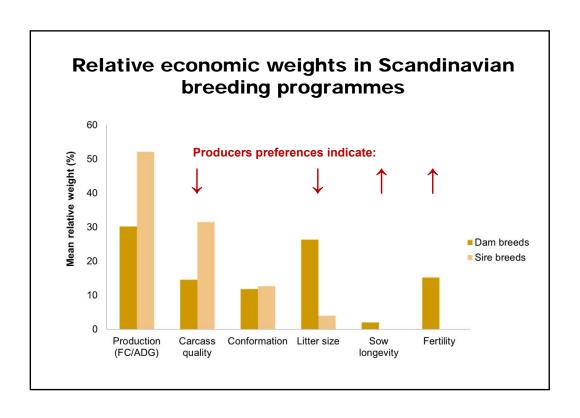
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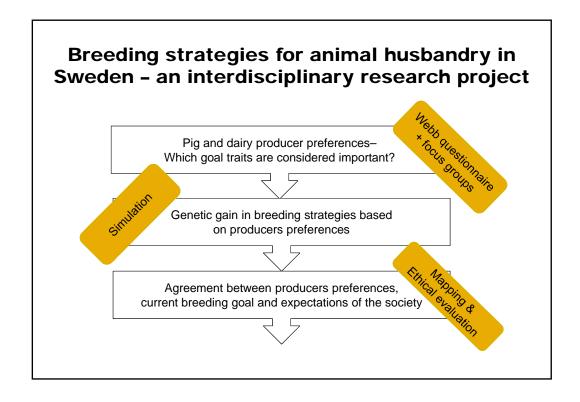




Sum up

- Leg health, sow longevity and growth were intuitively considered as important by both conventional and organic producers
- Conventional producers ranked sow related traits high and production and health traits medium or high
- Organic producers ranked litter size and shoulder ulcers lower and parasite resistance and roughage consumption higher compared to conv. producers
- On average, producers accept a reduction in litter size in order to favour other traits
- Desired genetic gain for disease and parasite resistance higher among organic than among conventional producers





Producers' preferences for traits in pig production - interpretation of results

- Producers favour genetic gain in health and survival traits
- Most of the traits considered as important and ranked high by producers are included in the breeding goals

