



# Fallen Stock

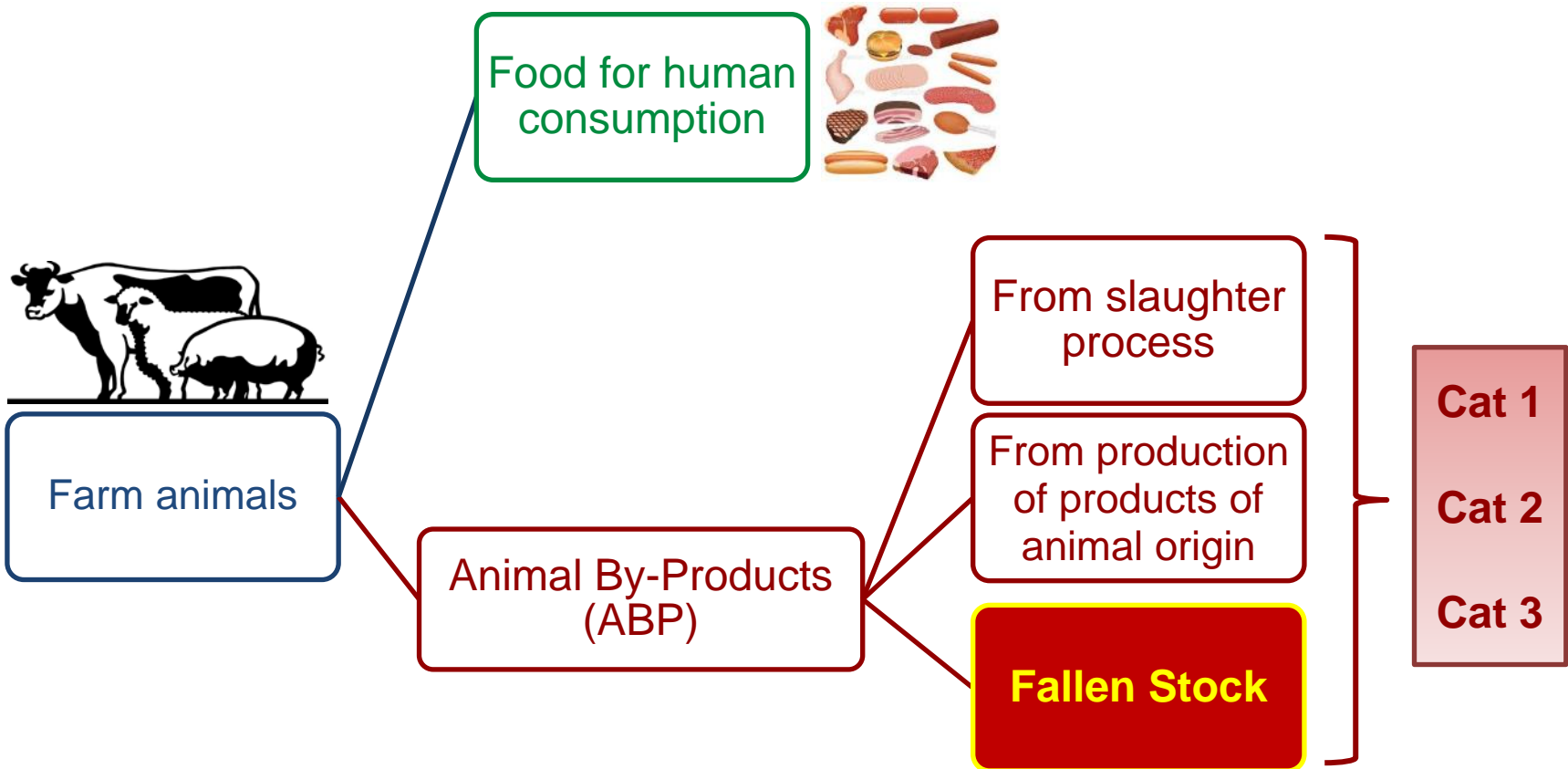
## Animal welfare concerns and consequences

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# What we are talking about



EU: >20 million tons Animal By-Products annually (EFSA)

- Bodies of dead farm animals not intended for human consumption
- Died from diseases/injuries or have been killed for certain reasons
- „Waste“ of livestock production
- Potential source of risks to public and animal health (i.e. BSE, Food and Mouth Disease)
- Has to be disposed properly according to EU and national rules (EC) No 1069/2009, (EU) No 142/2011



# Fallen Stock - Processing



- Collection, movement, processing and disposal of ABP
- Animal Waste Processing Plant
- Blood meal , meat meal, animal oil, pet food, hides, ...



- Indication from veterinary authorities that
  - Some fallen animals die miserably
  - Lack of appropriate intervention by stockman
- No evidence in literature and no control in routine procedure
- **(EC) No 1069/2009 (53)** ... *Official controls should be carried out ... to ensure the ... compliance with ... animal welfare rules*

## Objective of our study

Clarify situation of fallen cattle & pigs from welfare point of view

- Data on fallen stock and livestock production in Austria
- 1 (of 4) Austrian Animal Waste Processing Plant
- Evaluation of 100 collecting transporters at 20 work days
- Inspection of fallen cattle (n=1070) and pigs (n=987) by vets
- Registration of pathological signs indicative to severe pain a/o prolonged suffering
  - Body condition
  - Decubitus ulcers
  - Claw problems
  - Injuries, swellings, abscessuses
  - Signs of proper killing
- Descriptive statistics

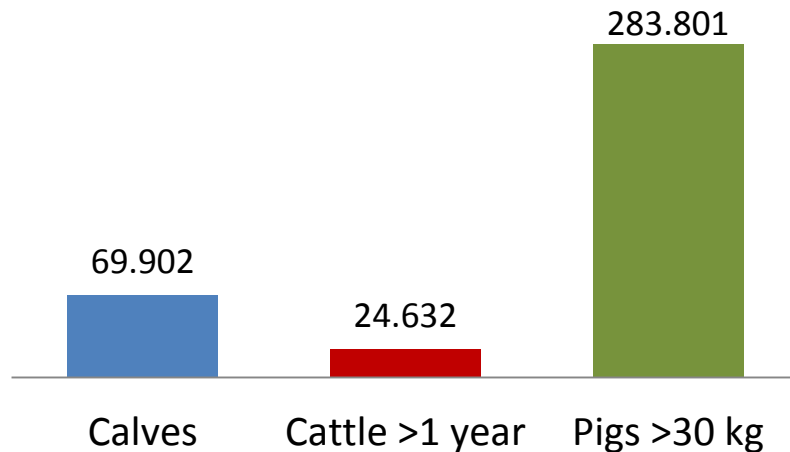


# Results - Fallen Stock in A

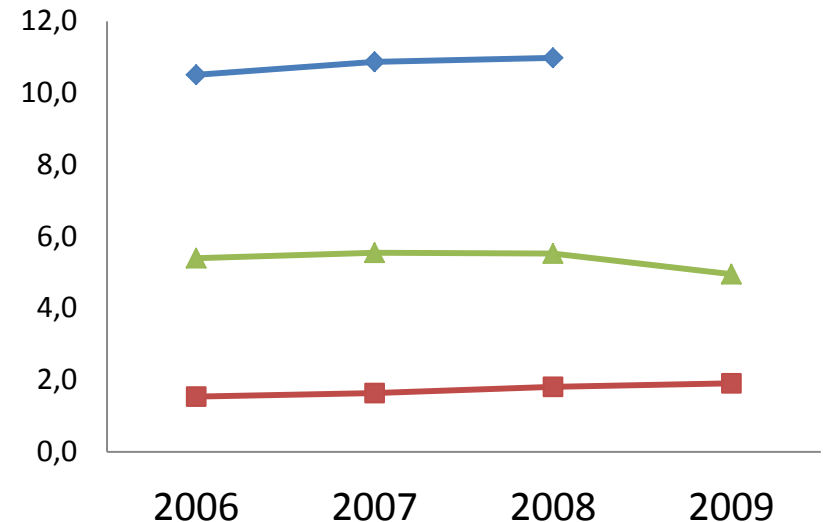


2009: 361.403 ton ABP  
38.300 tons fallen stocks (10.6 %)

## Number of fallen stock in 2008

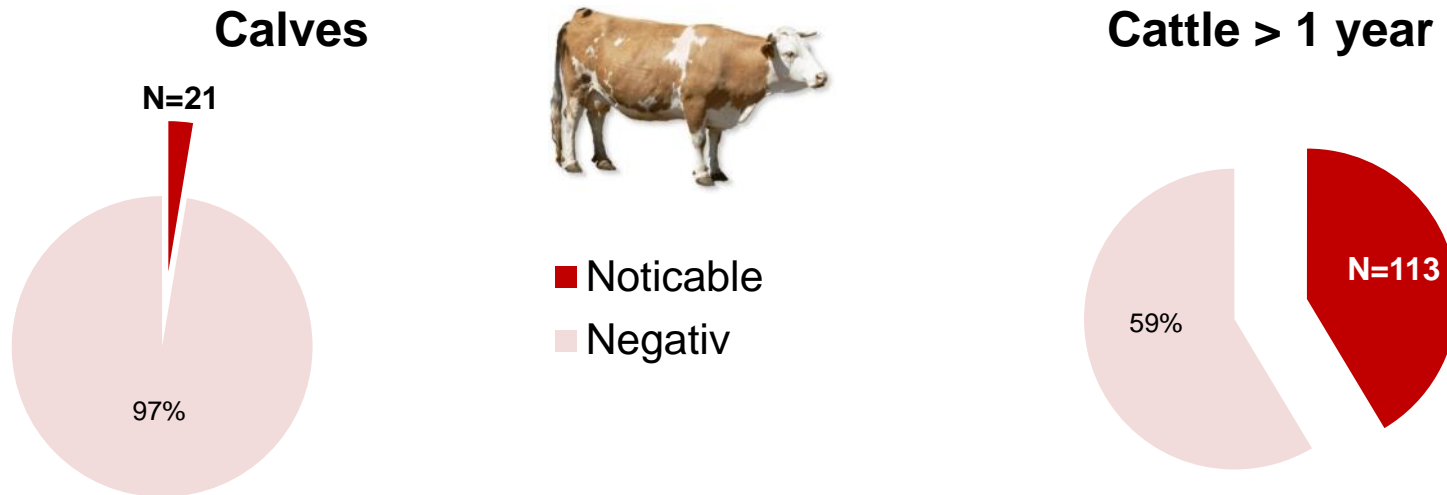


## Percentage of population



- High loss rate
- Increase over time (cattle ~40%)
- Database incomplete and inconsistent?

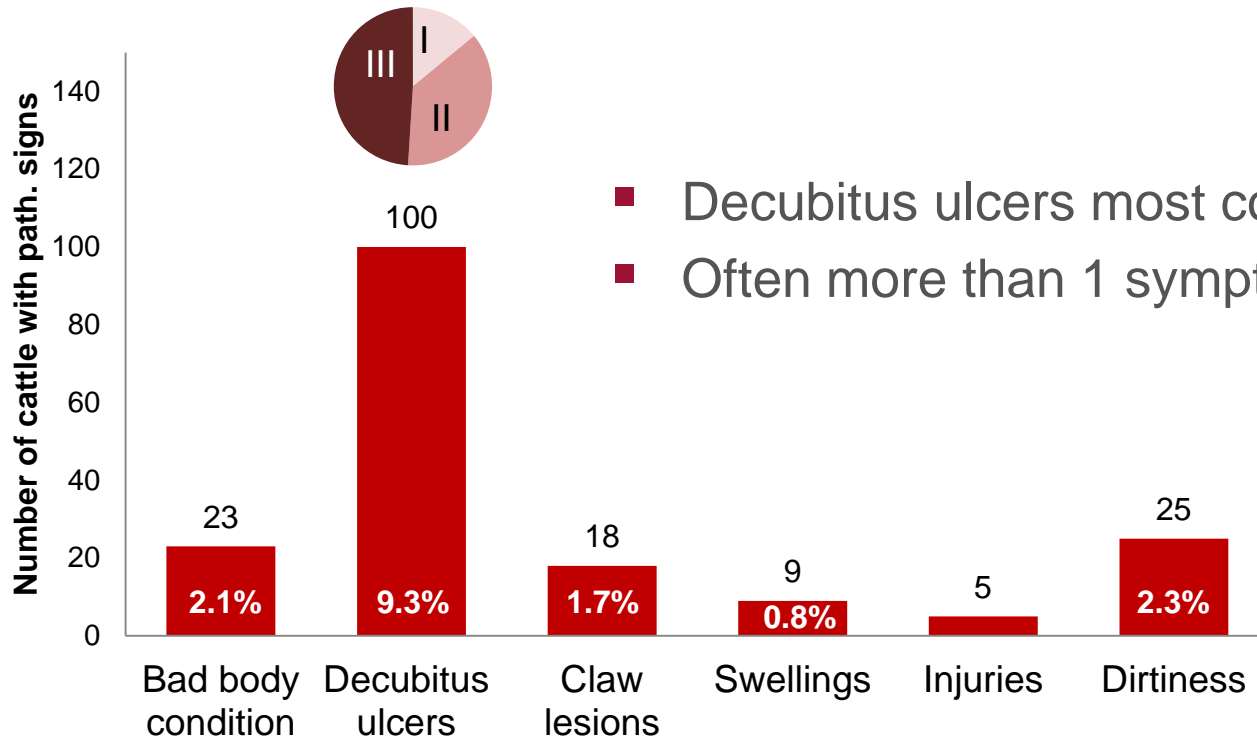
- 1070 cattle inspected: 797 calves (74%) + 273 cattle >1 year
- 124 bodies (12.5%) with one or more pathological signs



- More calves end as animal waste
- More fallen adult cattle show noticeable pathological signs



# Cattle - Pathological Signs



# Cattle - Bad Body Condition



- 23 cattle with cachexia

# Cattle No. 65



Multiple deep decubitus ulcers at hind legs

# Cattle No. 35



Calf with cachexia and abnormality with decubitus ulcer at right hind leg 12

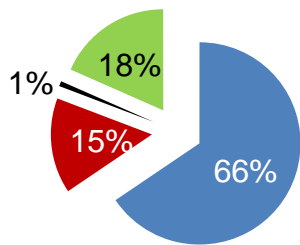
# Cattle No. 35



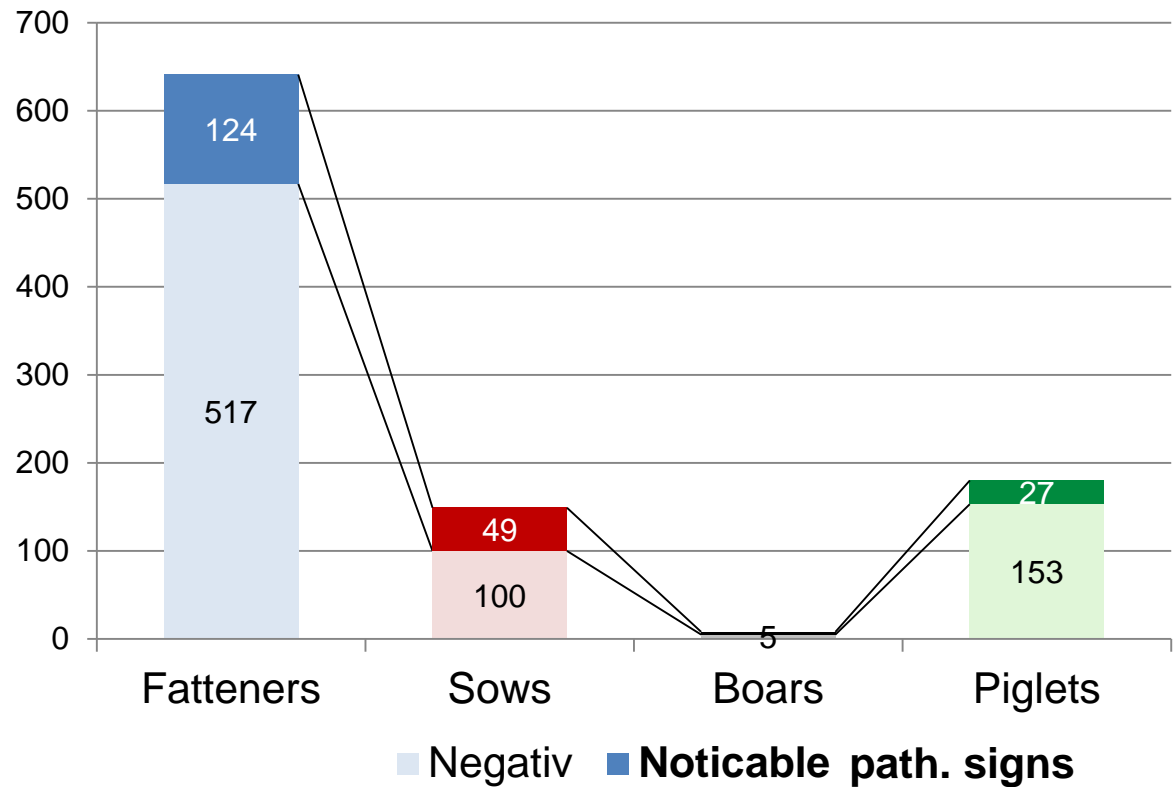
Wound at fetlock joint (right hind leg) caused by a bandage

# Inspection Pigs

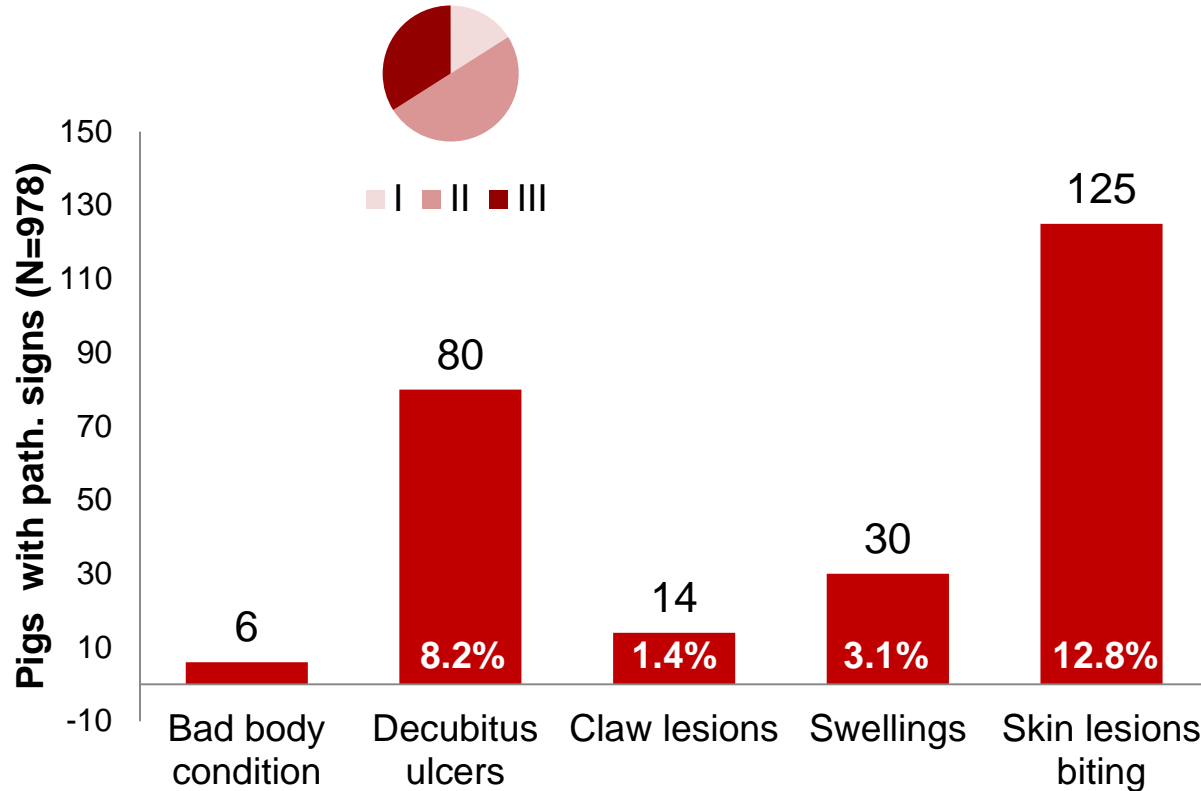
978 pigs inspected



■ Fatteners ■ Sows ■ Boars ■ Piglets



# Pigs - Pathological Signs



## Pig – Bad body condition



- Cachexia and multiple deep ulcers in a fallen pig



# Pig – Decubitus Ulcers



- 8.2 % of fallen pigs with uclers

# Pig – Wounds caused by biting



13 % of fallen pigs

- Tail
- Ears
- Neck and rump



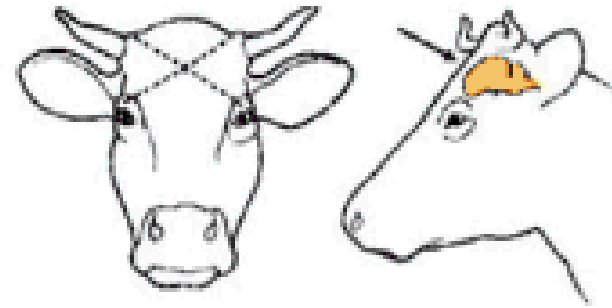
# Pig – Swellings and Abscesses



- 3 % of fallen pigs

- High number of farm animals end as animal by-products
- Severe pain & prolonged suffering of a few fallen animals
  - up to 1 % of animals kept for human consumption may be concerned
  - difficult to put the right conclusion from inspection to case history
- Improper care of sick / injured animals
  - Economic reasons, herd size, housing
  - Lack of knowledge a/o inability of stockmen to proper kill moribund animals
  - ...
- Training of animals caretakers needed

# Proper treatment



Adequate therapy with reasonable effort!

' no success ' EUTHANASIA to prevent pain/suffering!



+



Stunning with captive bolt gun + bleeding by severing major arteries of neck

- Welfare problem in fallen animals identified (only in Austria?)
- Further clarification needed
- Develop a valid and feasible control protocol
  - Pre-selection of severe cases during collection of fallen animals
  - Final evaluation by official veterinarian
  
- Animal By-Product sector is complex and accident-sensitive
- Caution about risks for human and animal health

# Many thanks to

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