



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
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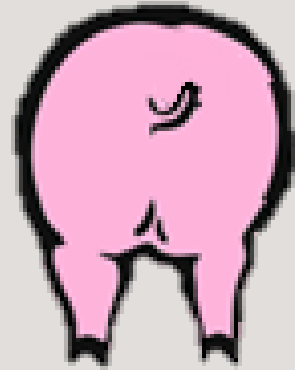
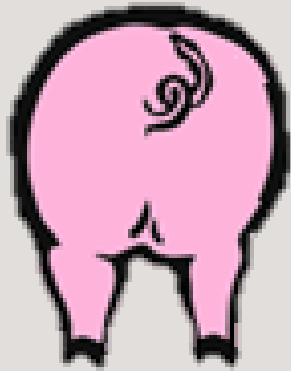


Production of undocked pigs *- a survey of farmers' experiences*

Torun Wallgren, Rebecka Westin and Stefan Gunnarsson

Intact or docked tails...

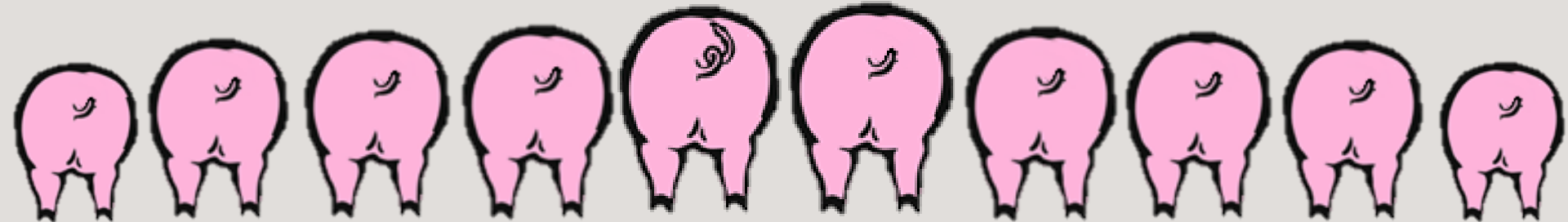
...what's the big deal?



Legislation and implementation

**Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008
laying down minimum standards for the protection of
pigs.**

- No routine tail docking
- Preventative measures

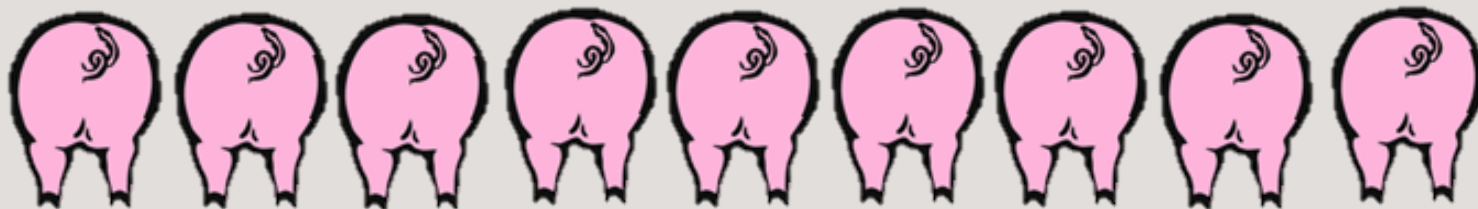


exploratory behaviour oral manipulation
ear biting undocked housing system
reduced profitability manipulable material
bitten pig lesion feed and feeding
flooring hay **straw** comfort
behavioural need mushroom compost tail docking
triggering factors
outbreaks euthanasia peat multifactorial
oral manipulation indoor climate
disease management reduced health
wood shavings sawdust
reduced welfare biter explore
space allowance
tail biting season
redirected behaviour infection
reduced production
proper investigation
manure handling system

Rearing undocked pigs ?

Surveyed Swedish farmer know-how

- Undocked pigs
 - Weaning age **How?** (4) weeks
 - Slatted flooring (max. about 33%)
 - Stocking density
 - Manipulable material (straw)



Telephone survey

- General questions
- Production information
- Tail biting
- Straw usage
- Pen conformation
- Feeding system
- Manure handling



	Nursery farms Weaning -10w	Finishing farms 10w-slaughter
No. of farms	46	43
Total no. of pig places	815 (126-4000)	1200 (132-6500)
No. of pigs/pen	11 (10-300)	10 (7-100)
Space allowance/pig	0.53 (0.3-1.9)	0.96 (0.8-2.5)

Use of manipulable material

100%

Straw

99%

Other material

1%

Only straw

50 vs **35** %

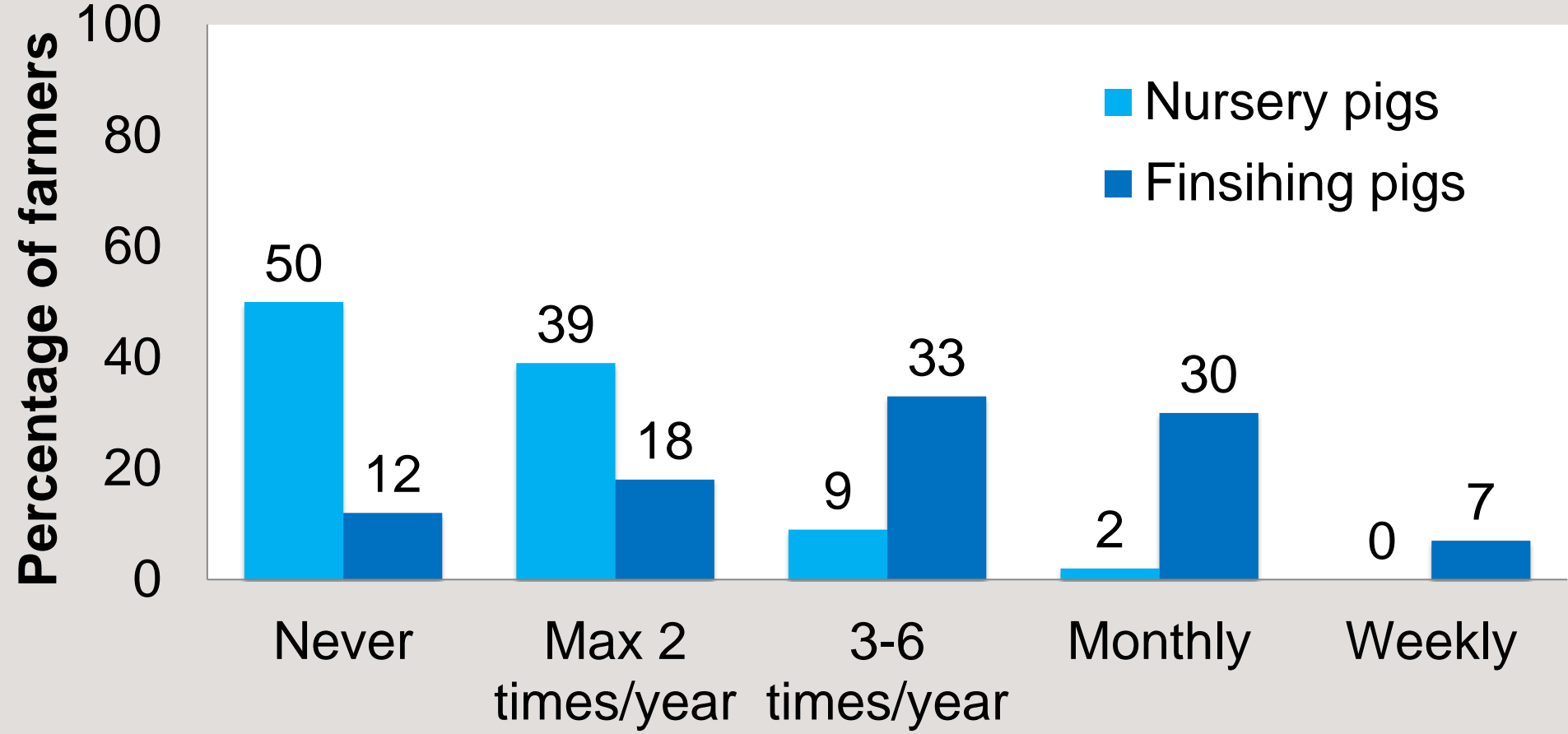
Straw + other material

50 vs **65** %

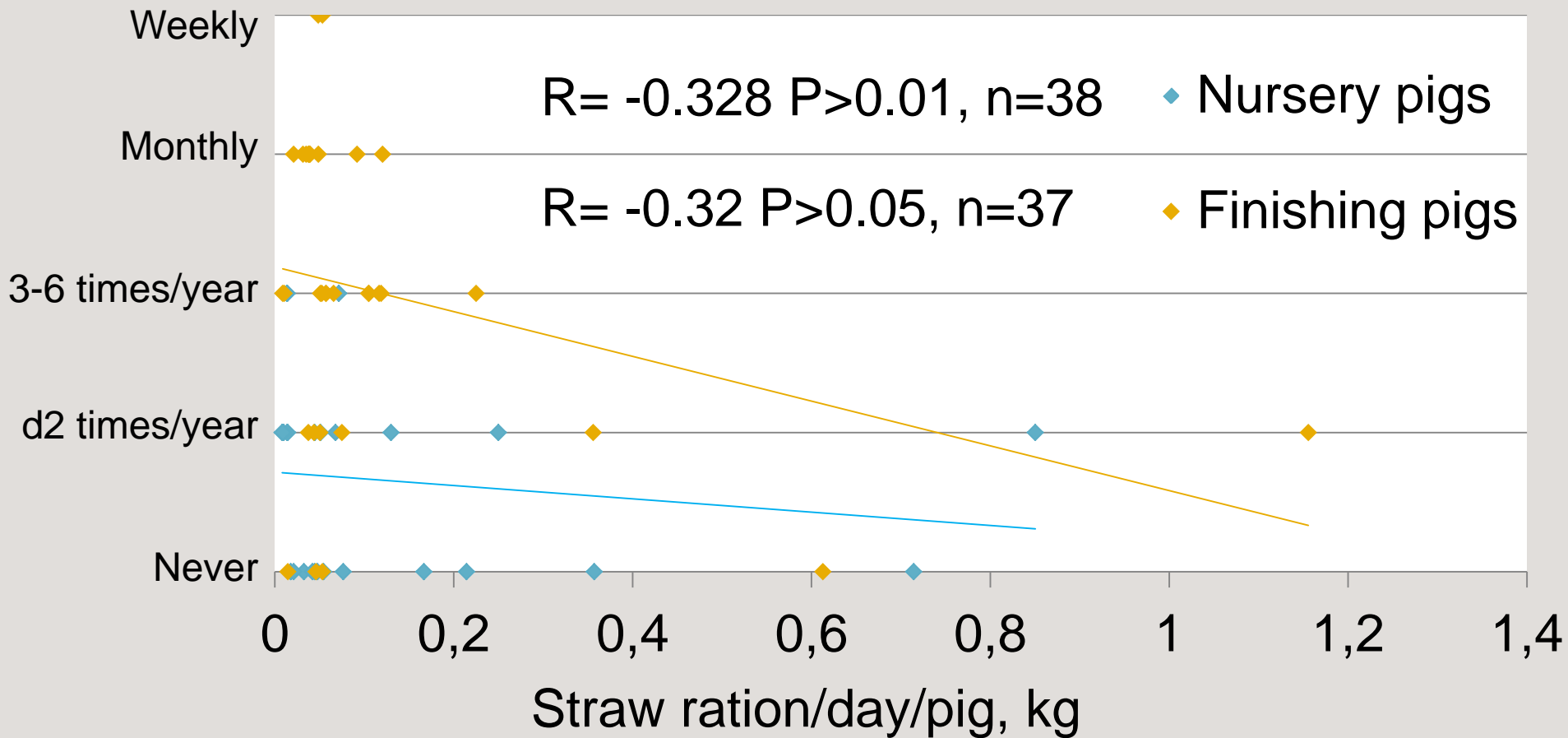
Daily straw ration

	Median	Min	Max
Nursery farms	29g	8g	85g
Finishing farms	50g	9g	225g

Frequency of tail biting



Tail biting and straw usage



	Nursery farms	Finishing farms	Frequency of manure handling problems ,%		
			Never	Yearly	Monthly
Cable, arm scraper(s)	23	25	70,8	20,8	8,4

Straw ration x problems in the manure handling system

Nursery farms R=-0.33 P=0.12

Finishing pig farms: R=0.31 P=0.09

Slurry	0	1	100	0	0
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Conclusion

Tail biting *was* managed without tail docking

- 100 % manipulable material provision, commonly straw.
- Increased straw ration was correlated to decreased tail biting frequency
- Increased tail biting frequency was correlated to increased percentage of tail bitten pigs, and number of affected pens

Even though provided straw rations were small (30-50g/pig) this amount of straw seemed to provide enough occupation to limit outbreaks

