

Norwegian pork production – a «FairyTail» without tail docking

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PROGRESS IN PIGS

Norway – pork production

1. Loose housing systems in all stages of production – no fixation
2. Not fully slatted floors
3. No tail docking
4. Long suckling period





- Surgical castration shall be performed by **veterinarians** and by **use of local anesthesia**. **Long term pain killers** shall be provided.
- All pigs have **intact tails** throughout their life
- Antibiotics is used on a **individual level**
- Not allowed to wean before 28 days age. Average weaning age in 2018 - **33 days**





Photo: Fjøssystemer

- Classic slaughter pig pen
- Stable groups
 - Size and sex
- Tail biting can occur

Regulations:

Space allowance: 0.5 – 1 m² (30-110 kg).

Water flow: >1 l/min

Feeding space: 0,18 – 0,33 (25-110 kg)

Production results – 2018

Sows (25 % best)

Trait	2018
Weaned per breeding sow	30
Litters per breeding sow	2,28
Live born / litter	14,7
Suckling period (days)	33,4
Weaning weight (piglet)	10.9
Days from weaning to insemination	4.8
Age at first farrowing	358
Parity length	115

Finishers (25 % best)

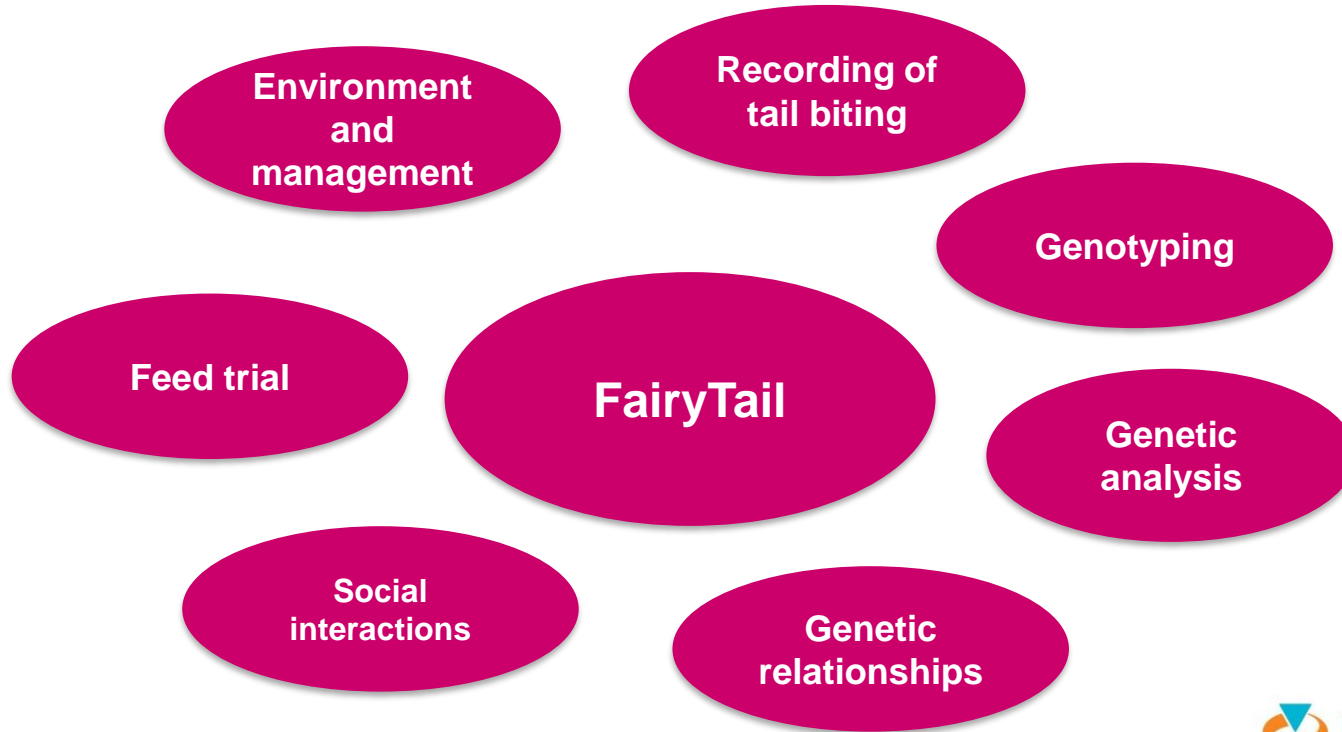
Trait	2018
Start weight (kg)	31,8
Slaughter weight (kg)	80,1
Daily gain (g)	1134
FCR (MJ/kg growth)	22
Feed days	76
Meat percentage	59,7

Tail biting in Norway

- Recorded at slaughter houses
 - Healed lesion/short tail or open lesion
- Stable low frequencies in the past
- Uncertainty
- Focus on damaging behaviour and animal welfare in Norway

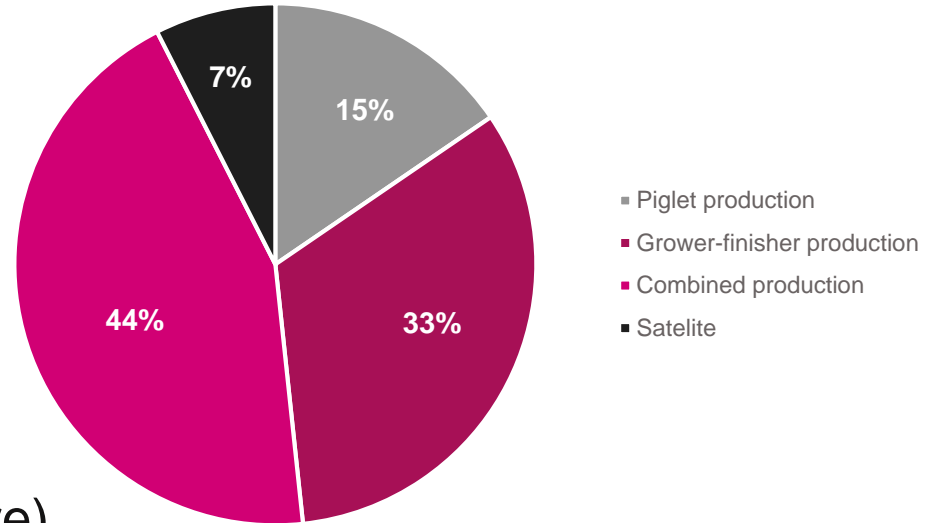


FairyTail – Towards a Norwegian pork production free of tail biting

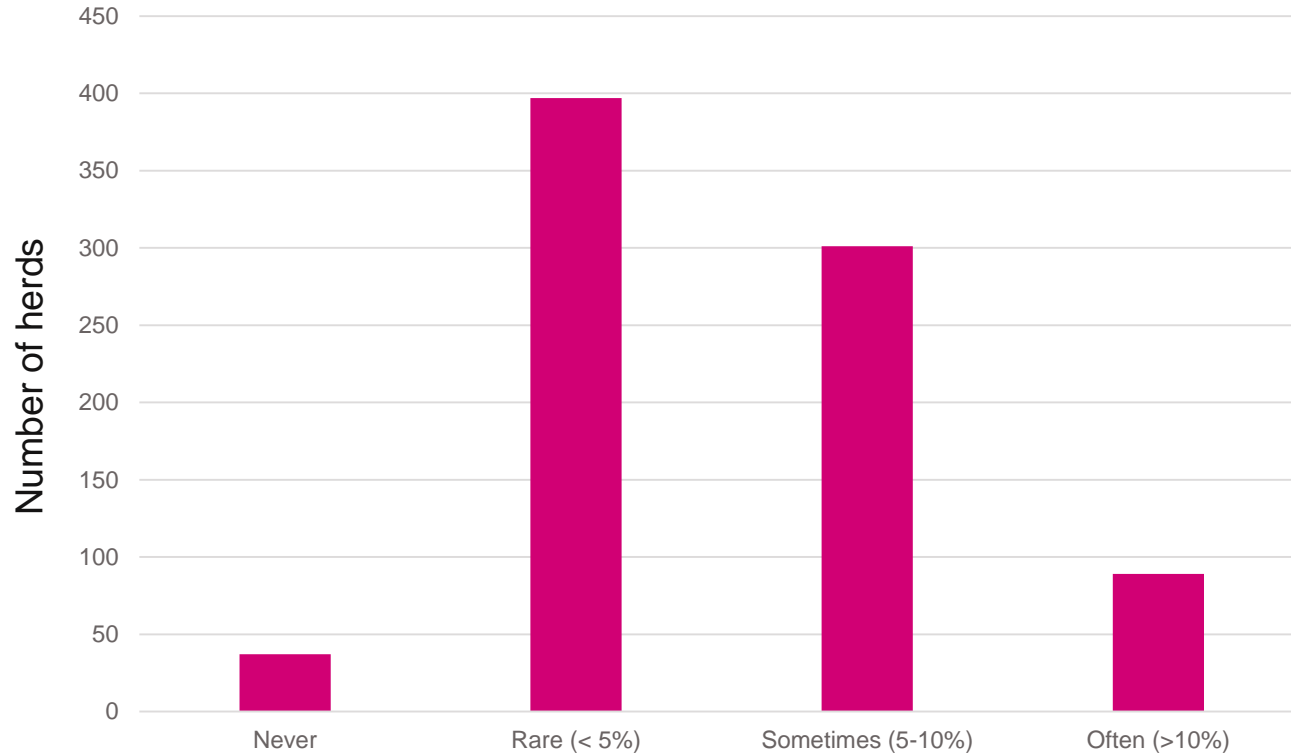


Survey

- 828 replied – 64.1 %
- Questions:
 - Herd location
 - Breed
 - Age of barn
 - Production
 - Preventive measures
 - Tail biting (subjective score)



“To what extent is tail biting a problem in your herd?”

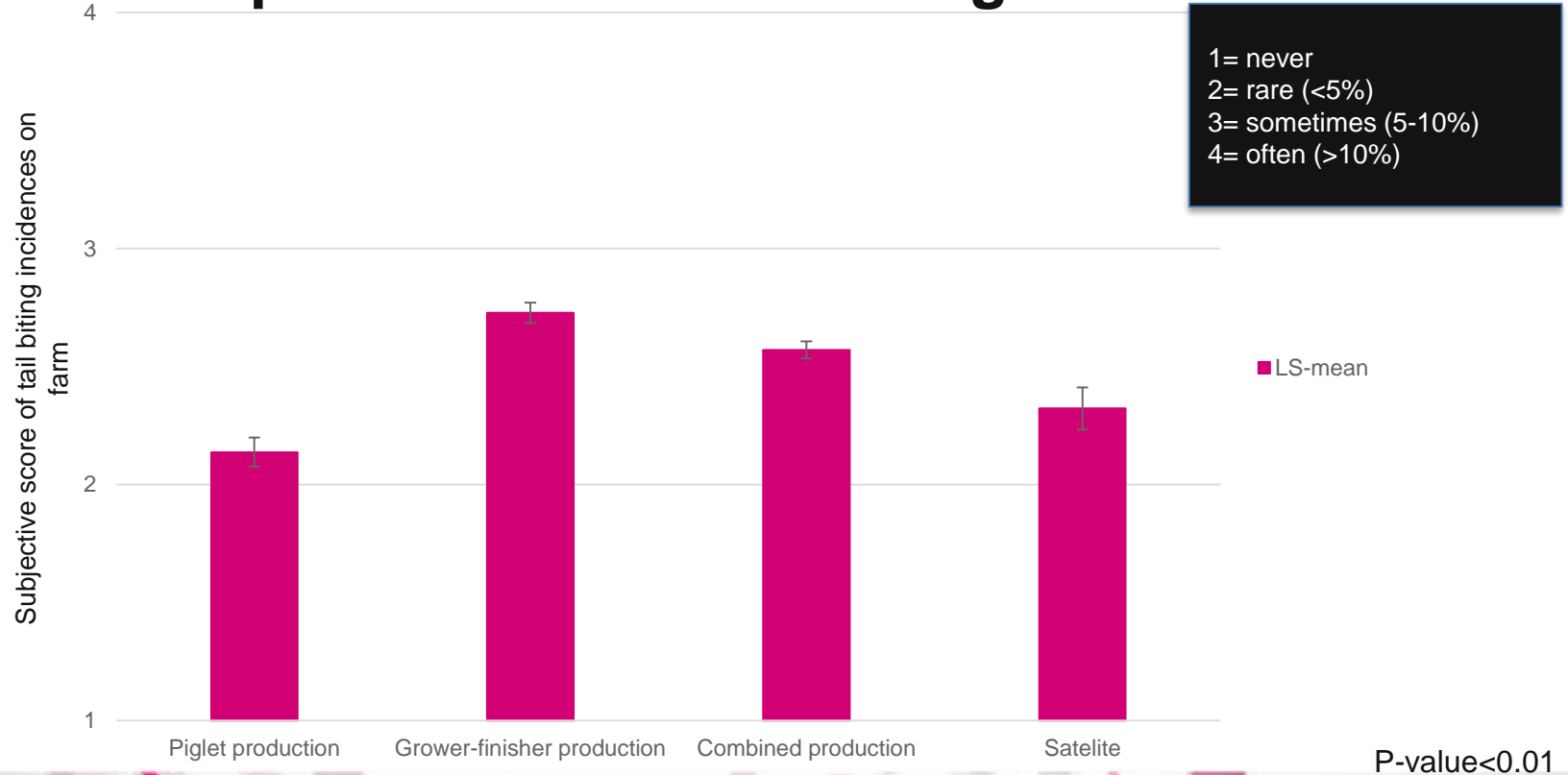


Model

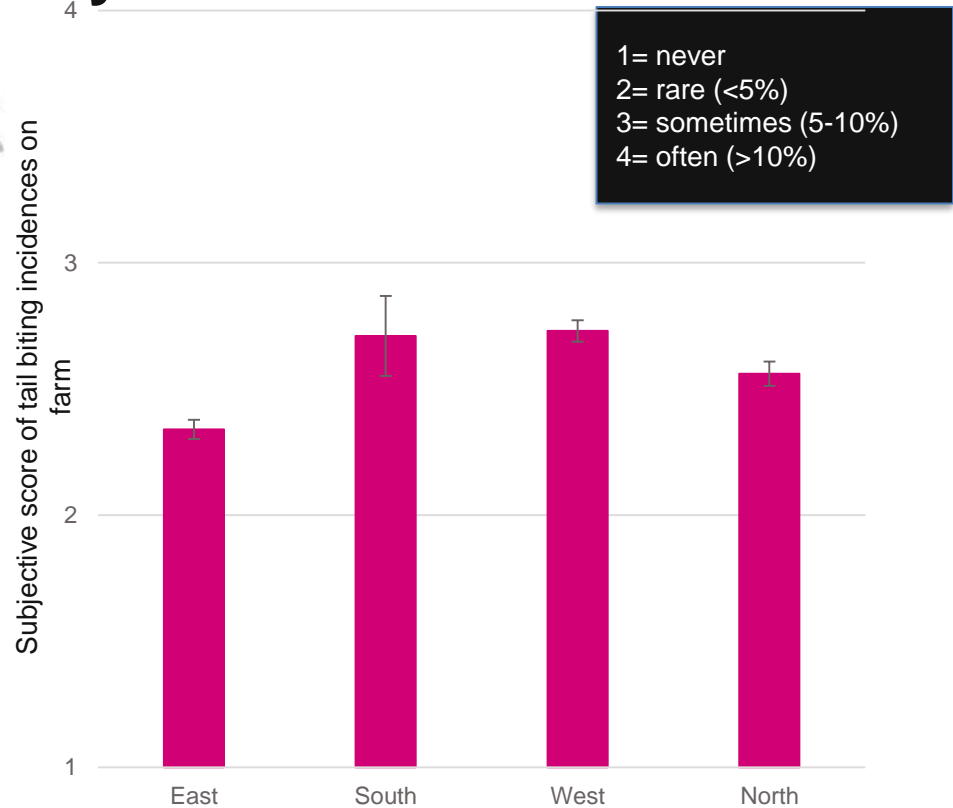
$$\text{Score tail biting}_i = \text{breed}_j + \text{region}_k + \text{production}_l + \text{age_group}_m + e_{ijklmn}$$

Variable	Effect	Levels	Description
Score tail biting	-	824	Subjective score of tail biting incidences on farm
Breed	Fixed	8	Most common breed combination in the herd
Region	Fixed	4	Region of Norway
Production	Fixed	4	Production type
Age_group	Fixed	4	Age group of the buildings on the farm

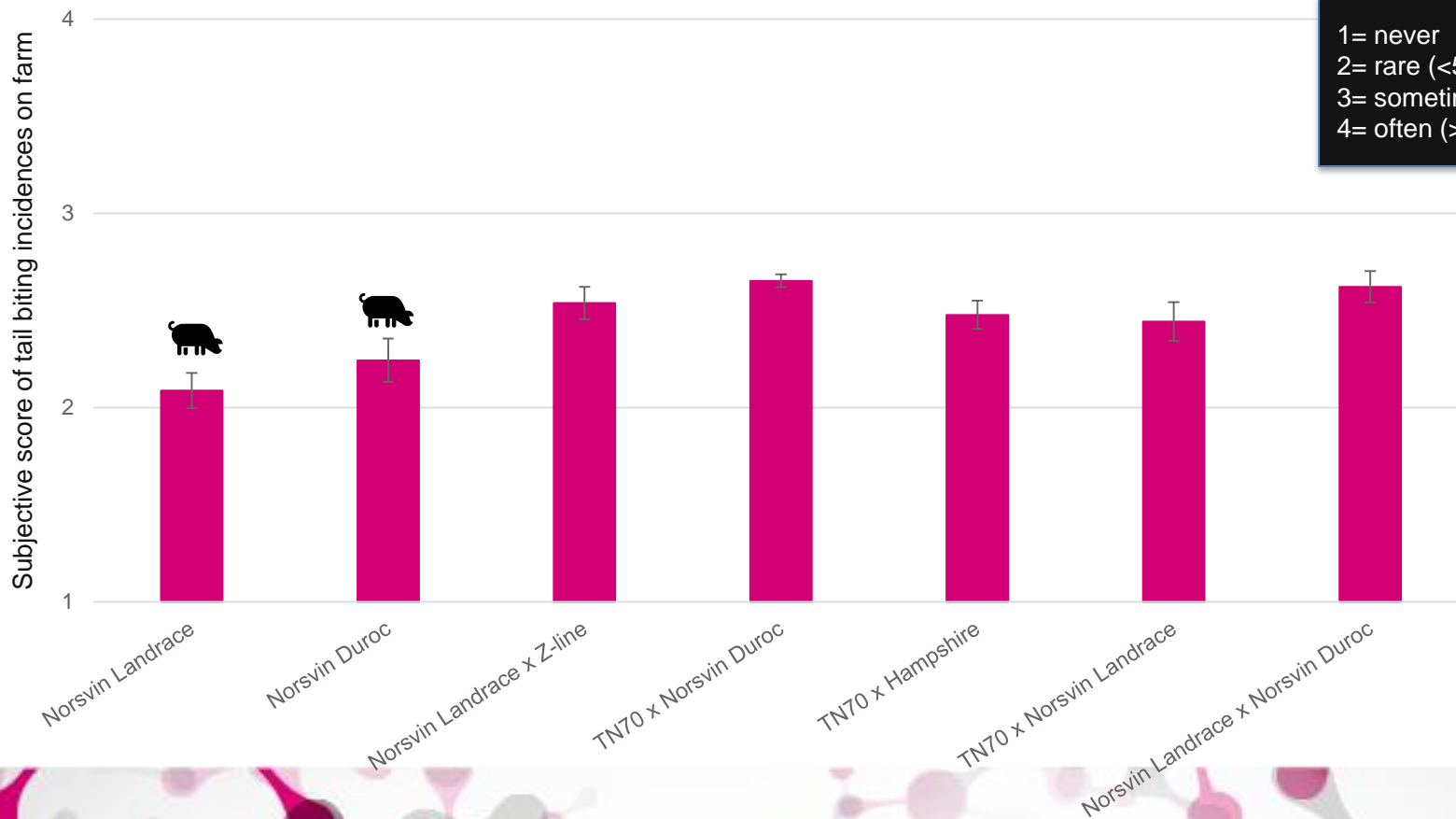
“ Farmers with grower-finisher production experience more tail biting ”



“ East experience less tail biting compared to the rest of Norway”



Breed differences

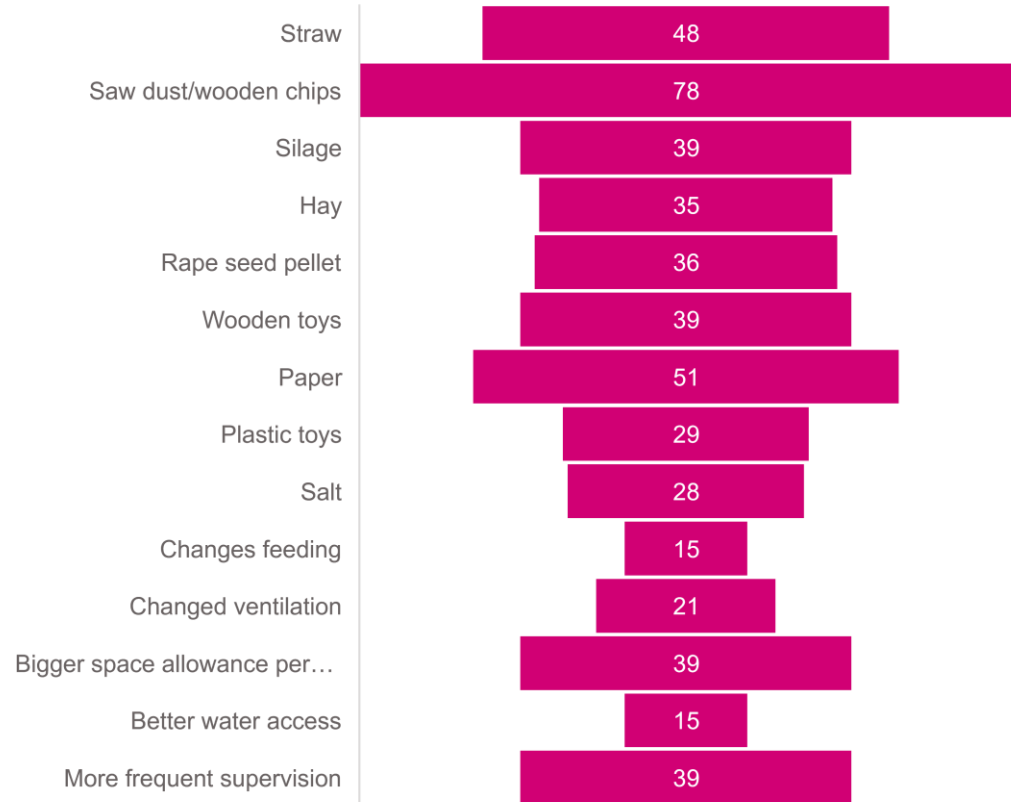


Breed differences

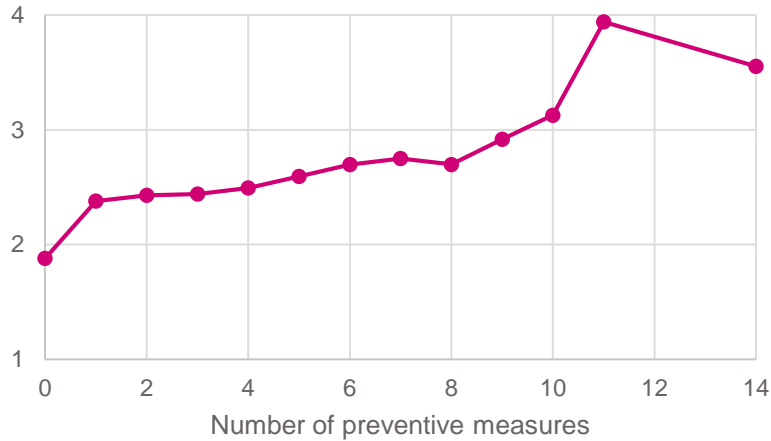


Preventive measures against tail biting

Percentage



Subjective score of tail biting incidences on farm



Conclusions

- Farmers in grower-finisher herds reported that they had significantly more problems with tail biting incidences compared to farmers in piglet producing herds in Norway
- Regional differences in perception of tail biting incidences within Norway was observed
- No significant differences in perception of tail biting incidences in herds using different terminal lines on TN70-sows in Norway.
- There were lower subjective scores of tail biting incidences in pure bred lines compared to cross breed combinations in Norway.
- Herds with the highest subjective score for tail biting incidences had most preventive measures against tail biting, whereas more saw dust/wooden chips and straw was most common.



Thank you for your attention

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