

# The effect of **phenotyping** & **genotyping**, and using **conventional** or **organic sires** on genetic gain in an **organic** pig population

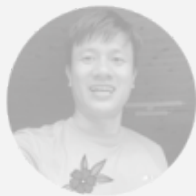
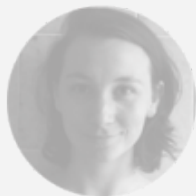
EAAP 2023 • Session 28 • 29/8/23 • Roos Zaalberg • QGG, Aarhus University, Denmark



# Collaborators



**PorganiX**  
project



**Trine**  
Villumsen



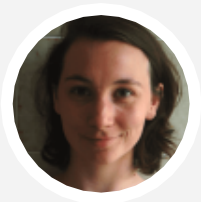
**Just**  
Jensen



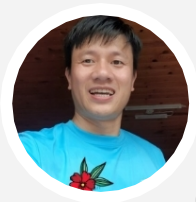
**Julie**  
Clasen



**Roos**  
Zaalberg



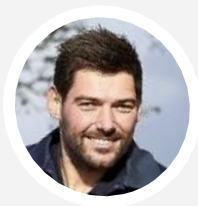
**Thinh**  
Chu



**Trine**  
Villumsen



**Henrik**  
Bovbjerg



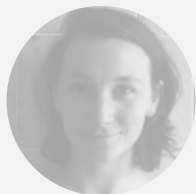
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Jensen



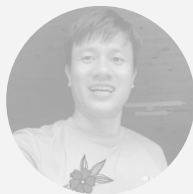
**Julie**  
Clasen



**Roos**  
Zaalberg

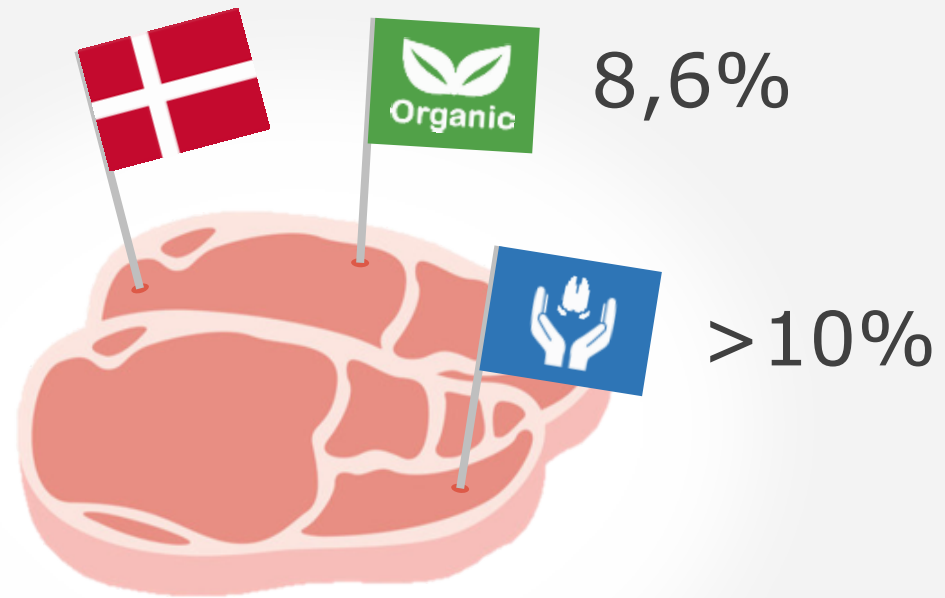


**Thinh**  
Chu



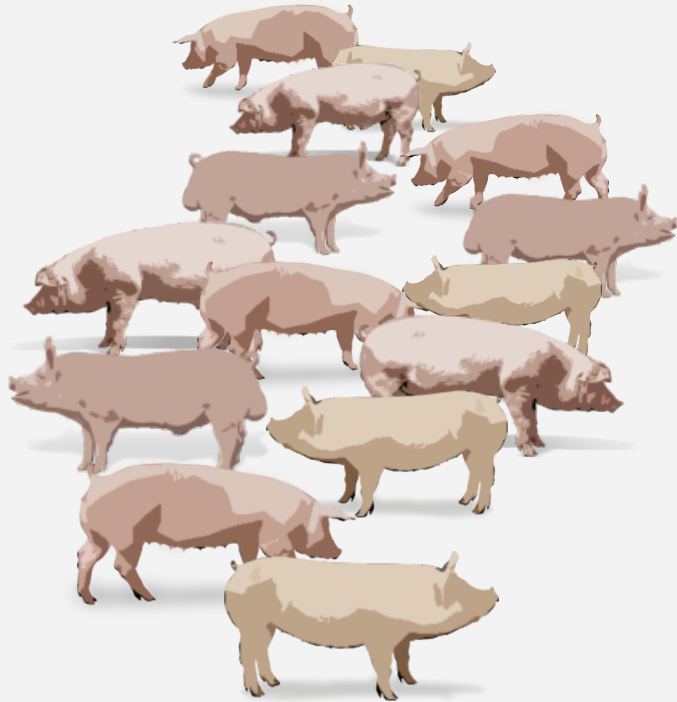
# Introduction

# Welfare & pork

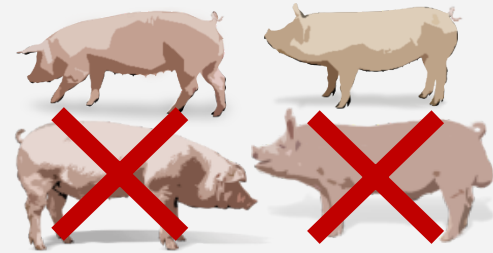


# Organic pig breeding

conventional



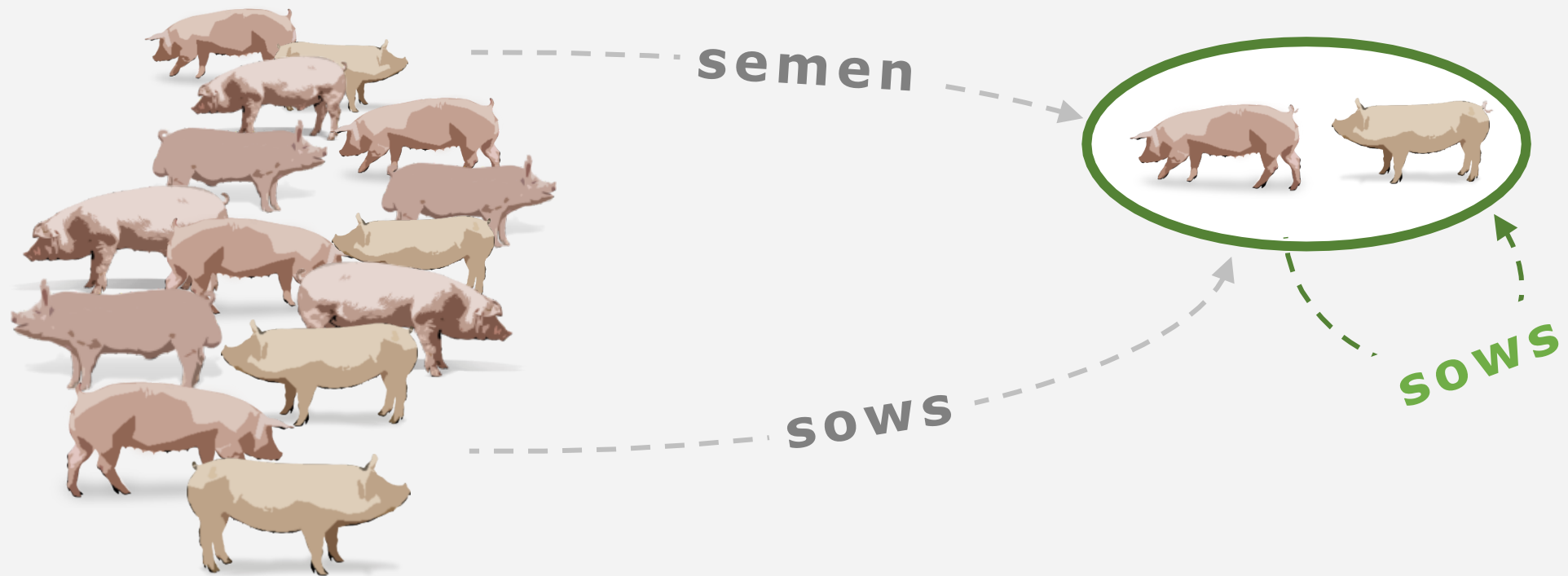
organic



# Organic pig breeding

conventional

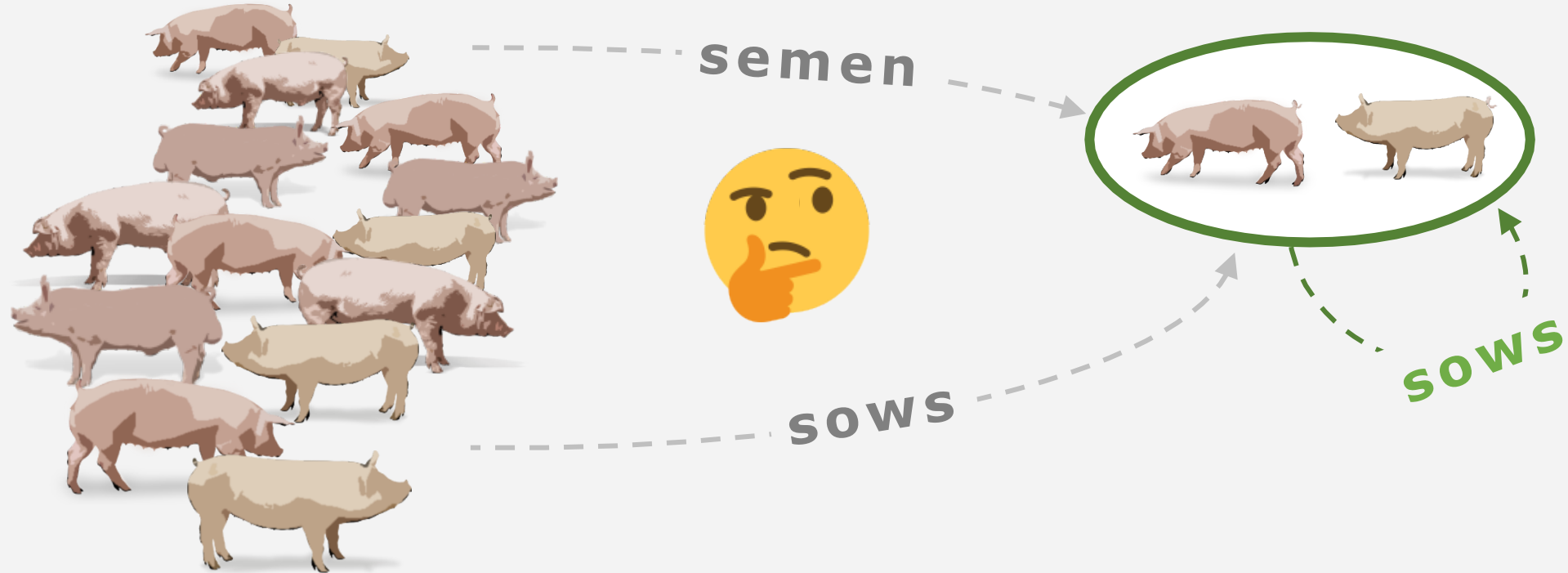
organic



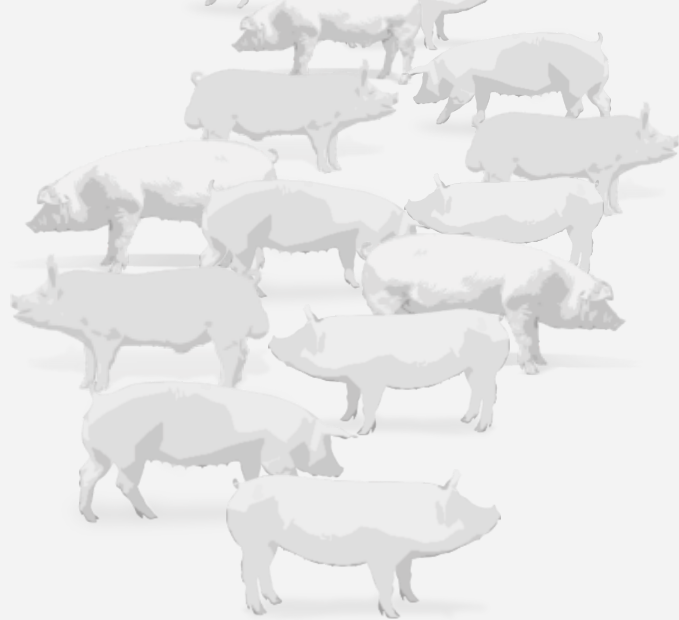
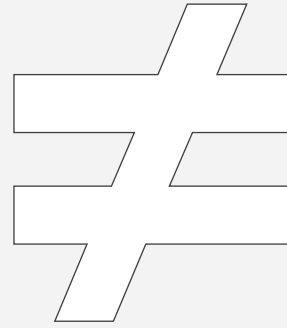
# Problem

conventional

organic



# Problem

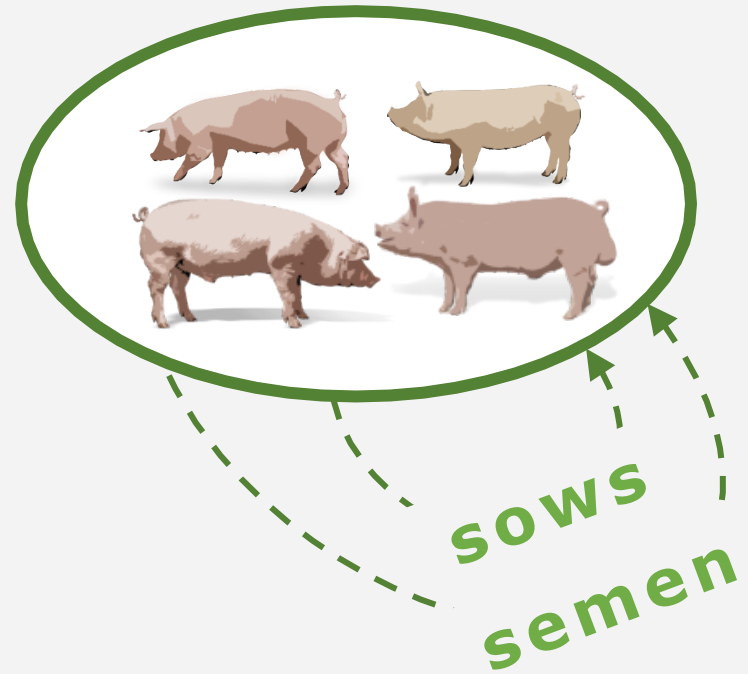


# Solution

conventional

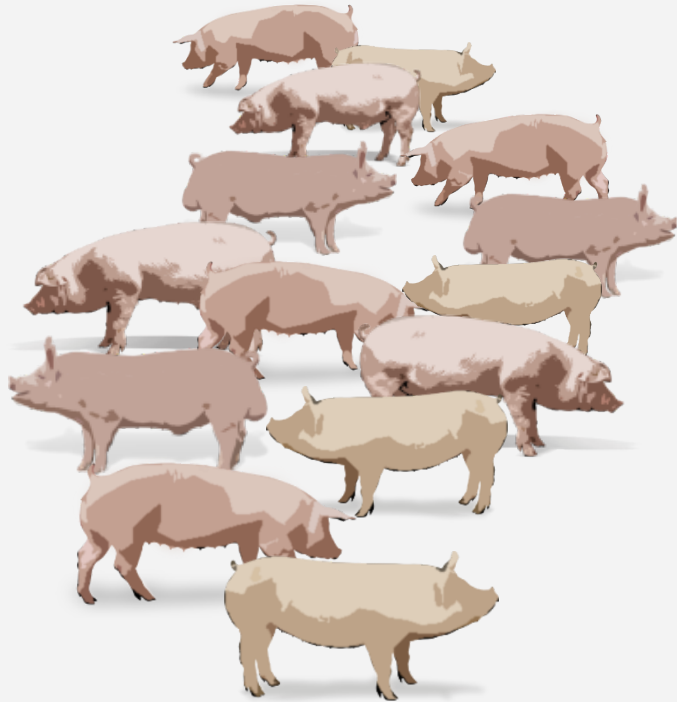


organic



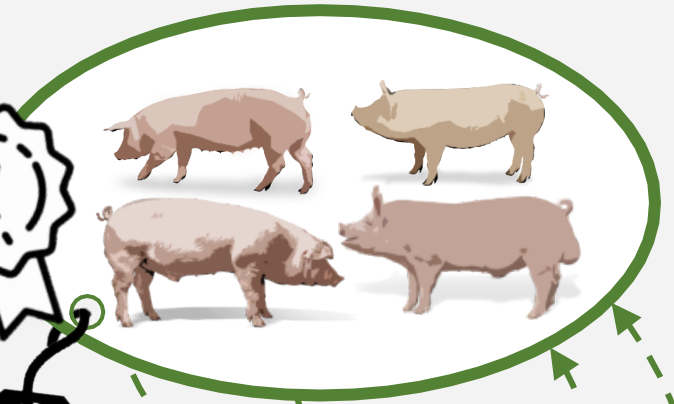
# Solution

conventional



organic

best  
genetic gain



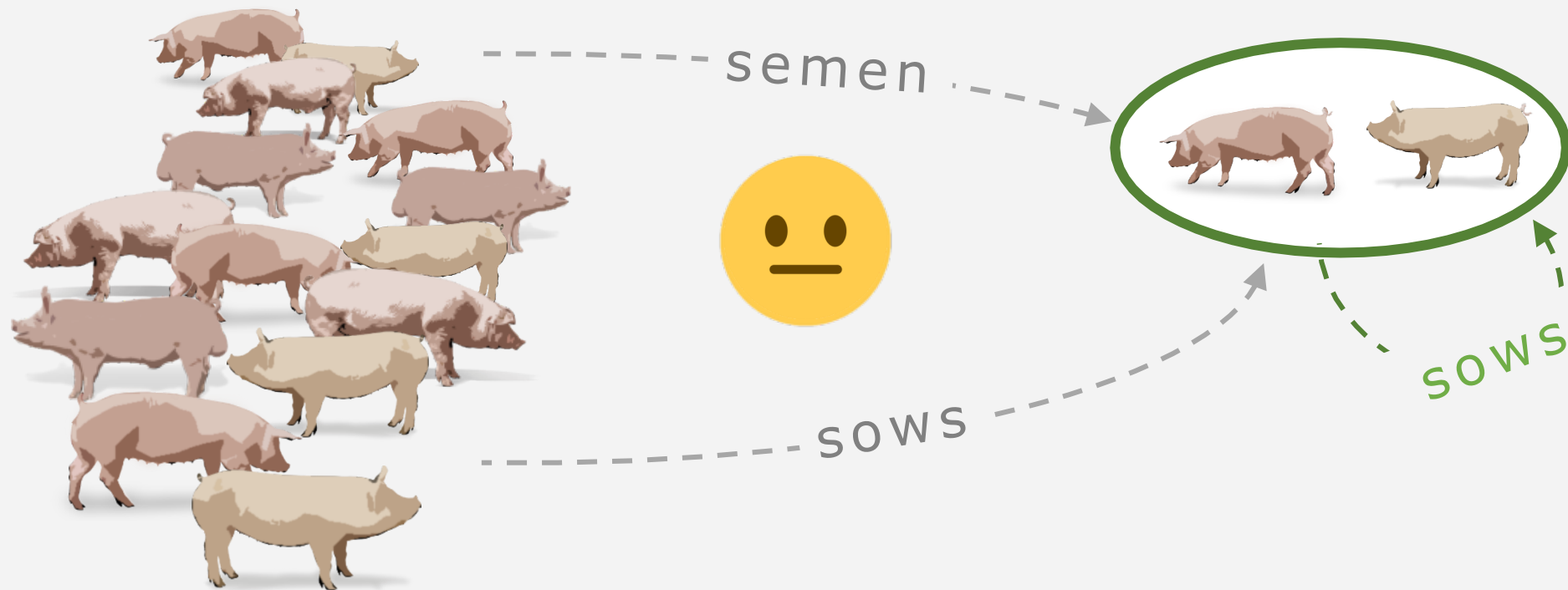
sows

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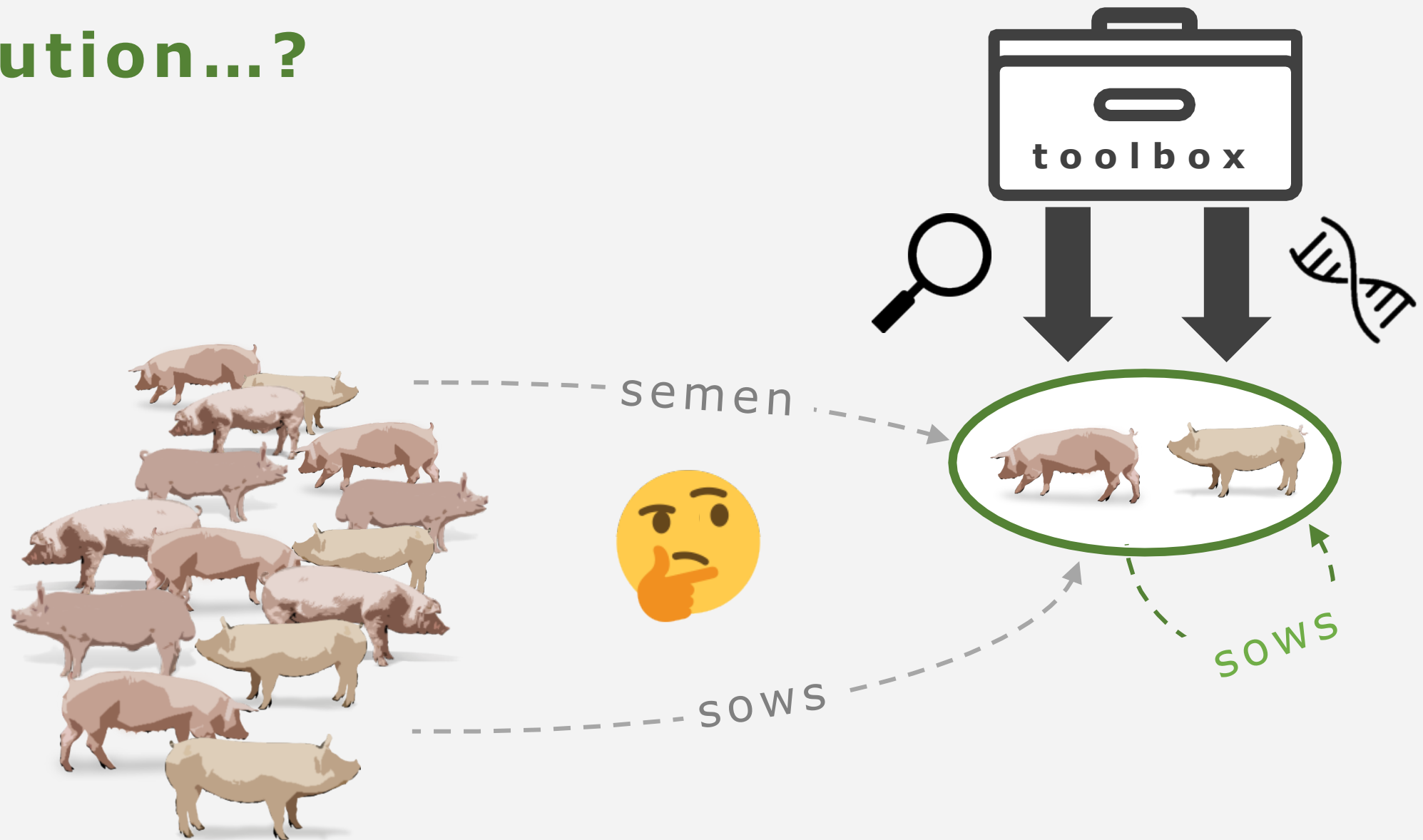
# Reality check

conventional

organic



# Solution...?



# Questions

Can we develop an  
**efficient** breeding program  
aimed at **organic** systems?



# Questions



Phenotypes?

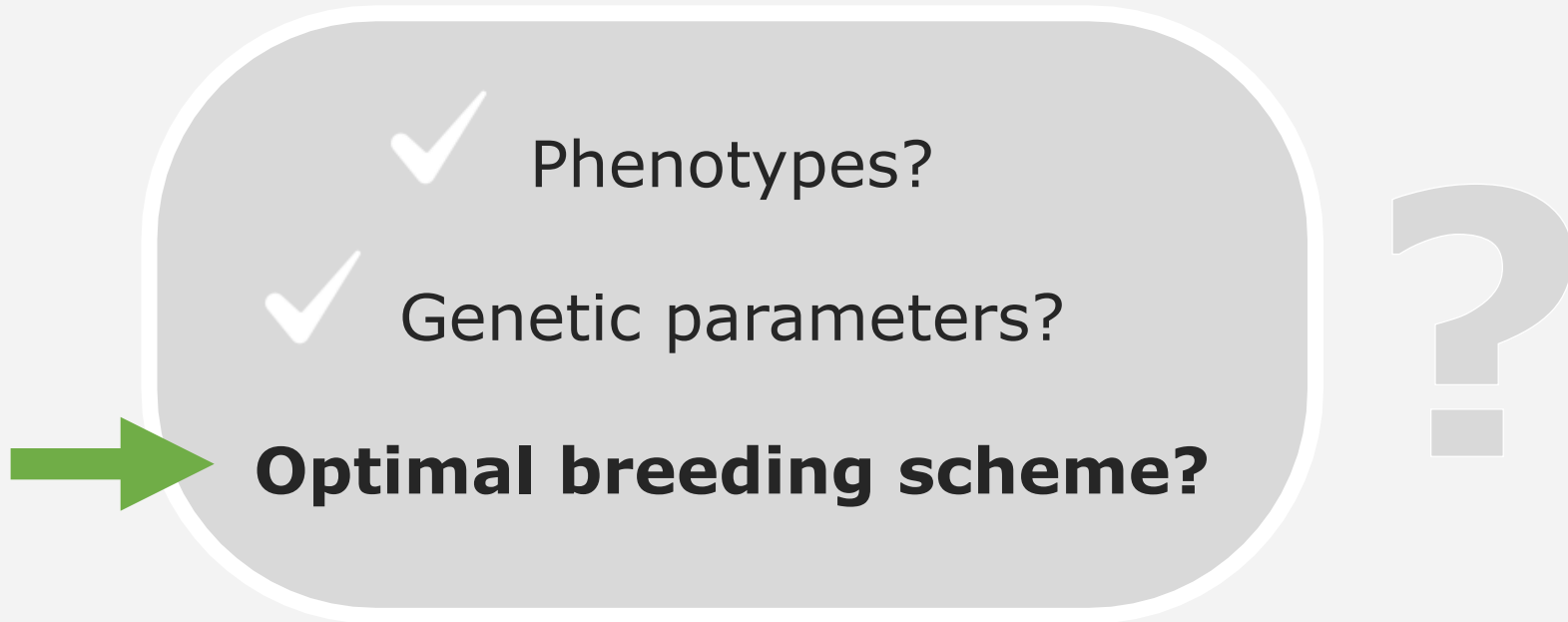


Genetic parameters?

Optimal breeding scheme?



# Questions



# Aim

Estimate the effect of  
**pheno- & genotyping strategies, and origin of the sire**  
on the genetic gain in a simulated organic pig population



# **Materials & methods**

# Simulations

**Software**      ADAM, DMU and LMT



# Simulations

**Software** ADAM, DMU and LMT

**Parameters** *Villumssen et al., 2021*  
*Chu et al., 2022*  
*Zaalberg et al., 2022 & 2023*



# Simulations

**Software** ADAM, DMU and LMT

**Parameters** *Villumsen et al., 2021*

*Chu et al., 2022*

*Zaalberg et al., 2022 & 2023*

**Simulation** 1) Period of 10 years

2) 100 replicates

3)  $\Delta G$  and  $\Delta F$



# Simulations



# Simulations



# Simulations



**Origin of the sire**

*organic or conventional*



# Simulations



**Origin of the sire**

*organic or conventional*



**Phenotyping DYL**

*yes or no*



# Simulations



Origin of the sire

*organic or conventional*



Phenotyping DYL

*yes or no*



**Genotyping purebreds  
and/or crossbreds**

*yes or no*

# Simulations



Origin of the sire

*organic or conventional*



Phenotyping DYL

*yes or no*



Genotyping purebreds  
and/or crossbreds

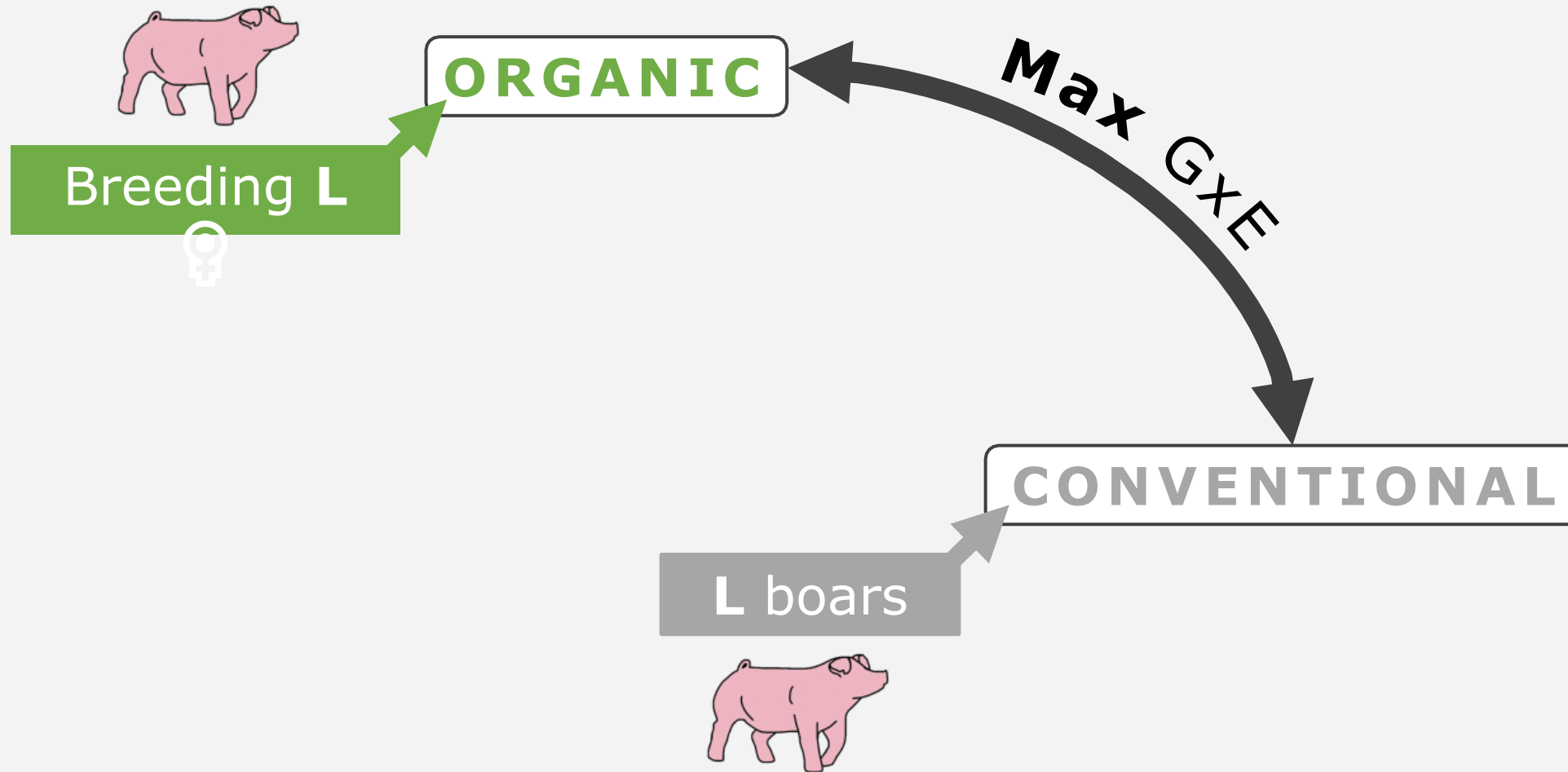
*yes or no*



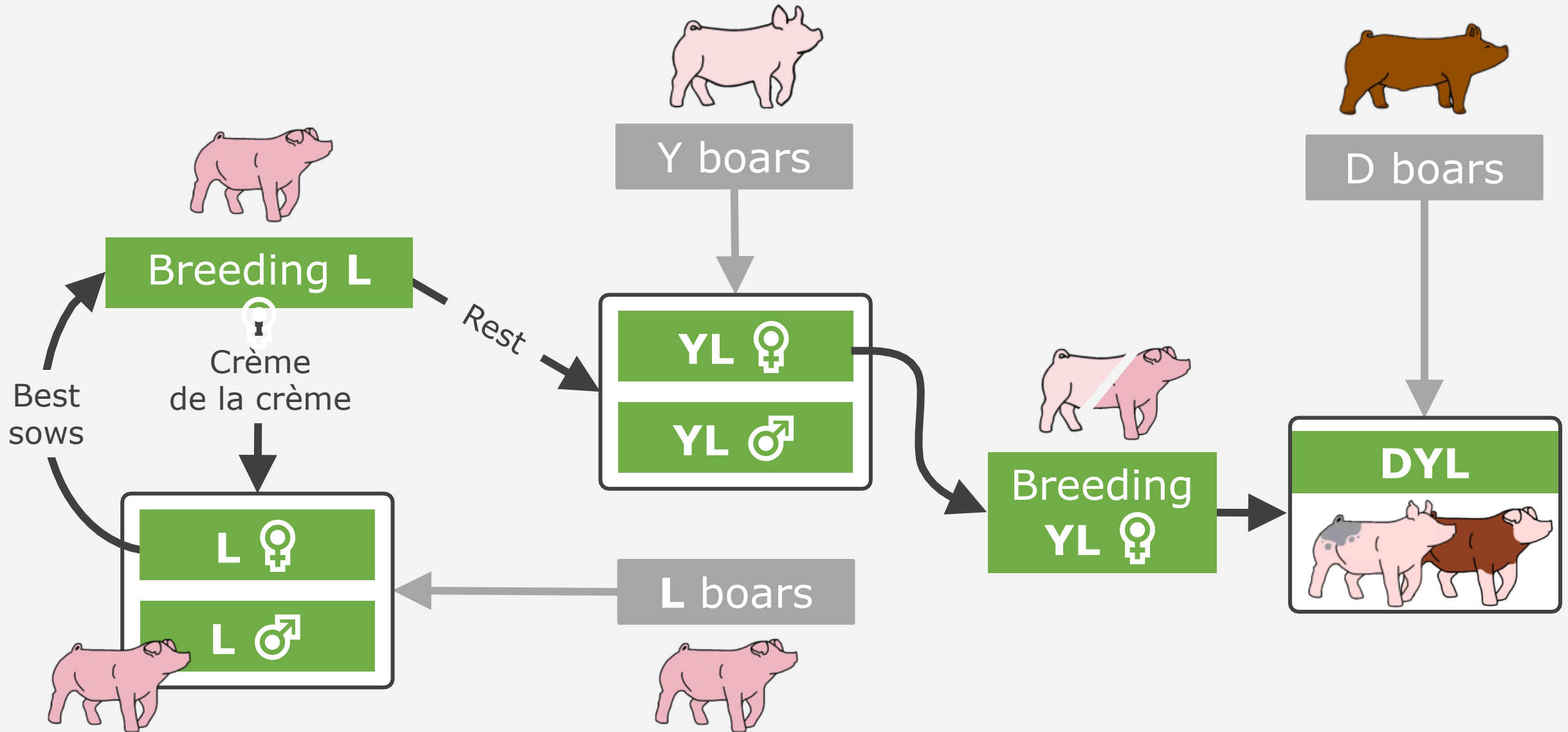
**$r_g$  between purebreds  
and crossbreds**

*weak (0,6) or  
strong (0.9)*

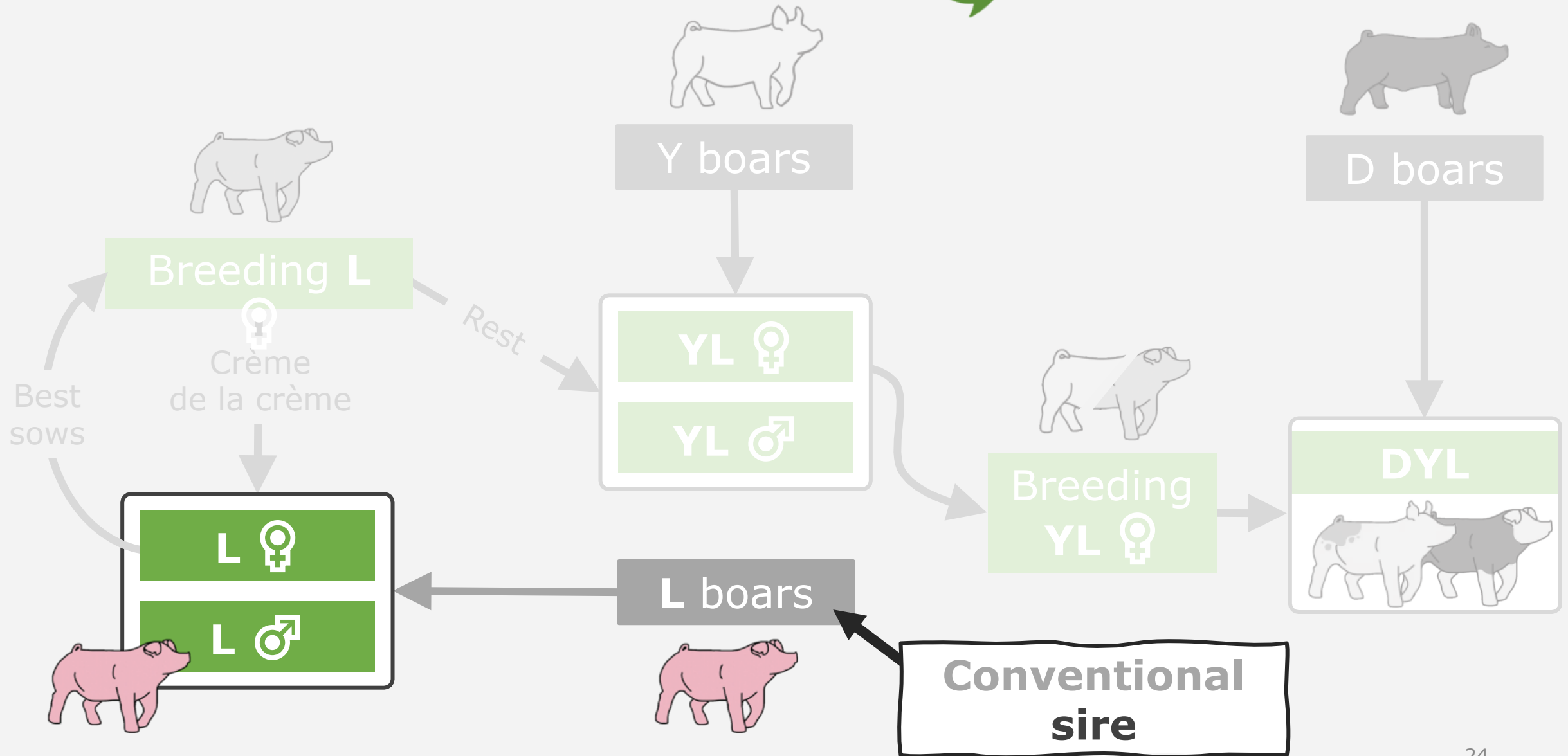
# Breeding scheme



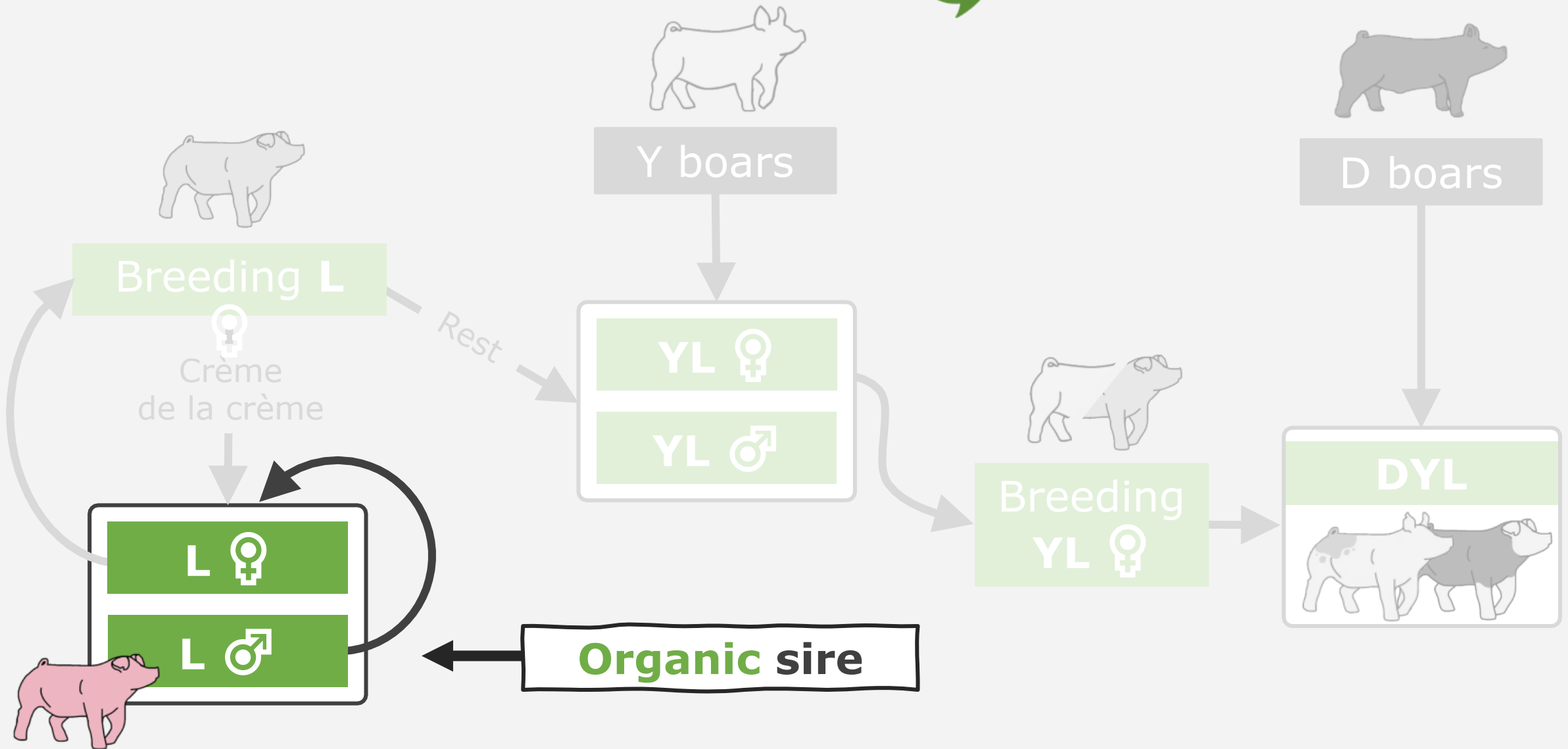
# Breeding scheme



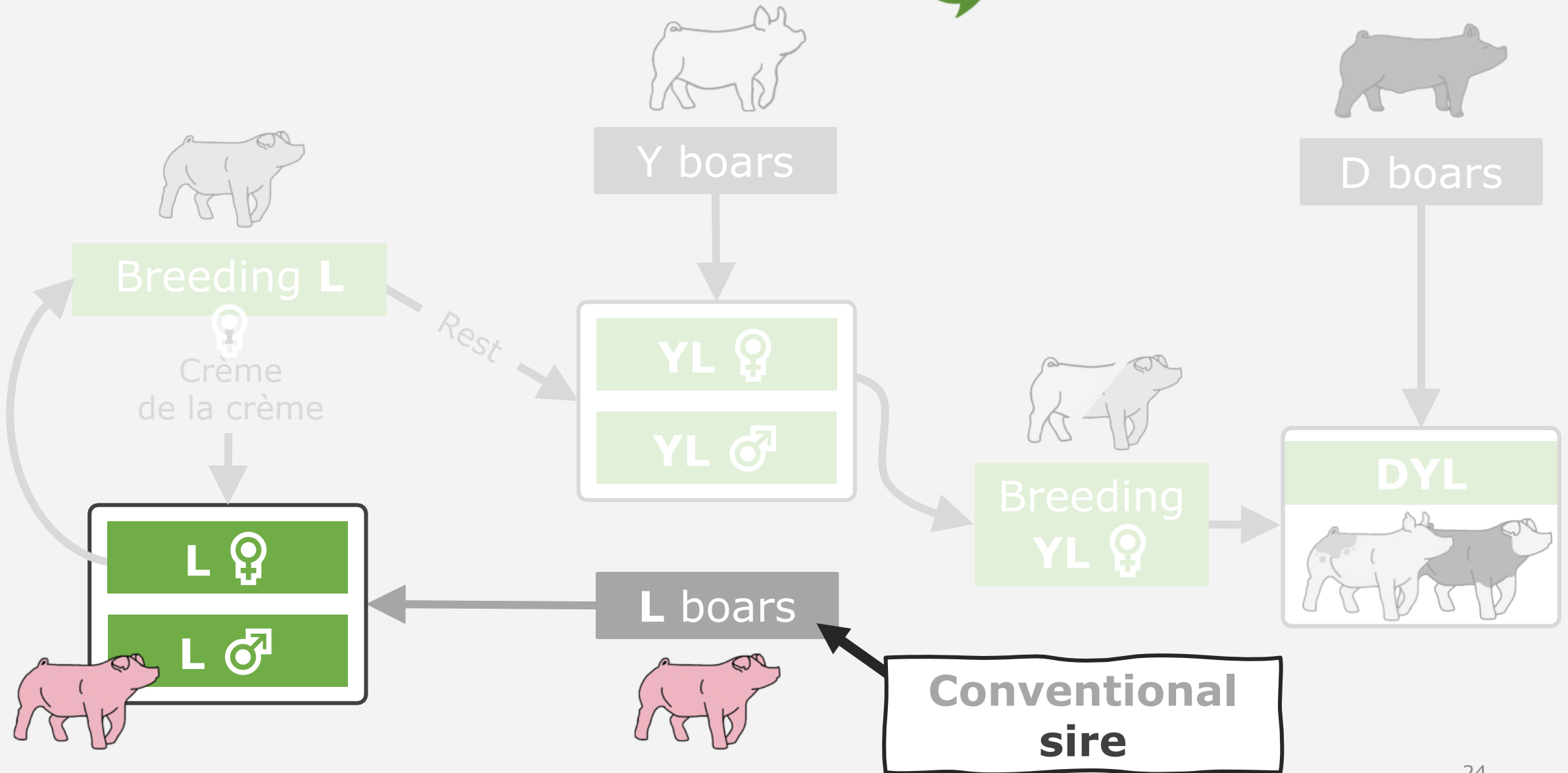
## Origin of the Landrace sire



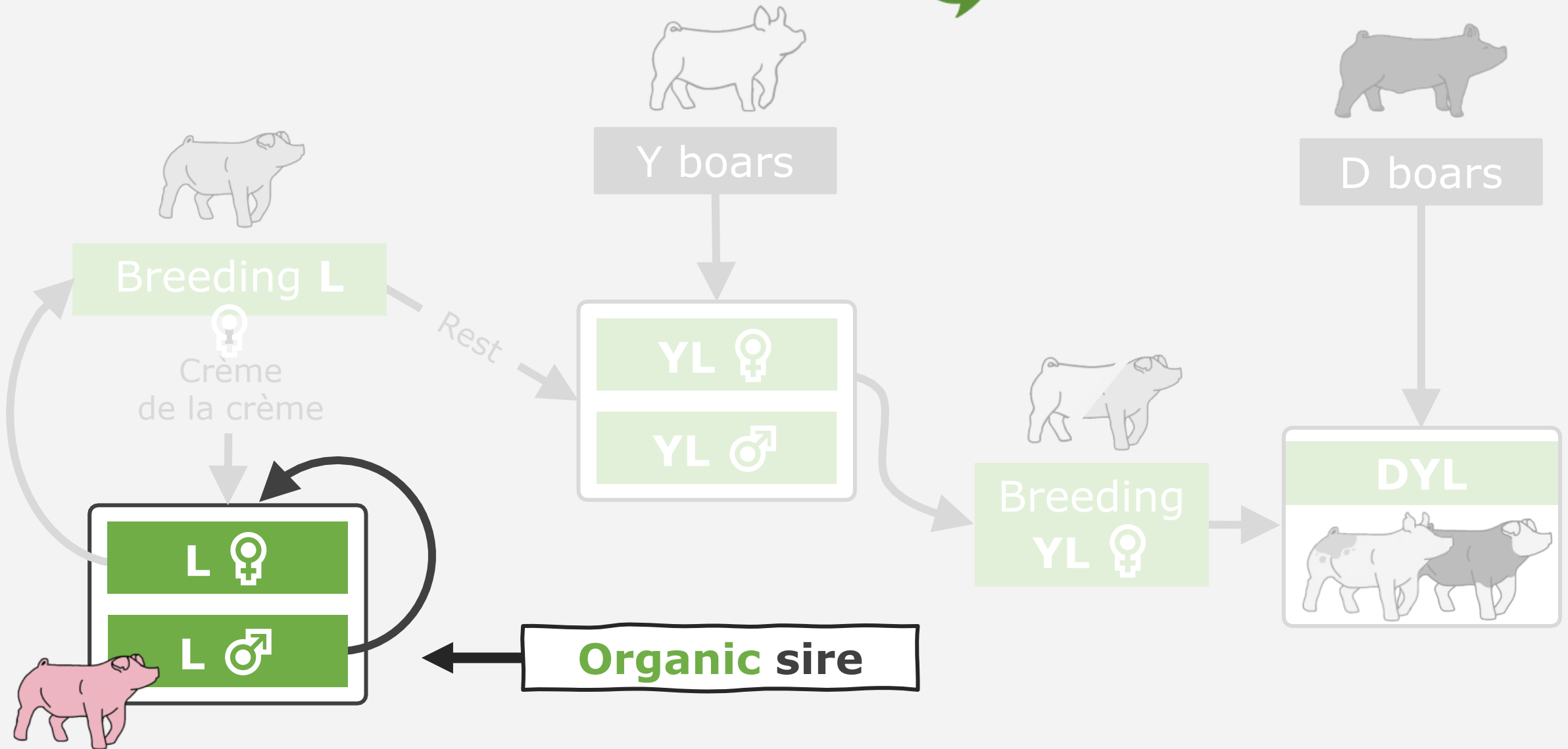
# Origin of the Landrace sire



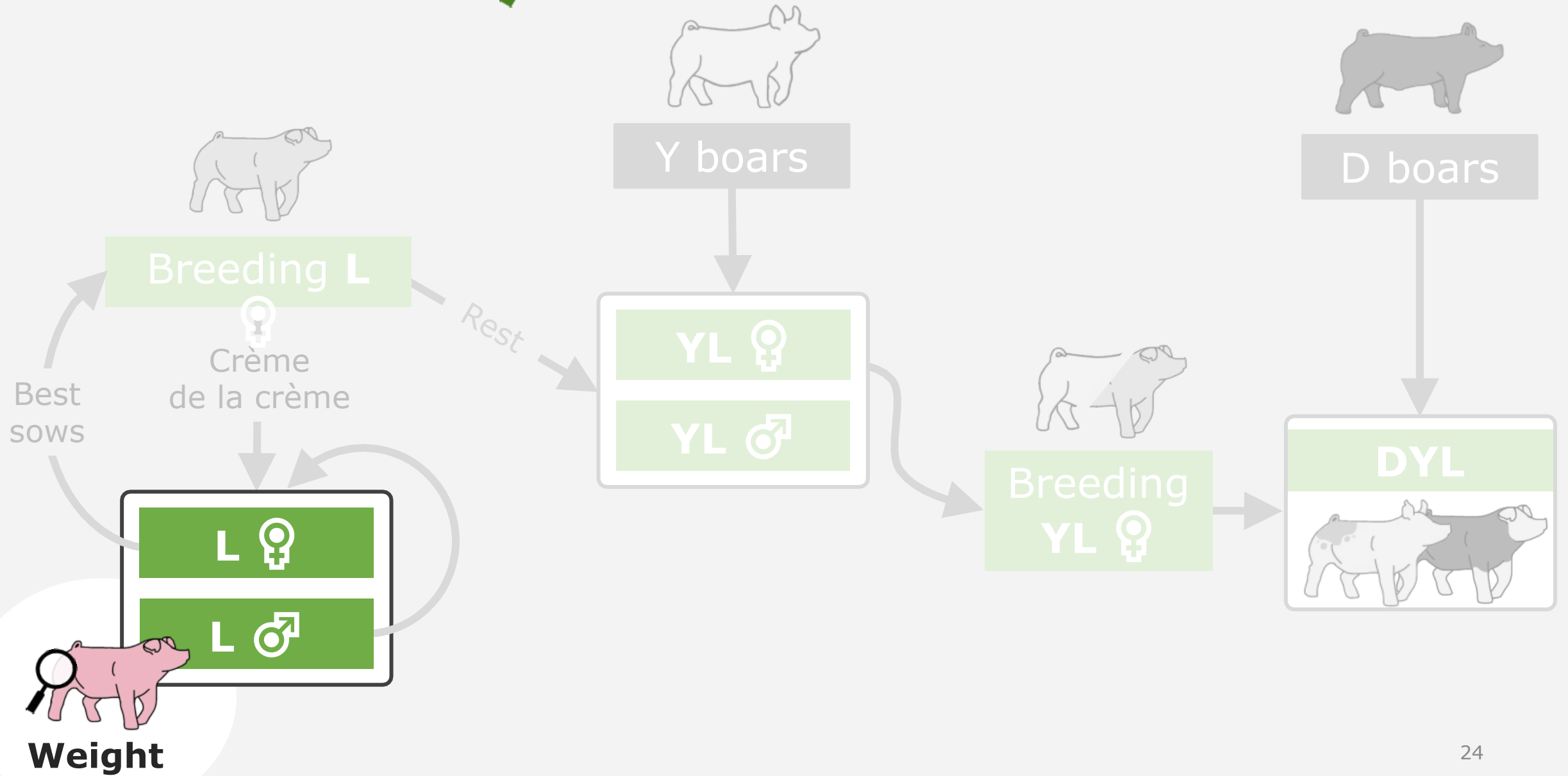
# Origin of the Landrace sire



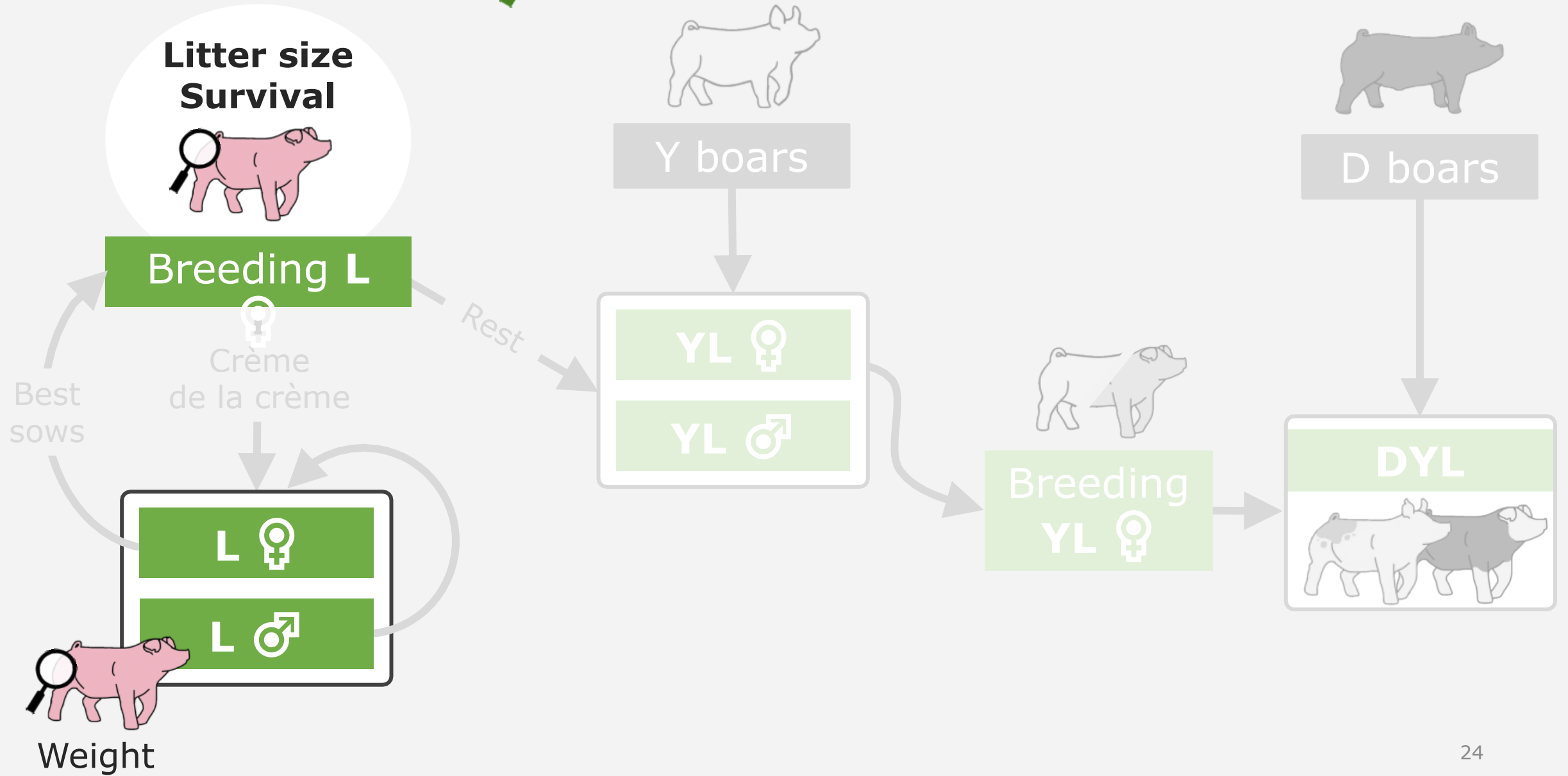
# Origin of the Landrace sire



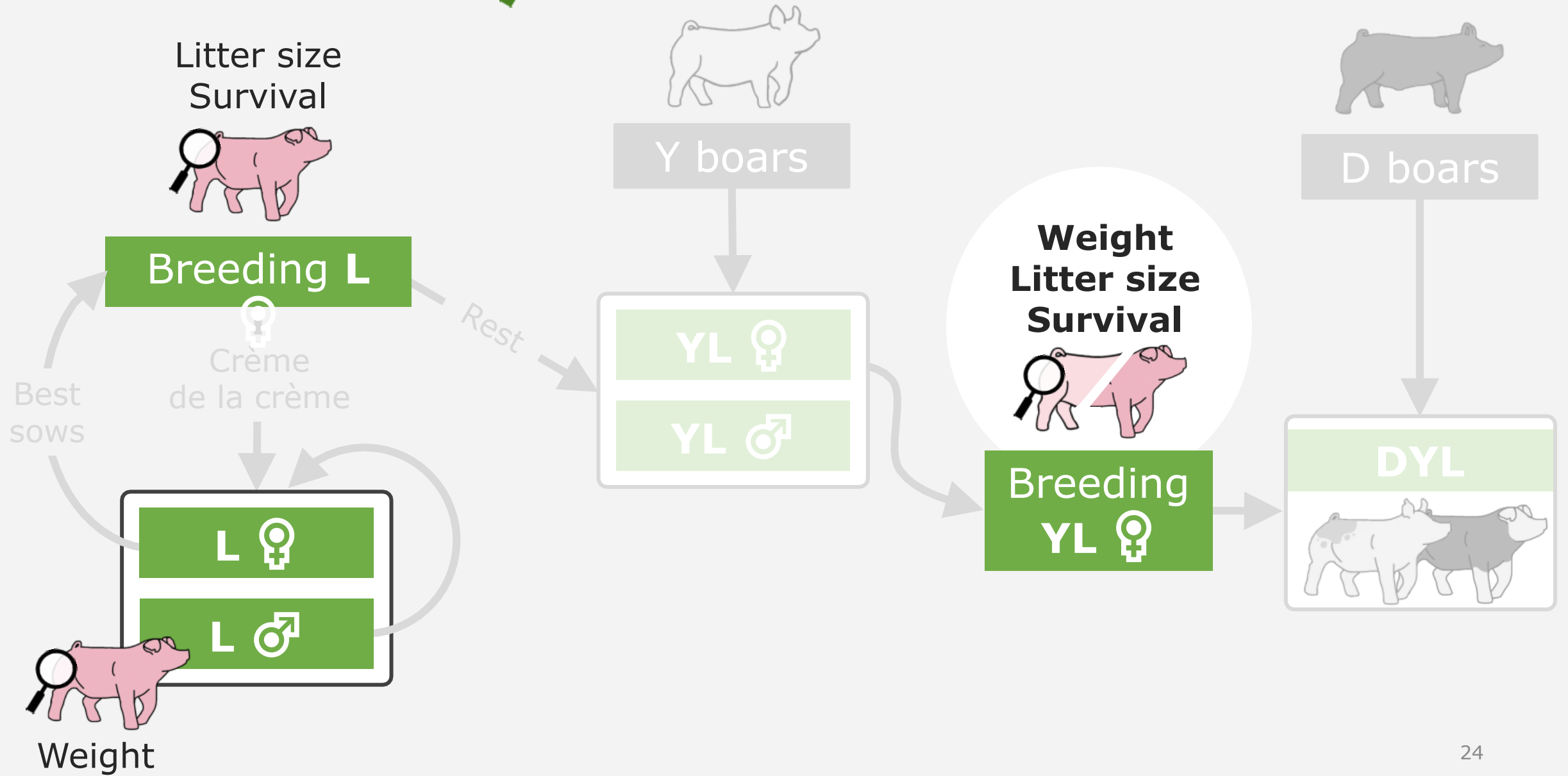
# Phenotyping



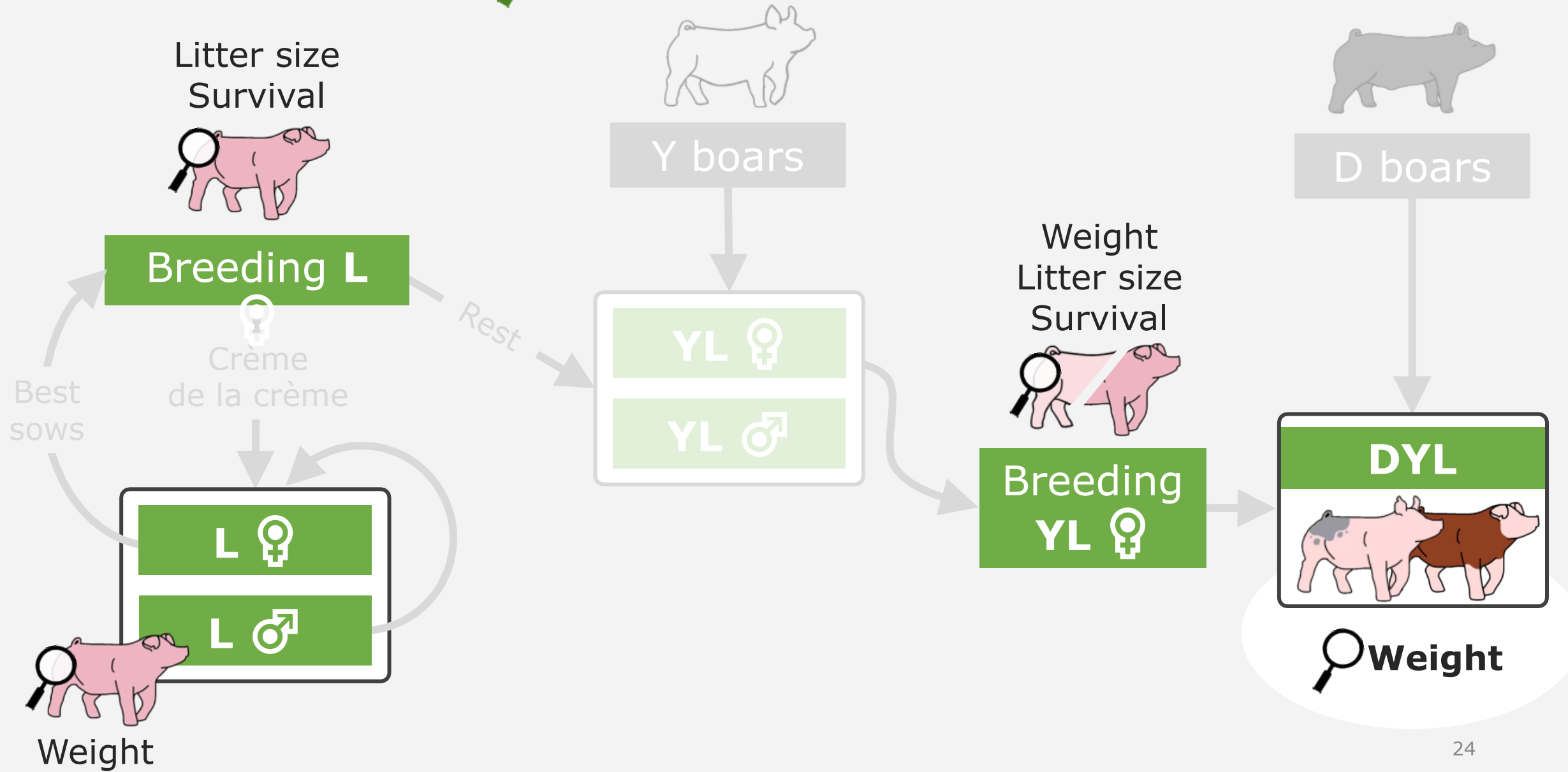
# Phenotyping



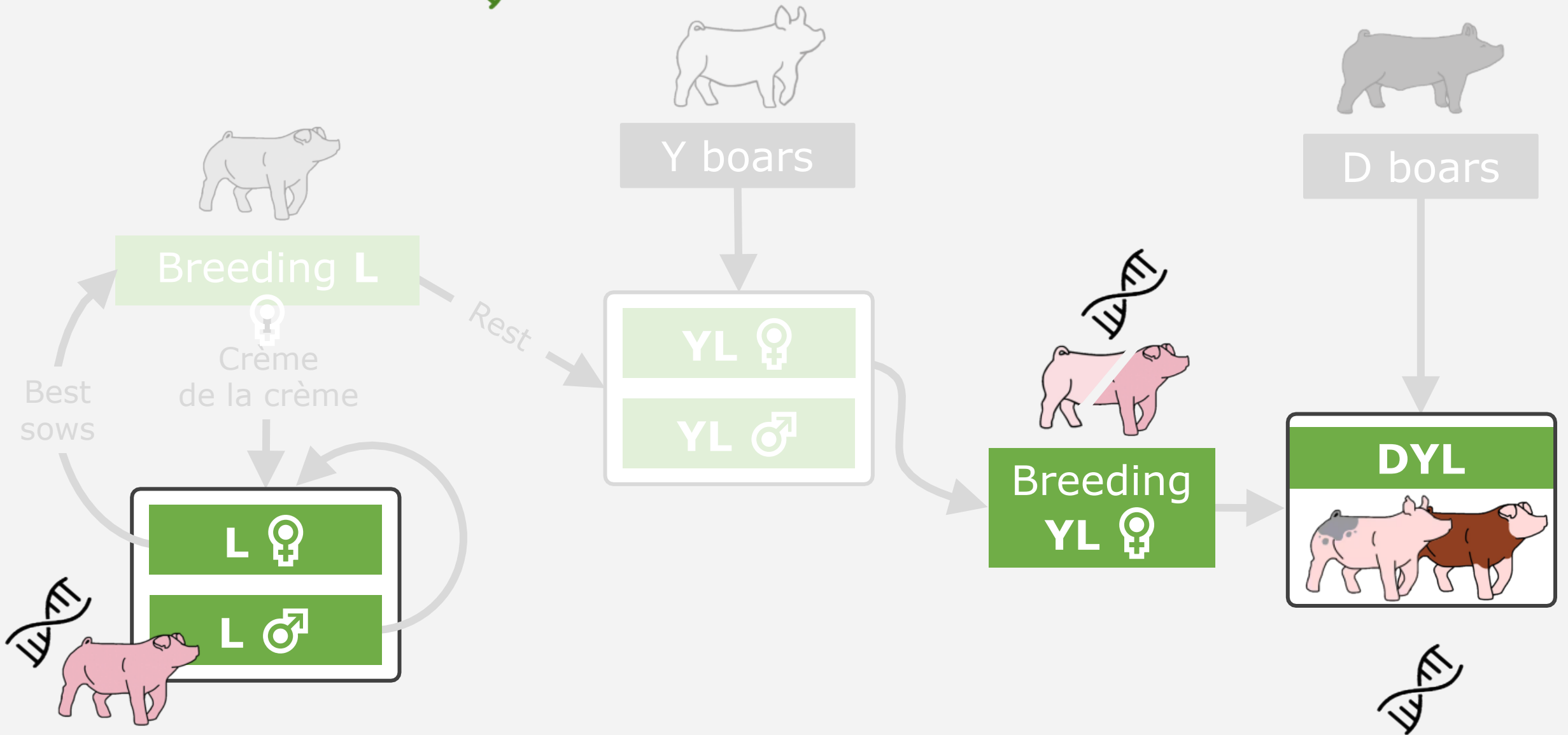
# Phenotyping



# Phenotyping



# Genotyping



# **Results & Discussion**

# Variations



**Origin of the sire**



**Phenotyping DYL**

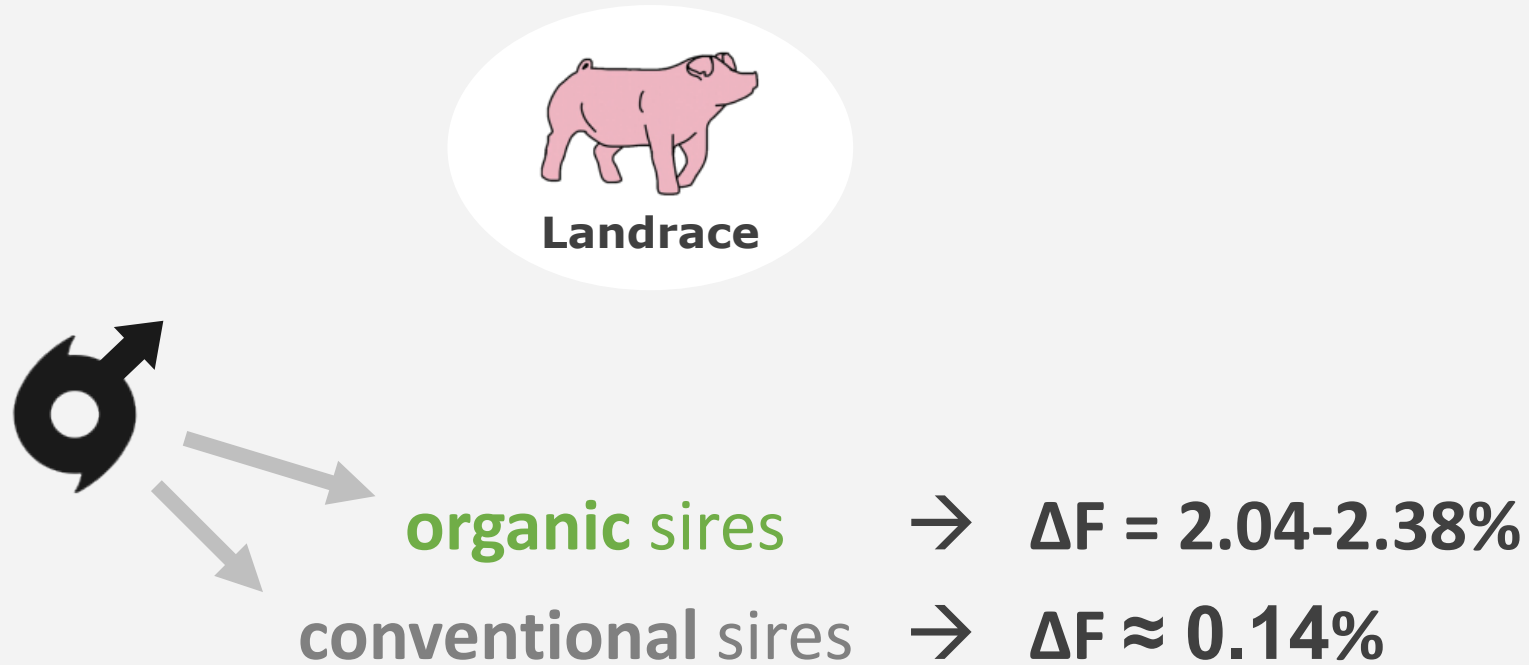


**Genotyping L / YL / DYL**



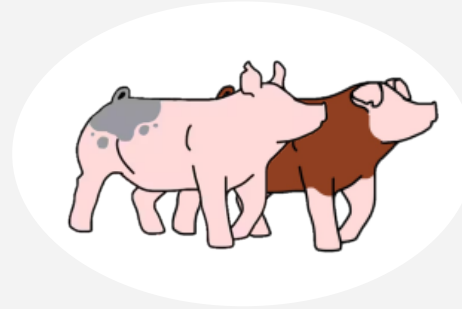
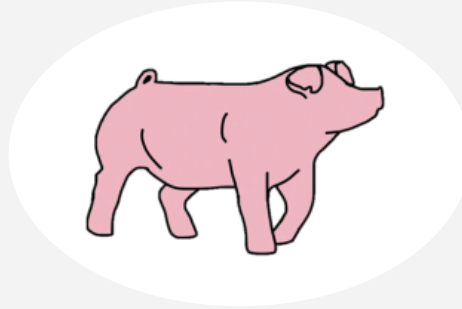
**$r_g$  - purebred, crossbred**

# Inbreeding



**Use optimal contribution selection to minimize  $\Delta F$  while maximizing  $\Delta G$**

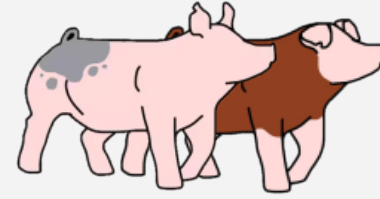
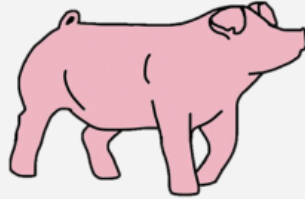
# Genetic gain



\*\*\*

\*\*

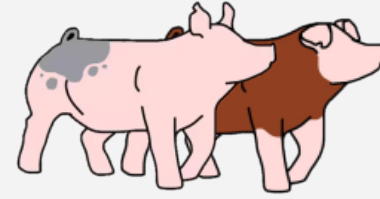
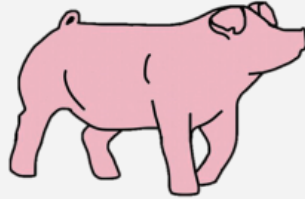
# Genetic gain



***Max GxE*** ♂

organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

# Genetic gain



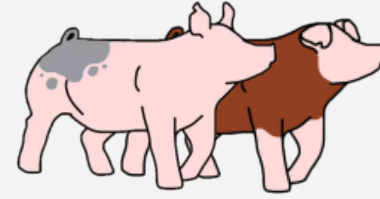
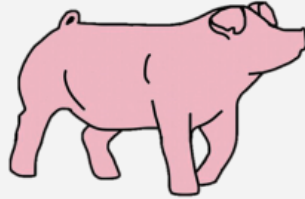
*Max GxE*   


organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

NS

NS

# Genetic gain

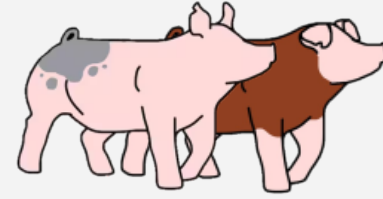
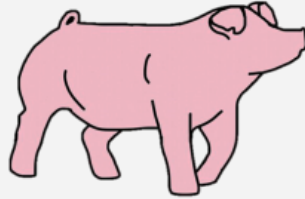


*Max GxE*   

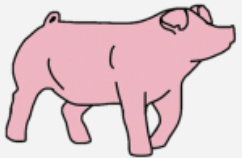

organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

no effect

# Genetic gain



*Max GxE* 



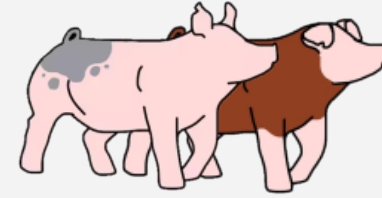
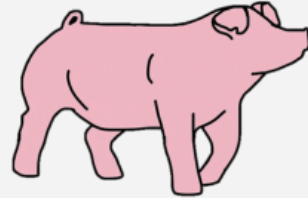
organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

no effect

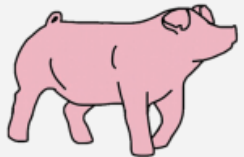
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# Genetic gain



*Max GxE* 

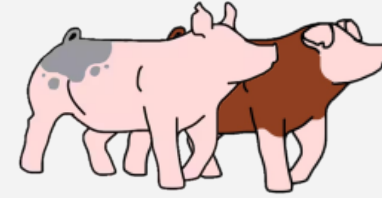
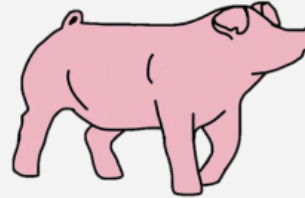


organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

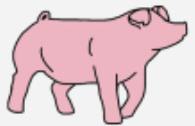
no effect

genotyping Landrace = more  $\Delta G$

# Genetic gain



*Max GxE* 



organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

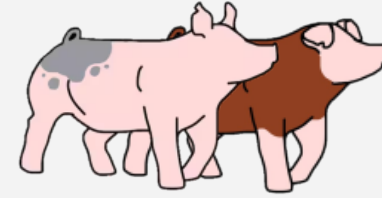
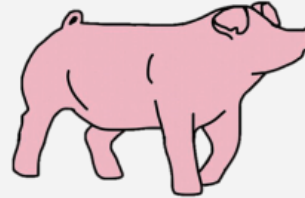
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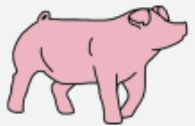
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\*\*\*

# Genetic gain



*Max GxE* 



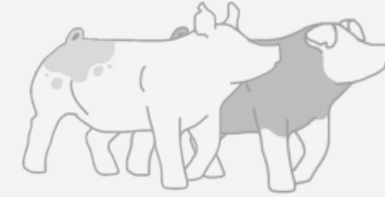
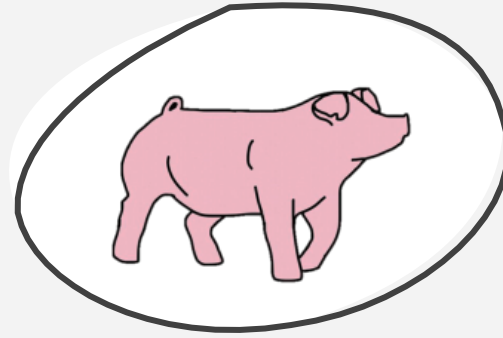
organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

no effect

genotyping Landrace = more  $\Delta G$

strong  $r_{g,pc}$  = more  $\Delta G$

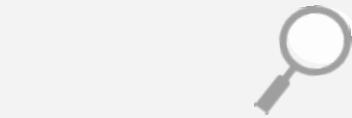
# Genetic gain



organic sires = more  $\Delta G$

*Max GxE* 

no effect

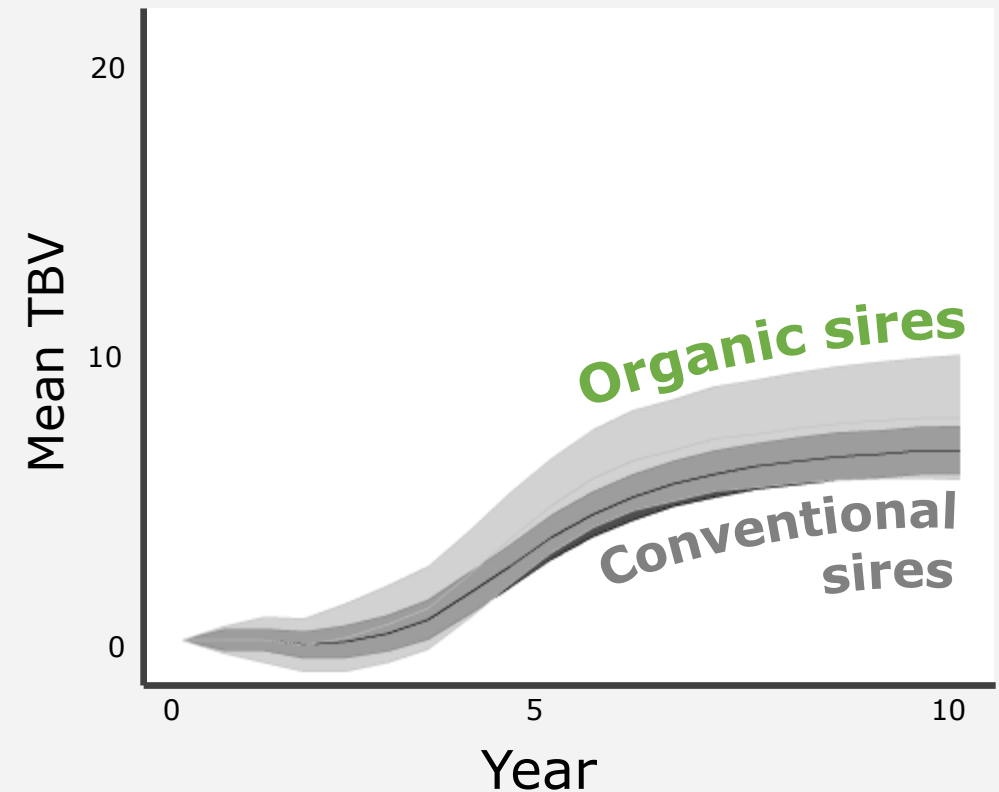
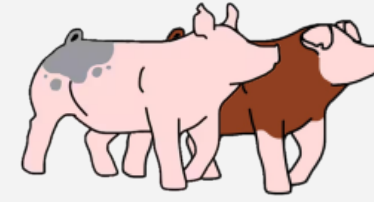
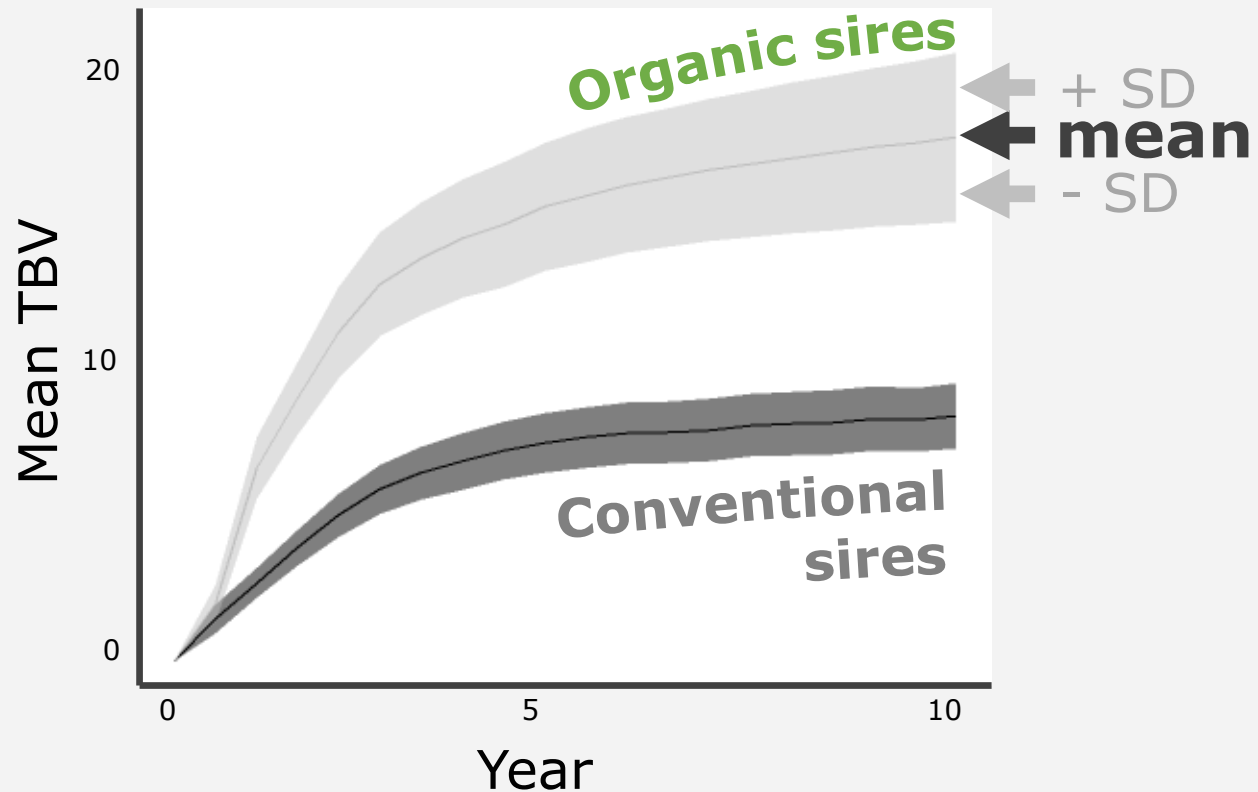
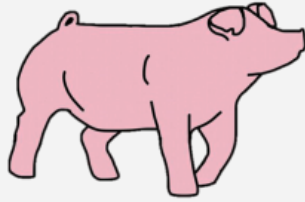


genotyping Landrace = more  $\Delta G$

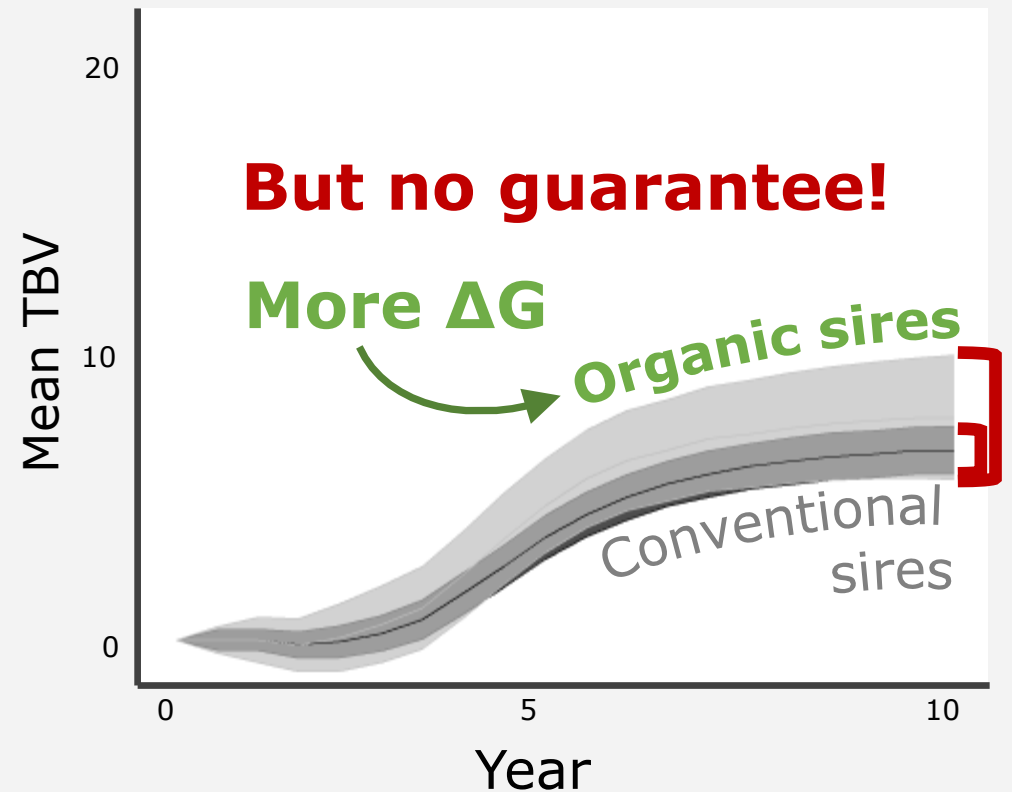
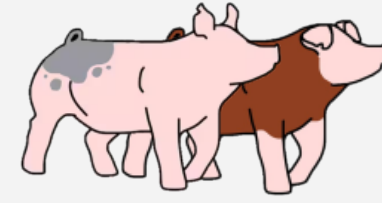
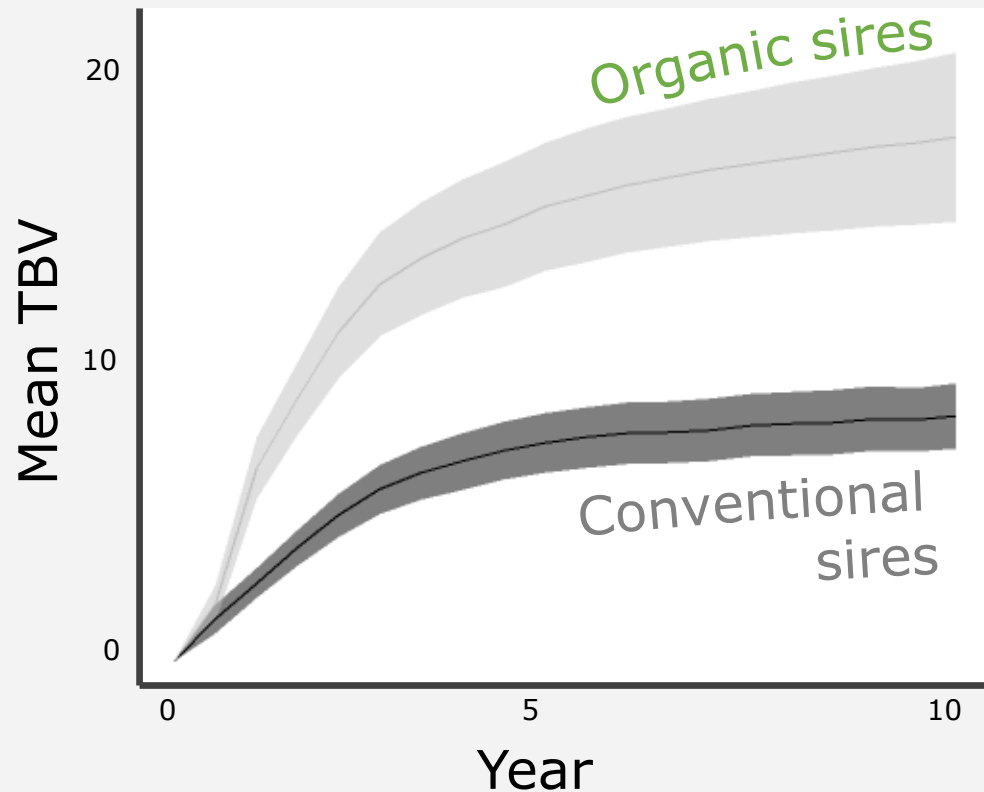
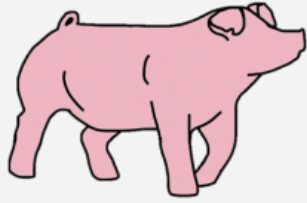


Focus on improving the  
purebred **Landrace** population

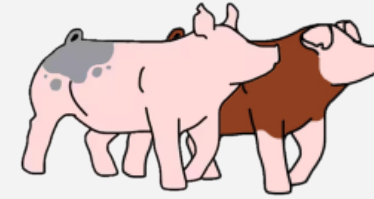
# Genetic gain – effect sires



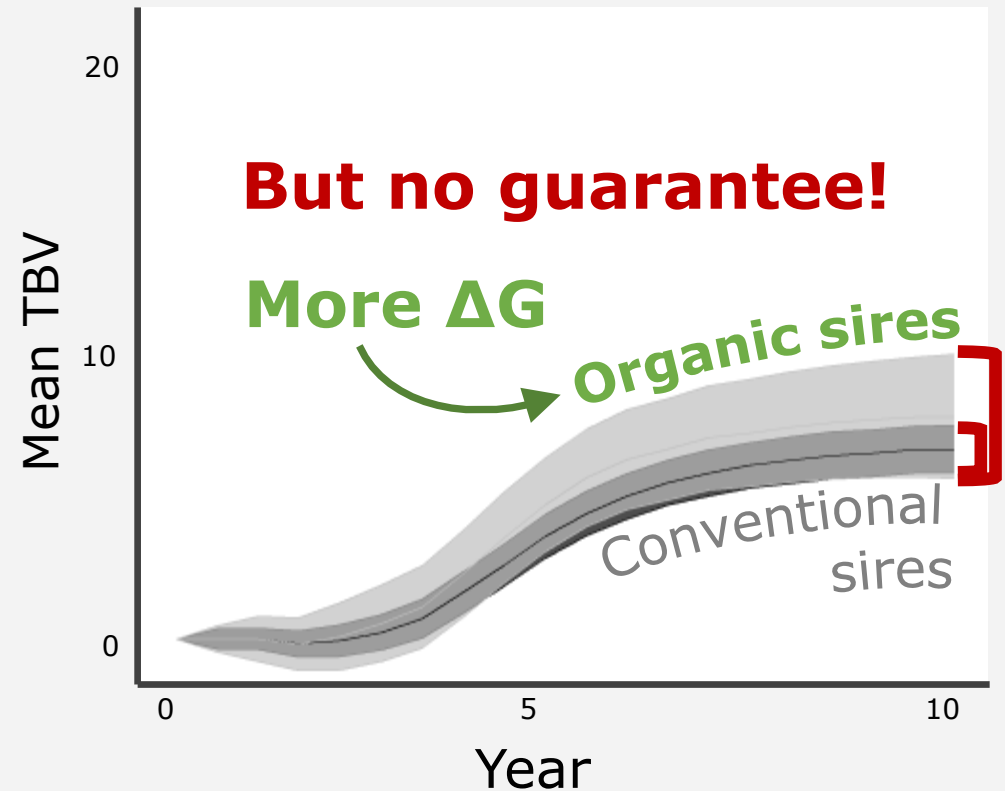
# Genetic gain – effect sires



# Genetic gain – effect sires

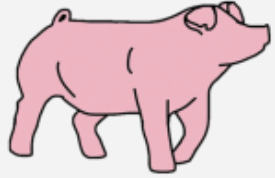


**Using organic sires in a small population is a risky business**



# Conclusions

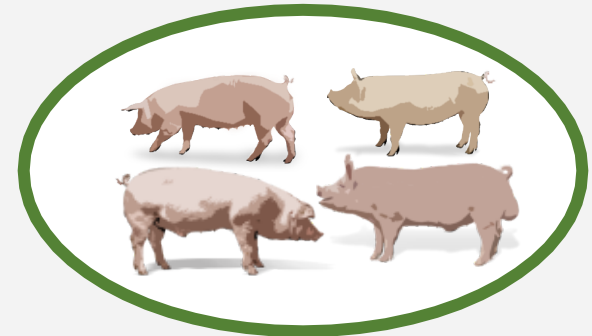
# Conclusions

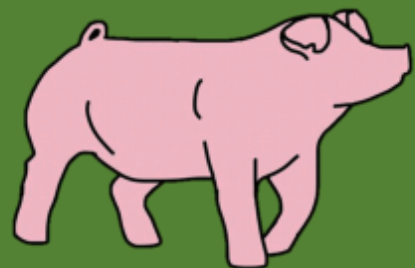


Focus on improving the purebred Landrace population.

When setting up an **independent organic breeding program**:

1. Manage the size of the organic pig population
2. Monitor loss of genetic variation
3. Control rate of inbreeding





Thank you  
for listening



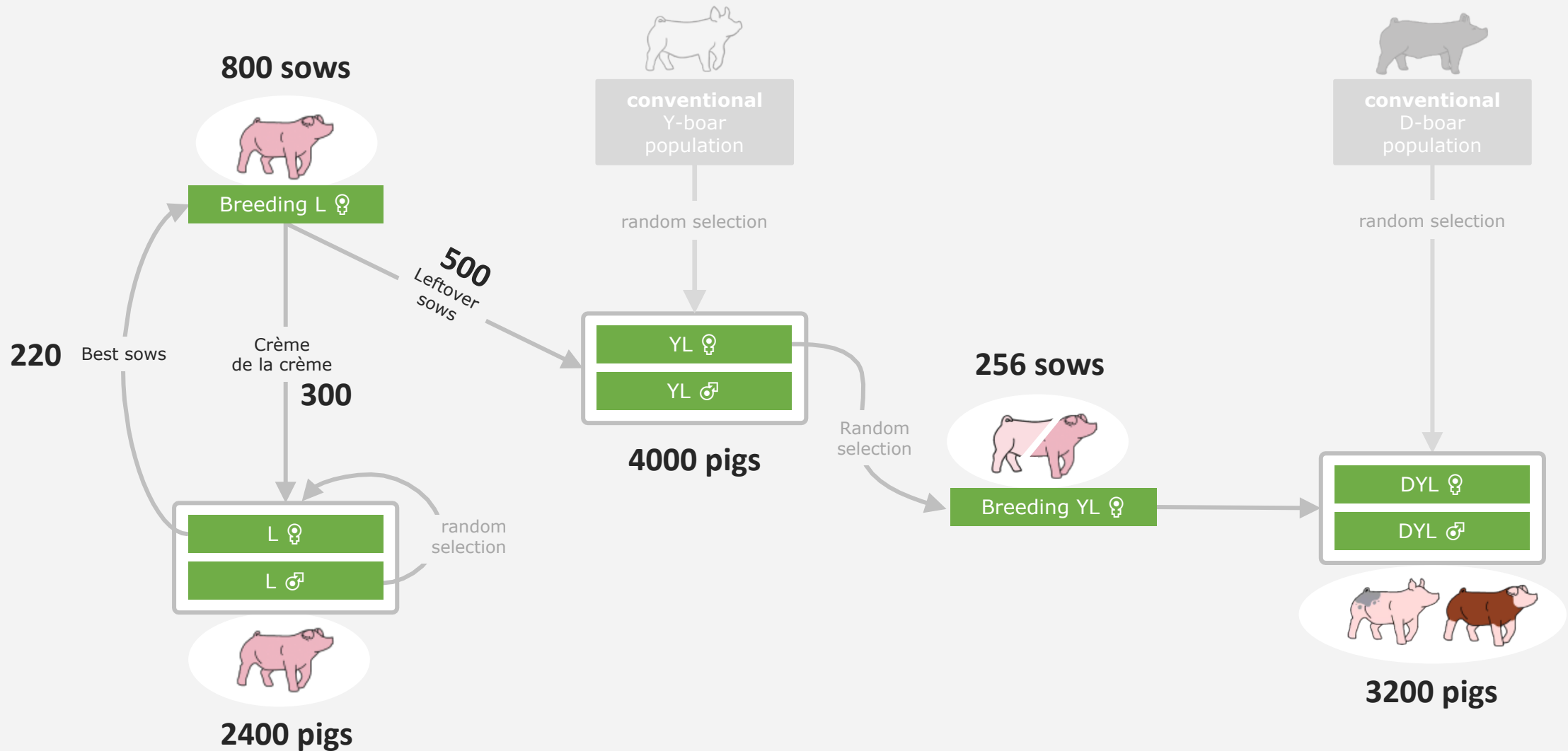
AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY





**Extra slides**

# Small population (detailed)



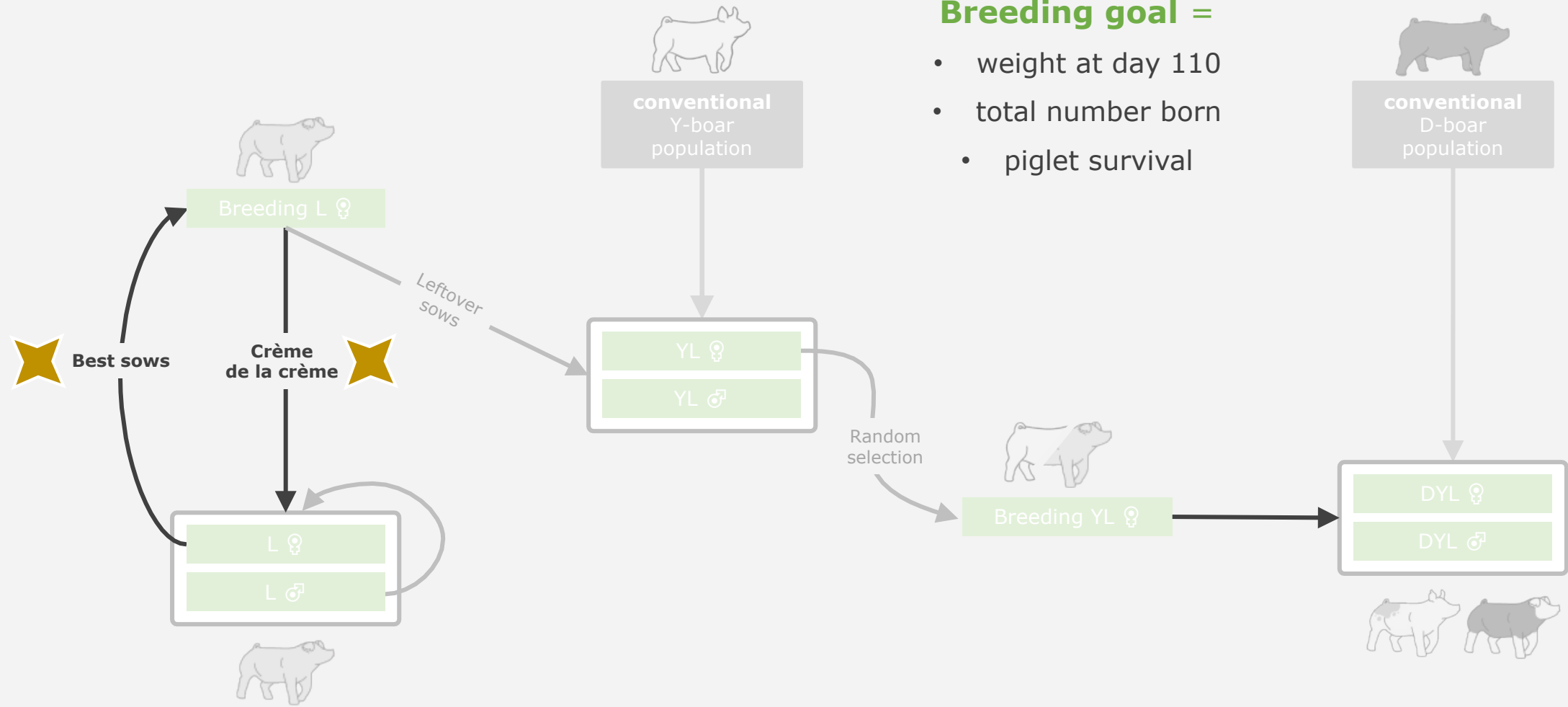
# Selection



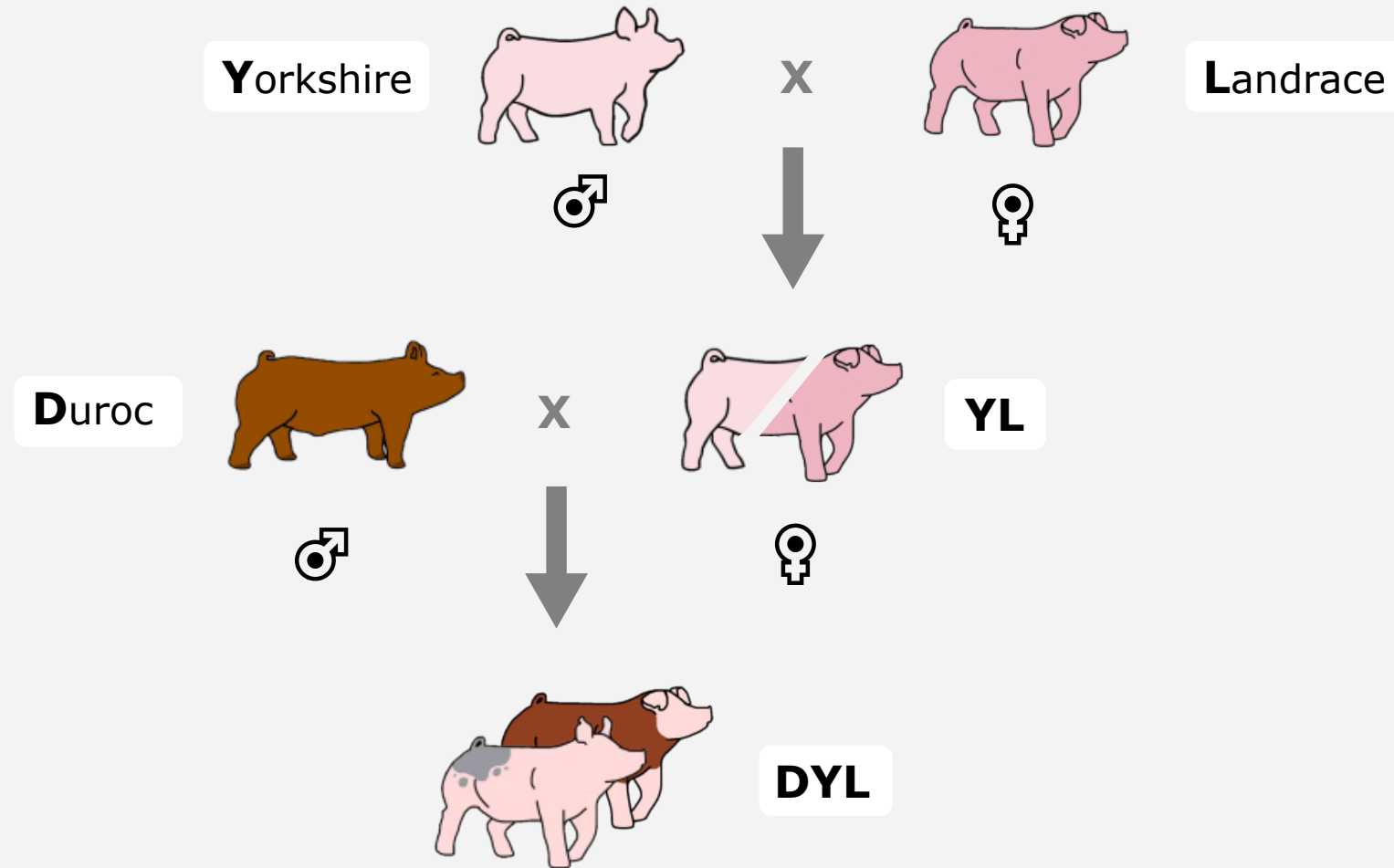
Selection based on **EBV** or **gEBV**

## Breeding goal =

- weight at day 110
- total number born
- piglet survival



# Breeding scheme





Link to pictures:

[https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/1425541438/show-pig-kiss-cut-vinyl-decals-showpig?ga\\_order=most\\_relevant&ga\\_search\\_type=all&ga\\_view\\_type=gallery&ga\\_search\\_query=duroc&ref=sr\\_gallery-1-3&organic\\_search\\_click=1](https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/1425541438/show-pig-kiss-cut-vinyl-decals-showpig?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=duroc&ref=sr_gallery-1-3&organic_search_click=1)

# Genotyping



Focus on  small population

