



Characterisation of outdoor pig systems in Ireland to better understand management practices, challenges and barriers to expansion

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Introduction

Societal concerns and demands for

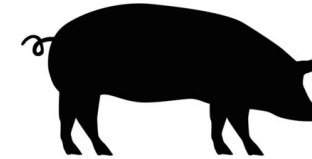
- Sustainability
- Animal welfare
- Food quality



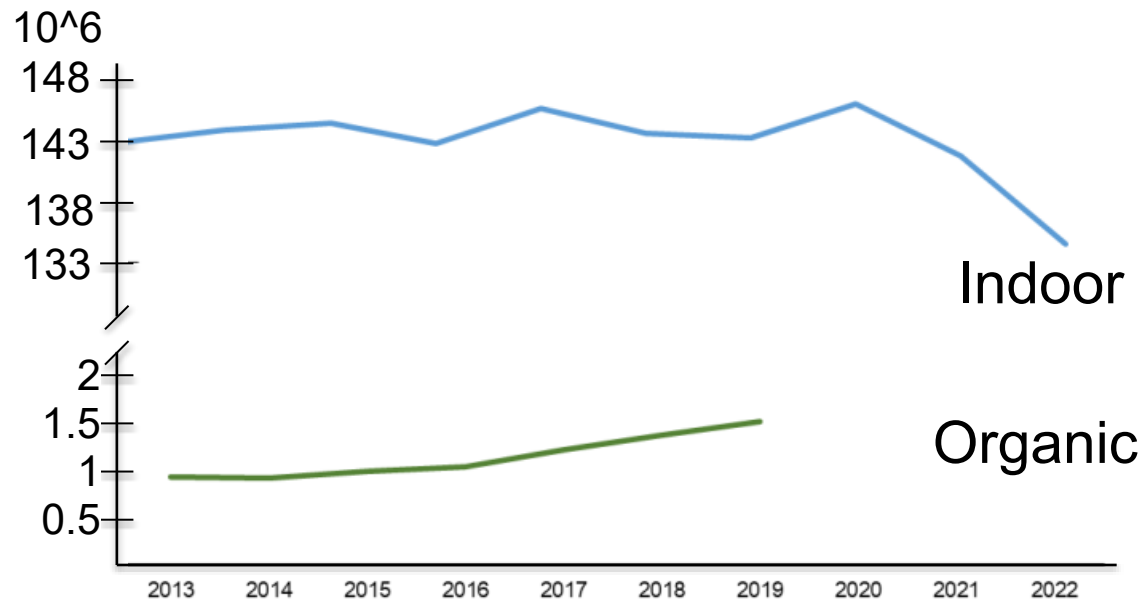
Farming
certification
schemes



Cage
Barn laid
Free range
Organic



Indoor
?
Organic



Eurostat








Characterising outdoor pig systems in Ireland




Materials and methods

Online Survey  SurveyMonkey

Personal messages

- Social network   
- Personal/companies emails 
- Text messages 
- Agricultural shows

Publications

- Social network profiles   
- Teagasc webpage and newsletter

<https://www.teagasc.ie/animals/pigs/research/research-projects/onewelpig-project/>

Outdoor pig owners

40 questions about

- Geographical location
- Number, breed, sex and stages of animals
- Environmental description
- Nutrition and Water management
- Health status and management of the animals
- Open qualitative questions

Qualitative questions

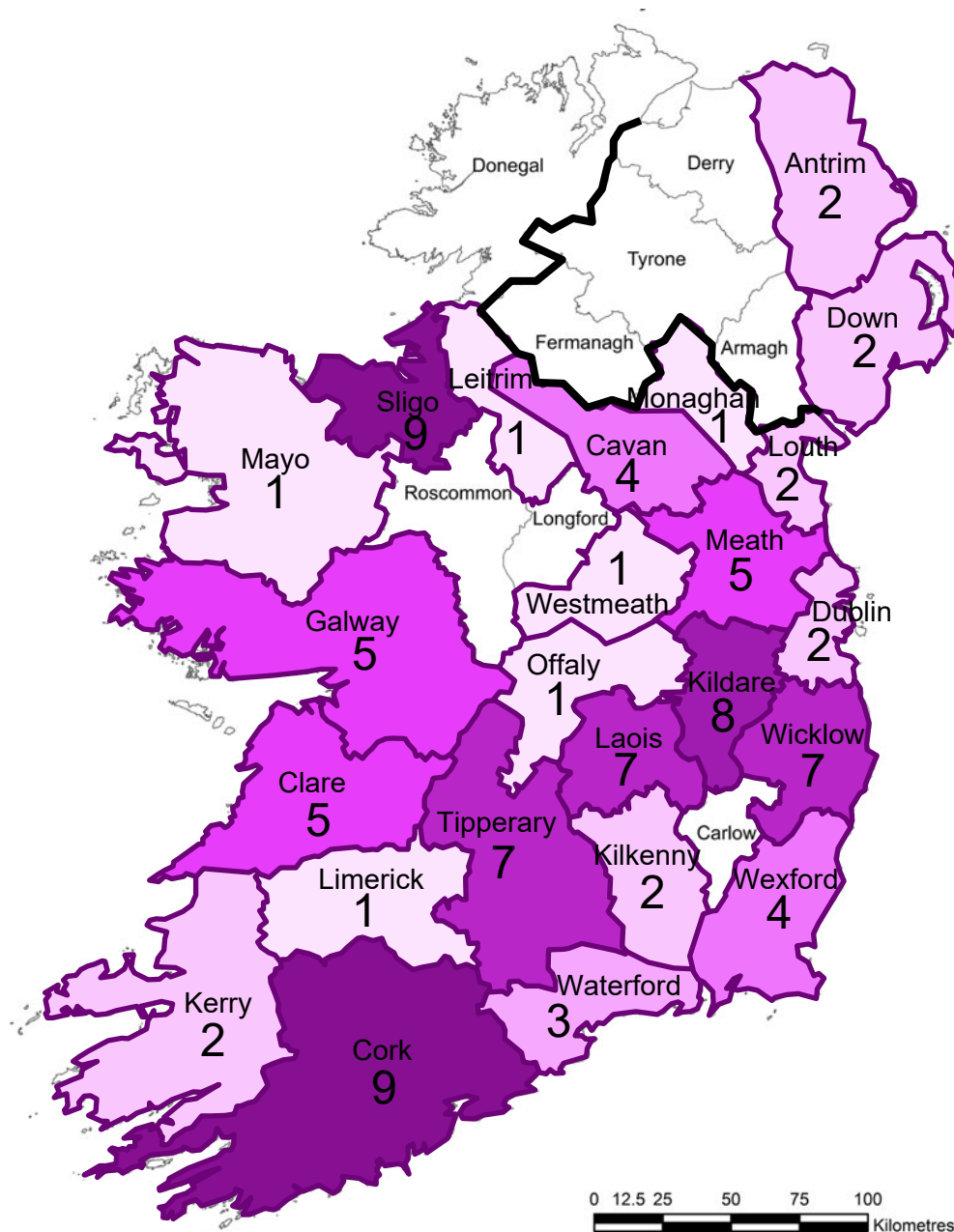
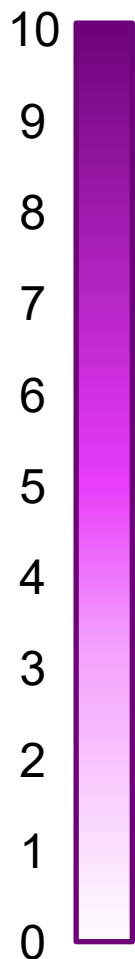
- How would you **describe your farm**?
- What do your **pigs really enjoy** in life?
- What do your **pigs least enjoy** in life?
- What are the three main **daily challenges** of keeping pigs outdoors on your farm?
- What are three **main changes that are needed** at infrastructural level to encourage the production of pigs outdoors?

Co-occurrence test Rstudio

Results

December 2022 - May 2023

91 respondents
24/ 32 counties

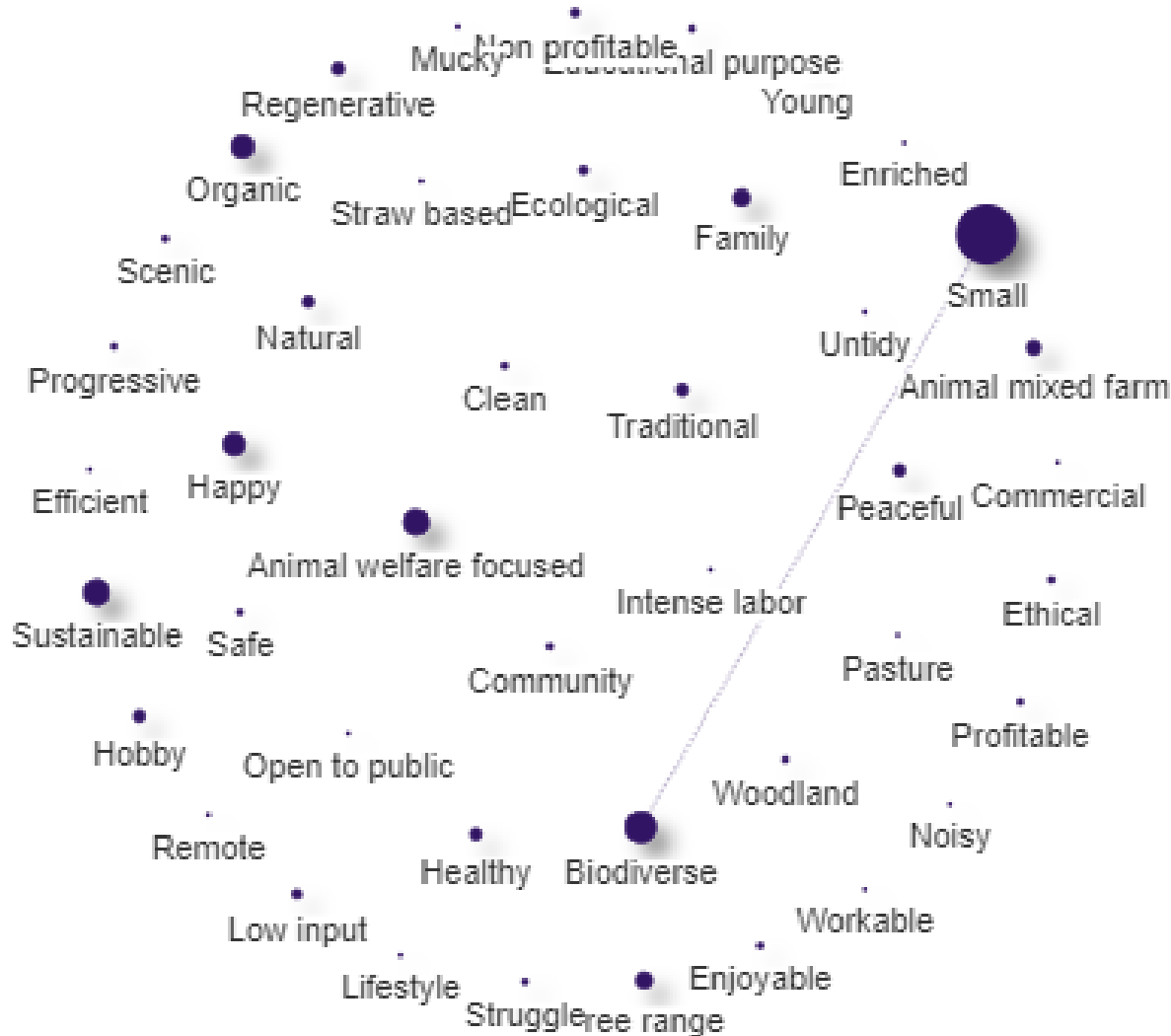


Survey link

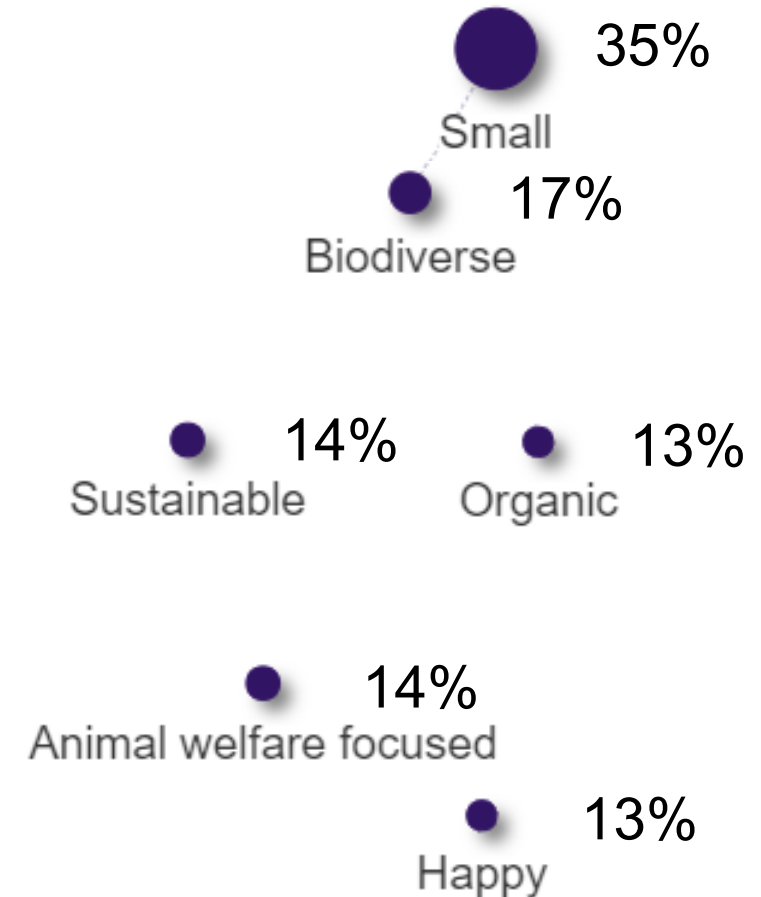


Farm description

N=63

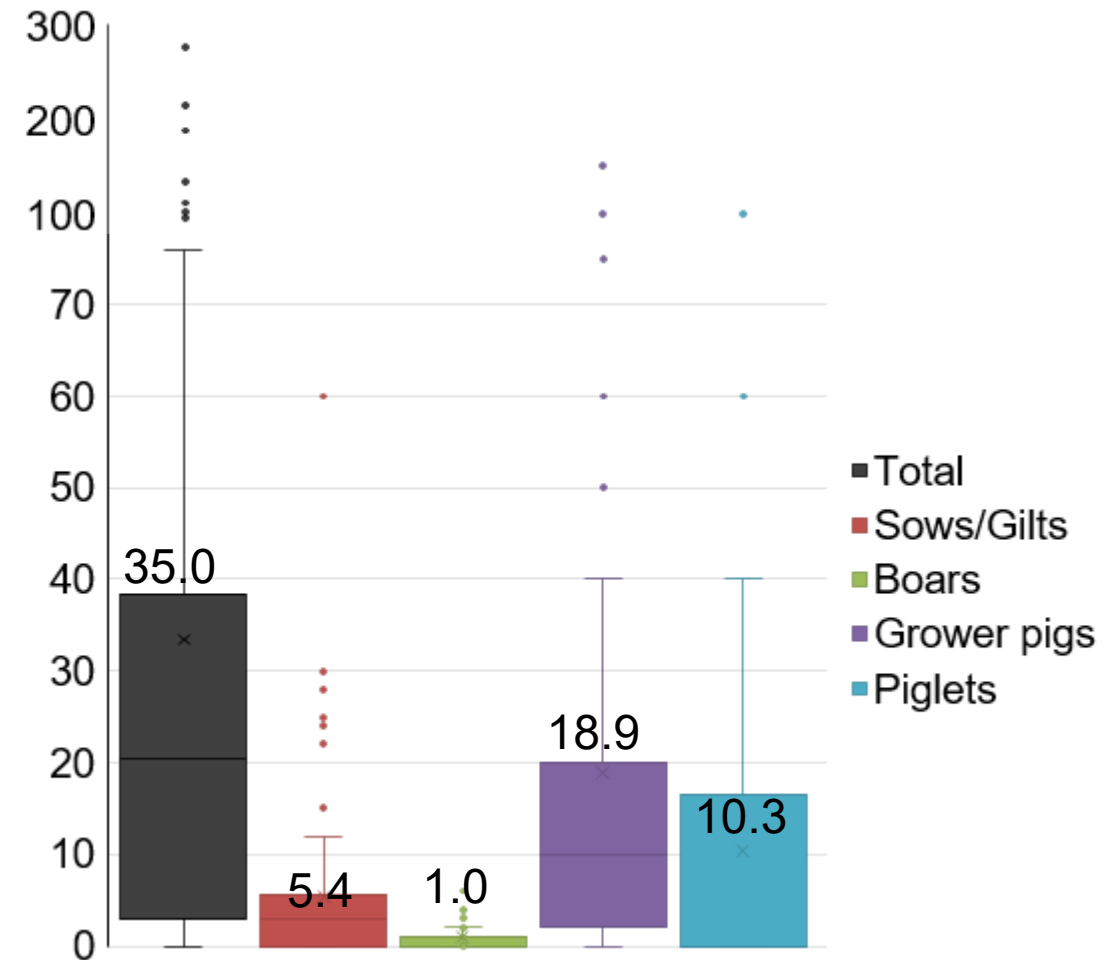
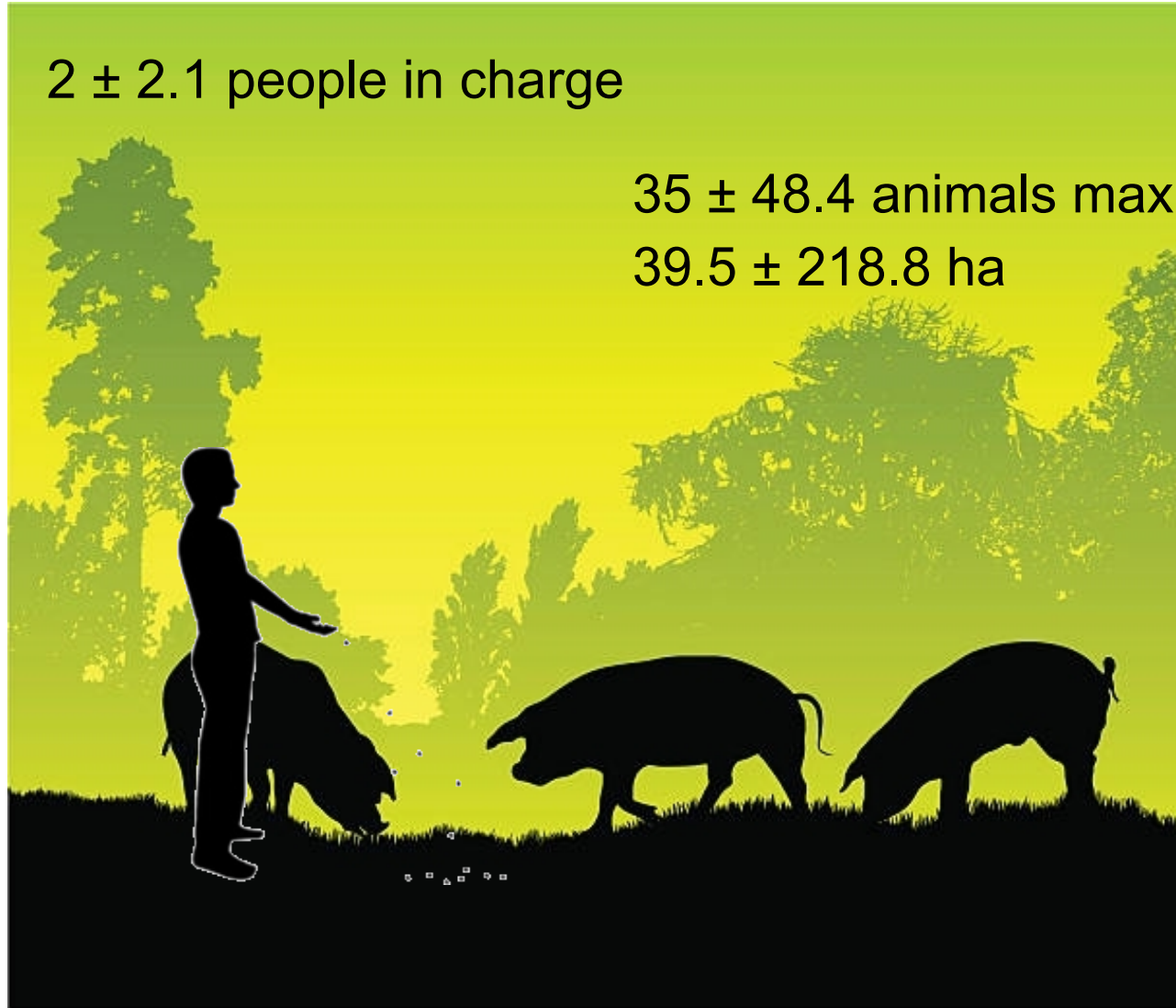


43 descriptives



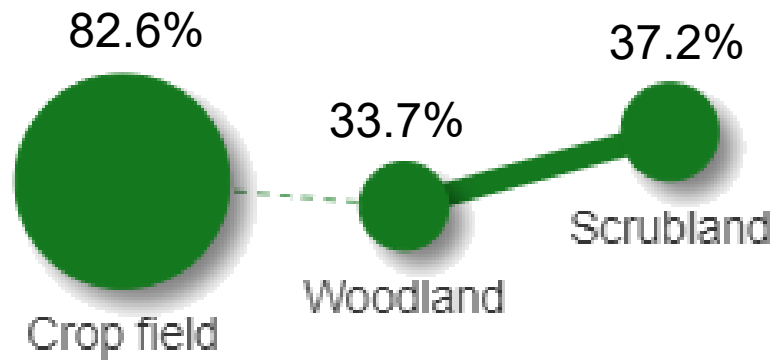
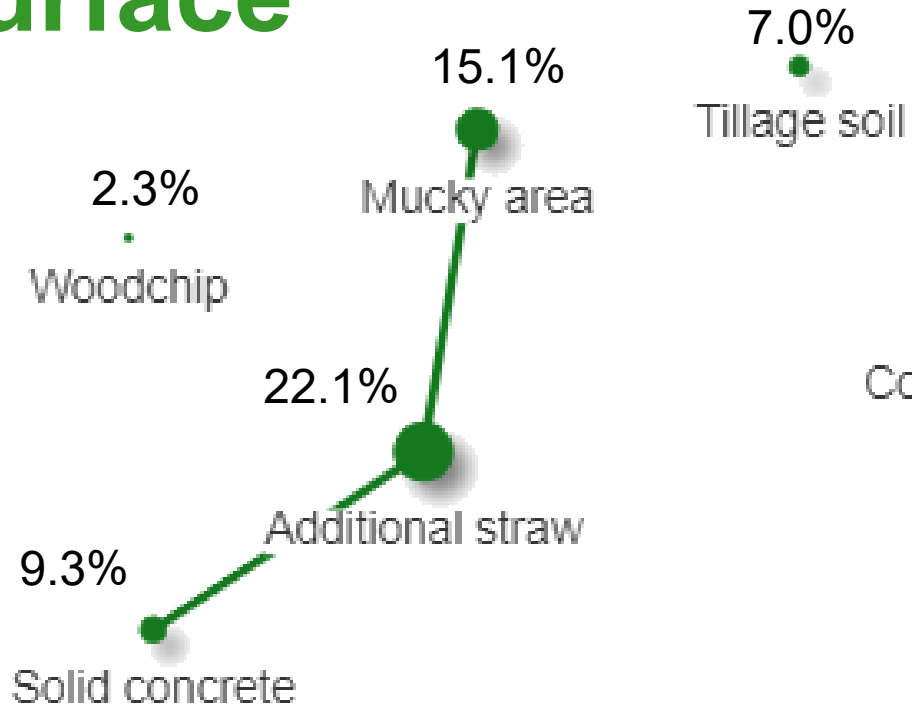
Small scale farms

N=82



Underfoot surface

N=86

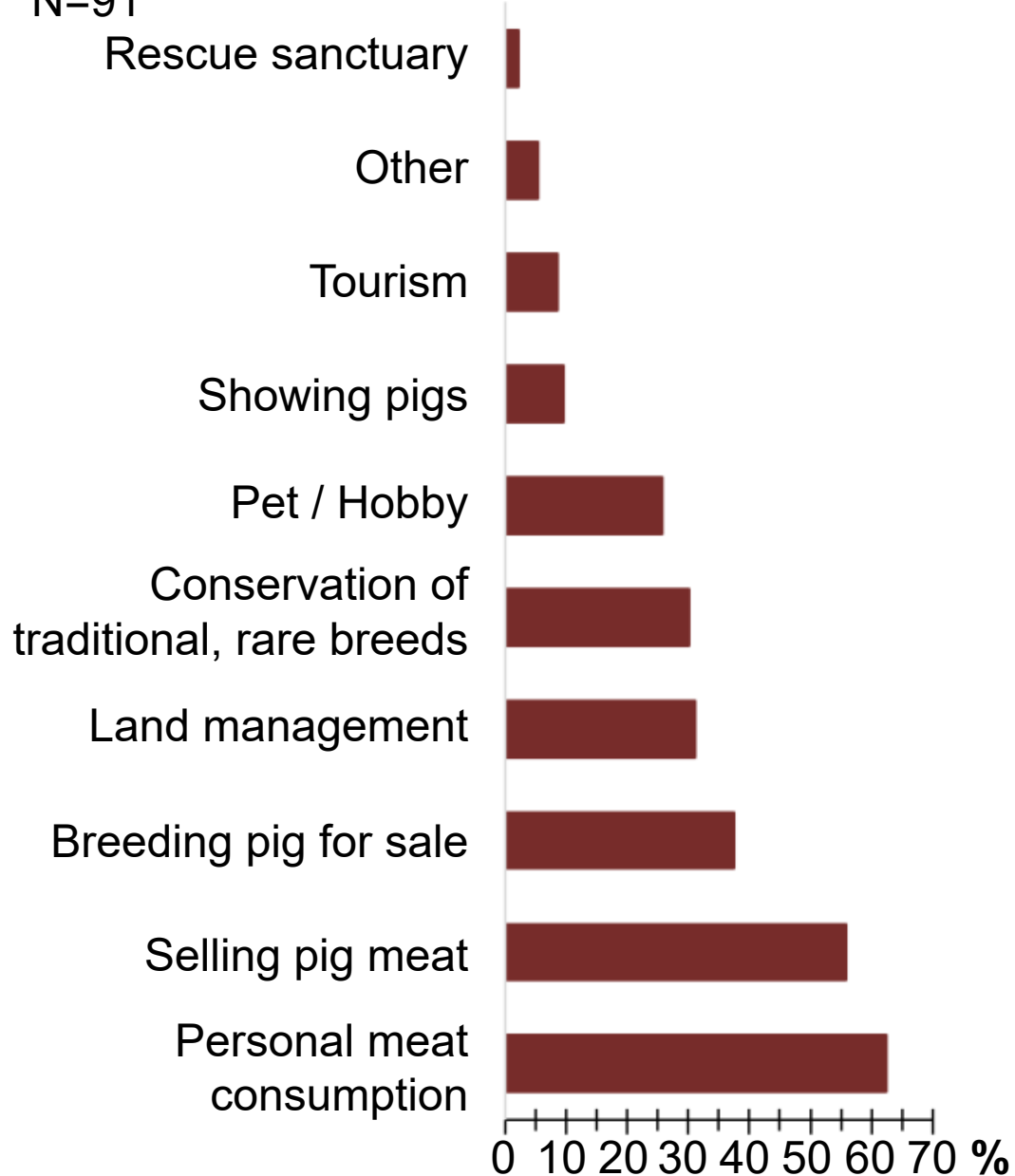


Co-occurrence $p < 0.05$



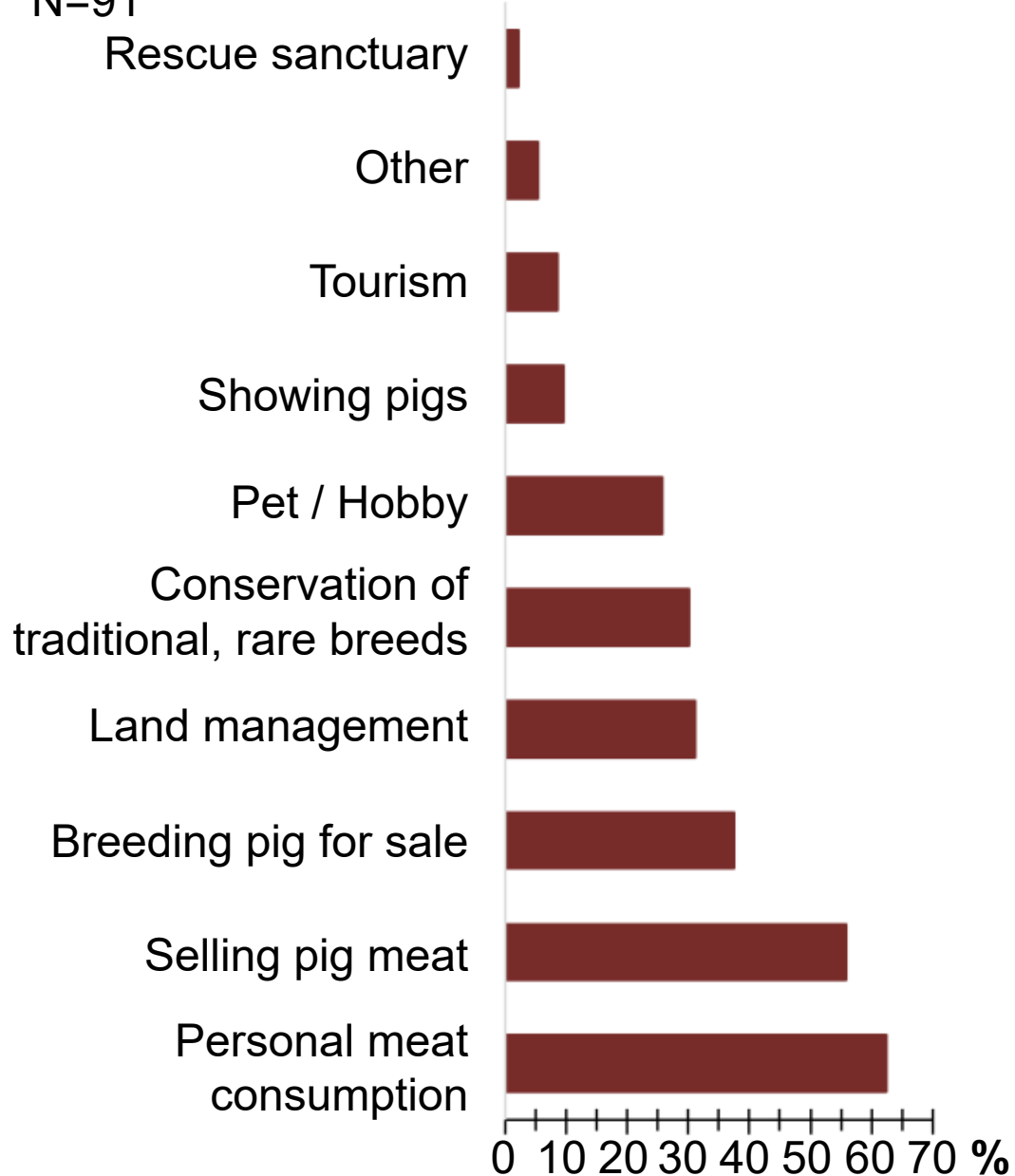
Multiple purposes

N=91

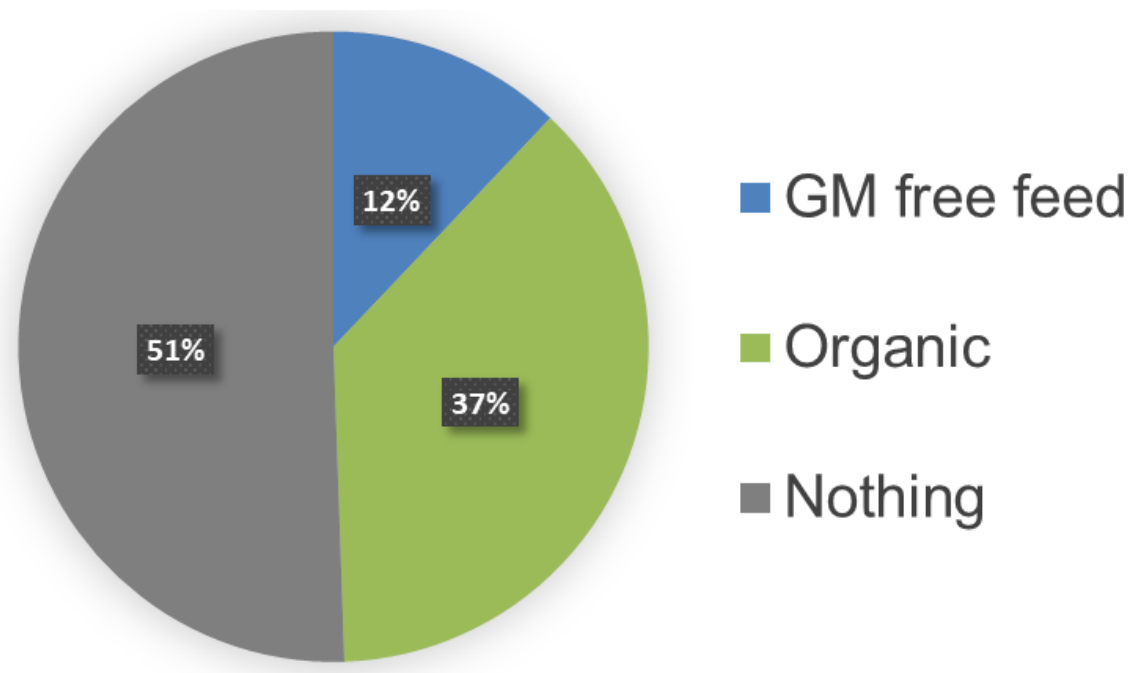


Multiple purposes

N=91



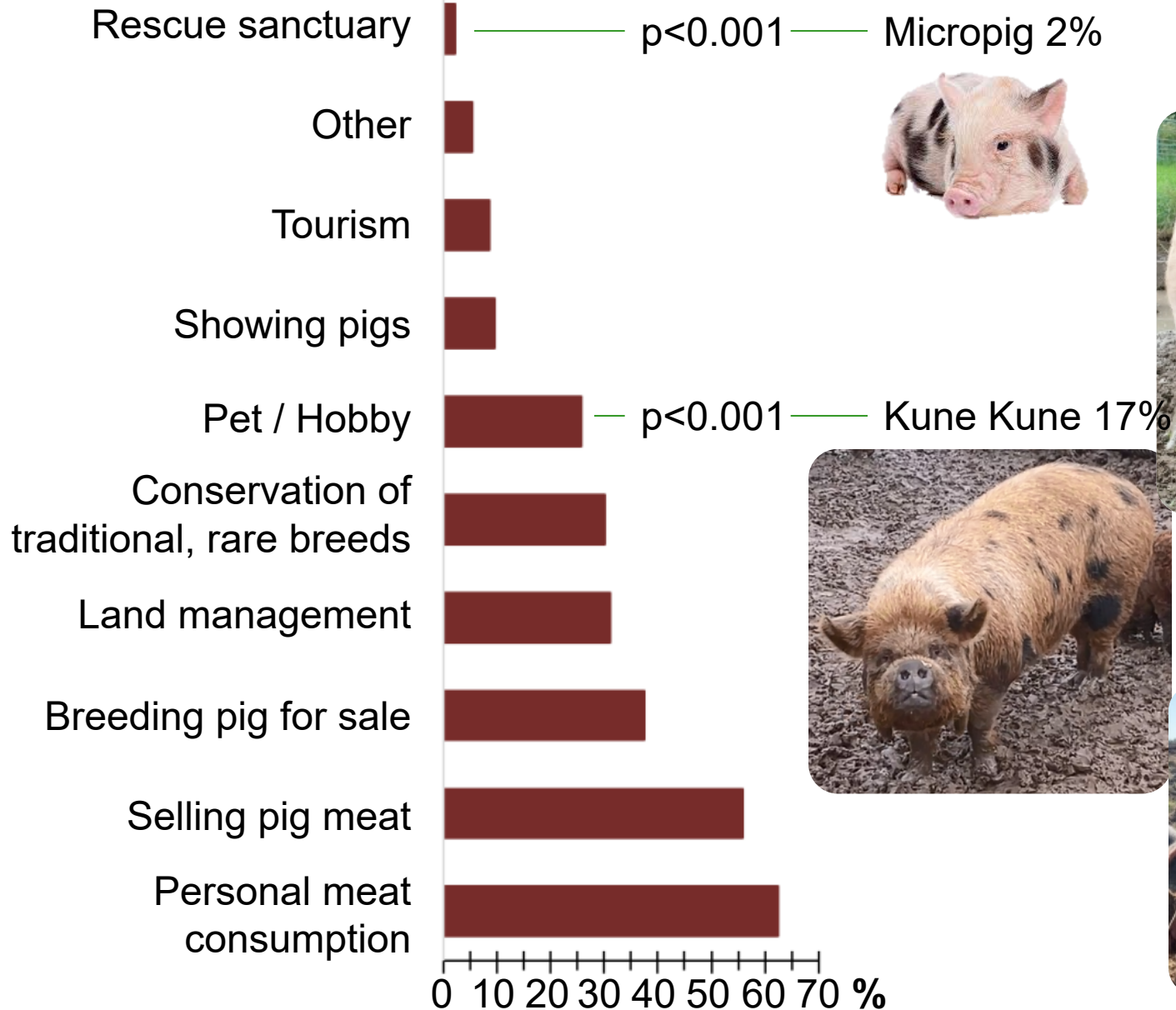
Ecology-focused



Multiple purposes

N=91

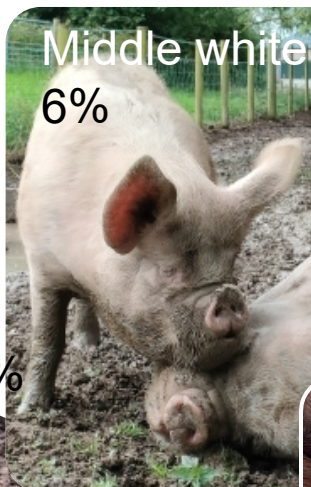
Breed >20



Micropig 2%



Middle white 6%



Oxford Sandy and Black 32%



Duroc 38%

Kune Kune 17%



Gloucester Old Spot 20%



Tamworth 26%



Landrace 16%



British Saddle back 12%

British lop 1%

Berkshire 16%



Community based

N=91



7.7 %

P<0.001



3.8 %



1.9 %



P<0.001



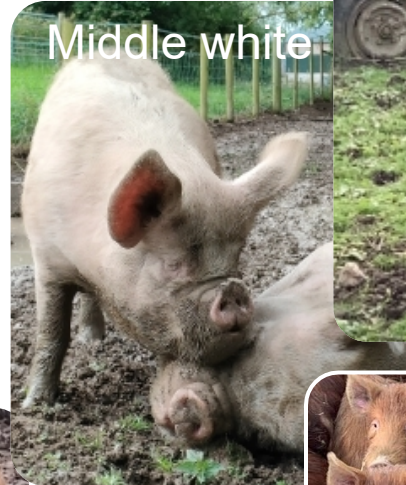
P<0.001

Breed >20

Micropig



Middle white



Oxford Sandy and Black



Duroc



Kune Kune



Gloucester Old Spot



Tamworth



Landrace



British Saddle back

British lop

Berkshire



Community based

51% Societies

N=91



7.7 %

$P < 0.001$



3.8 %



1.9 %



$P < 0.001$



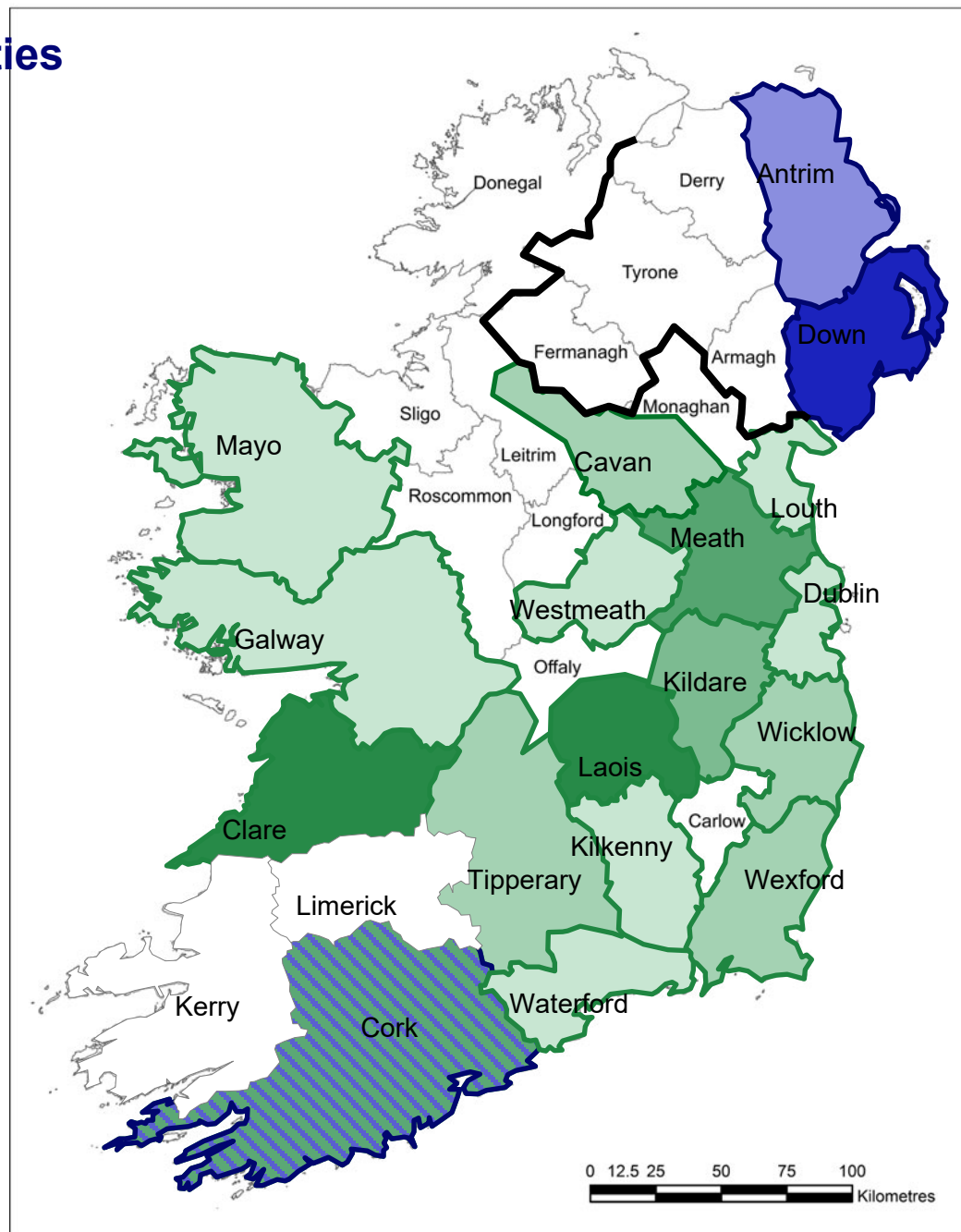
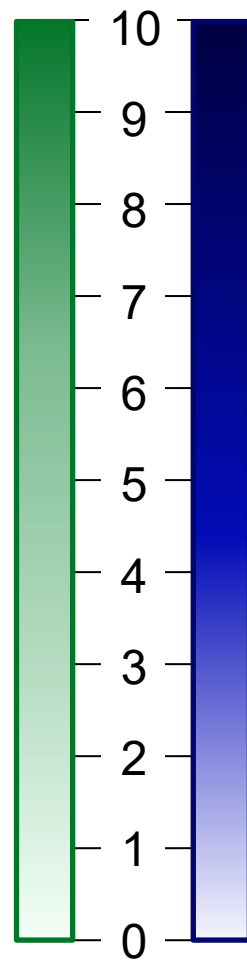
$P < 0.001$



69.2 %



7.7 %

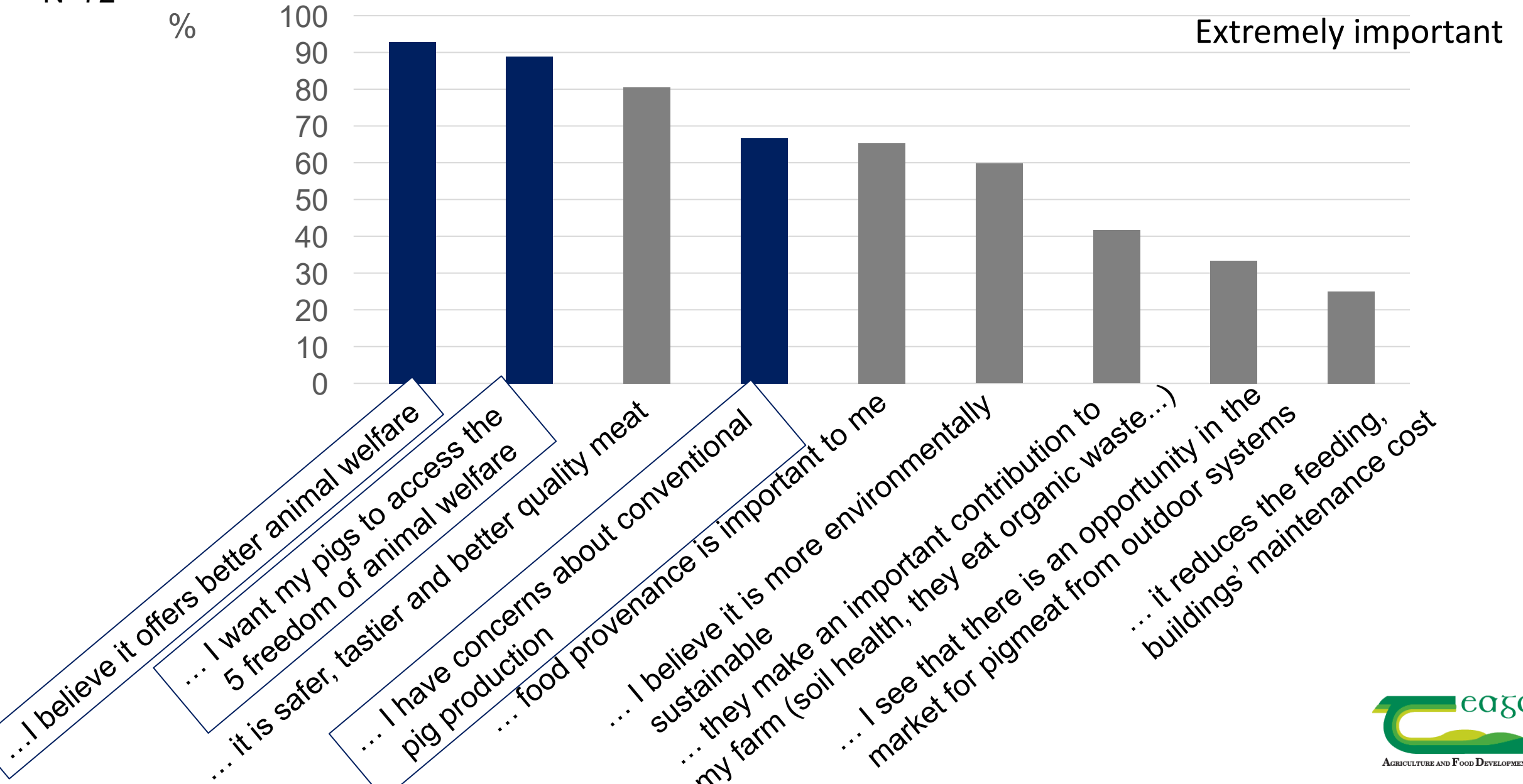


gasc

Animal welfare focused

N=72

I produce pigs this way because...



N=62

24 descriptives

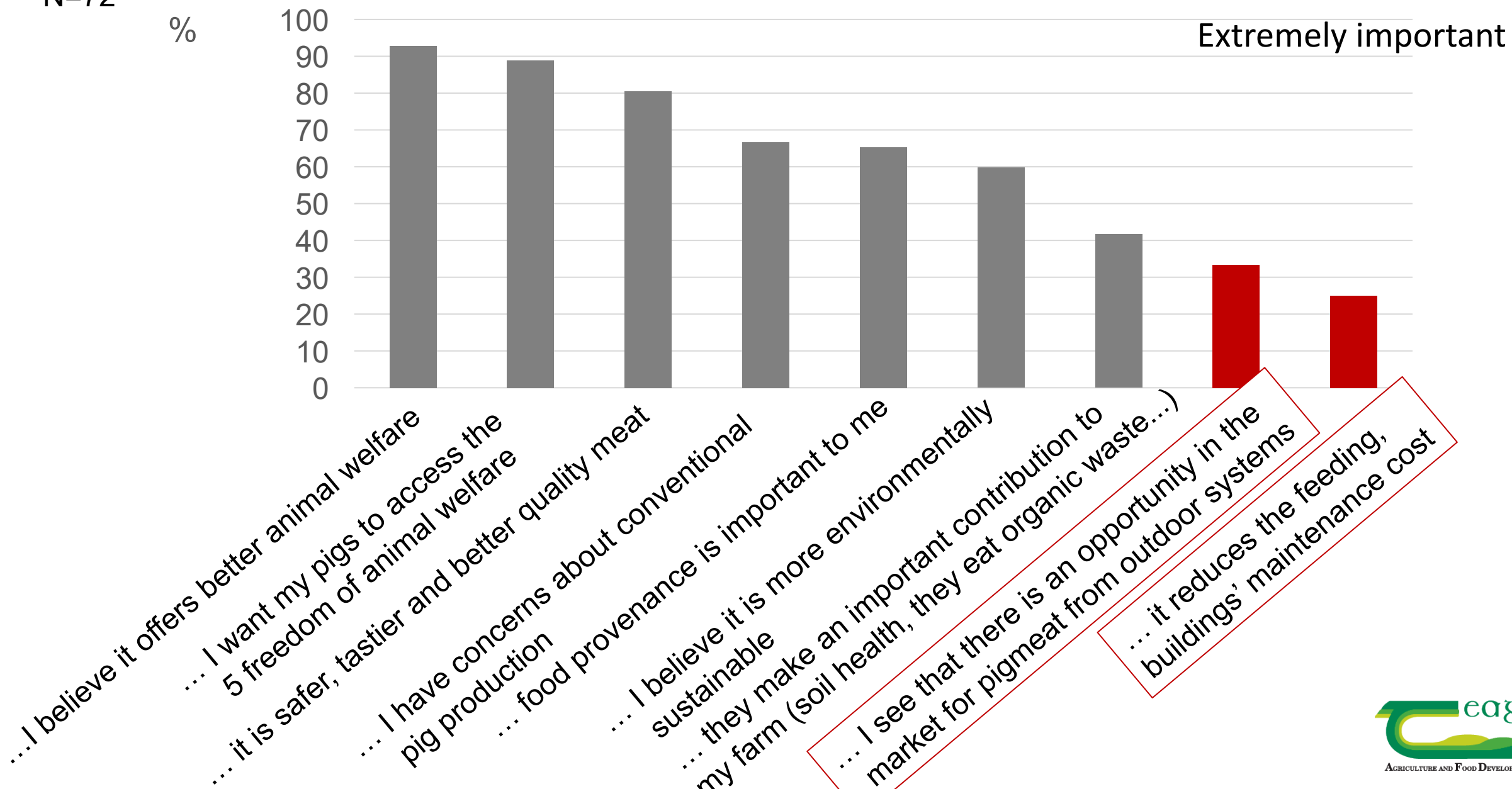


28 descriptives



I produce pigs this way because...

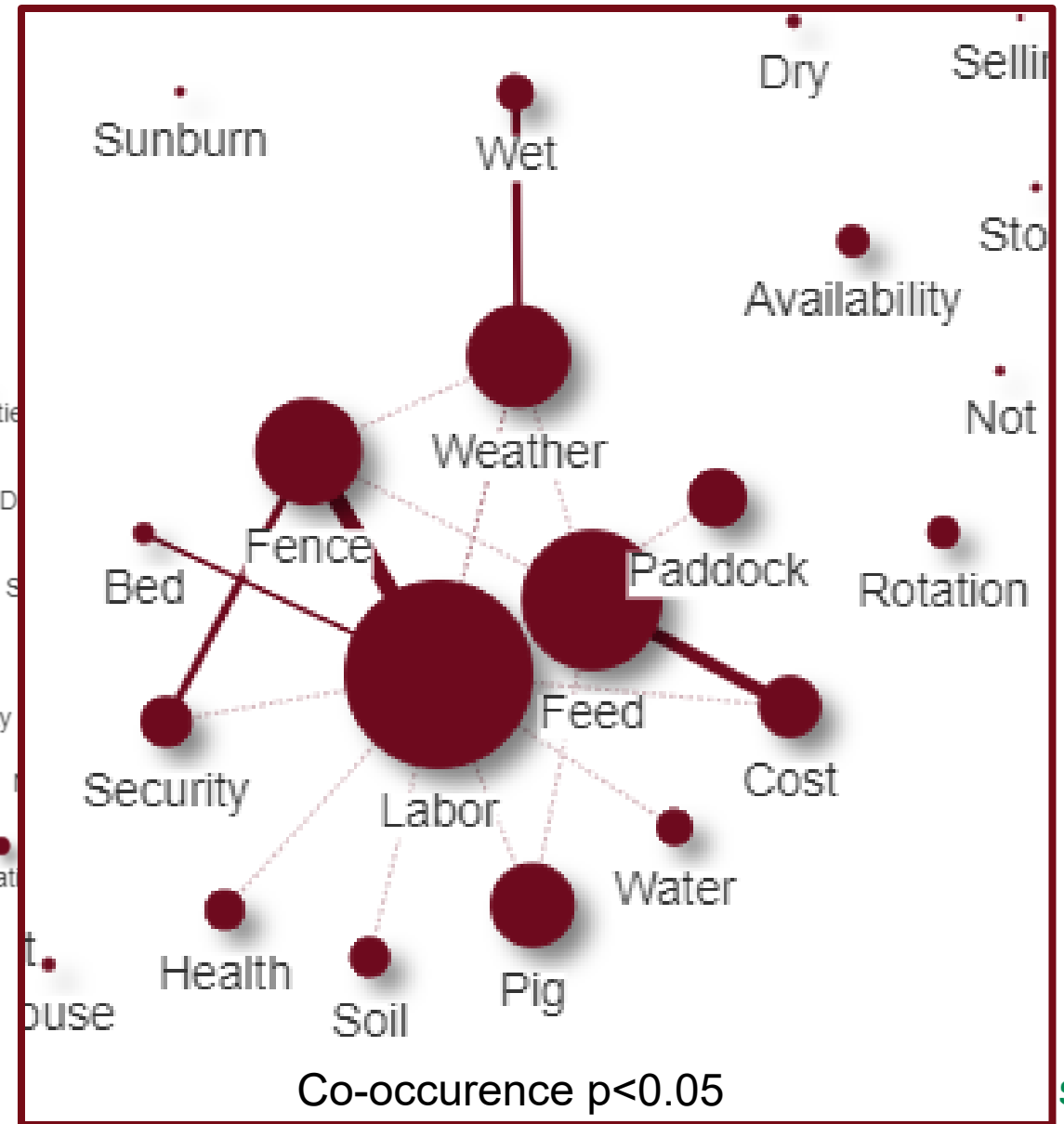
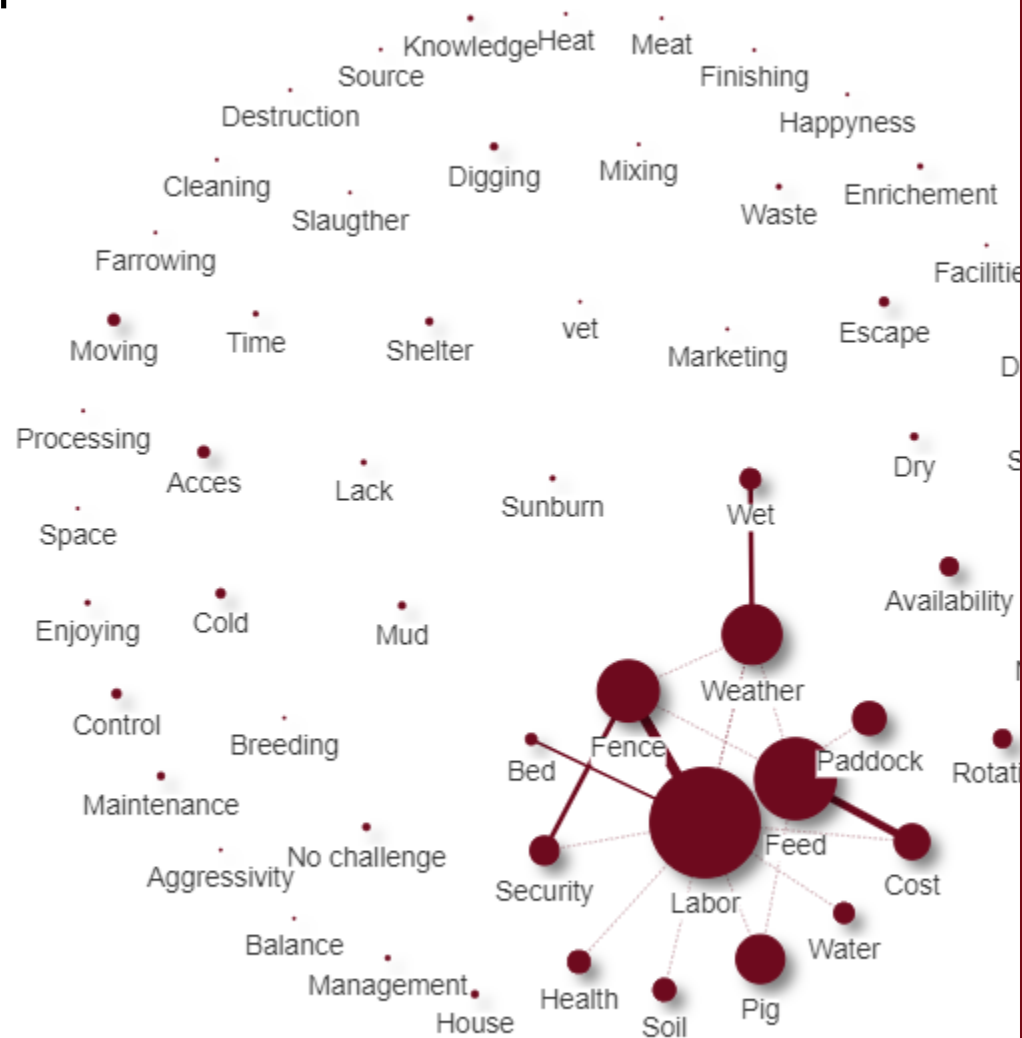
N=72



Challenges

N=65

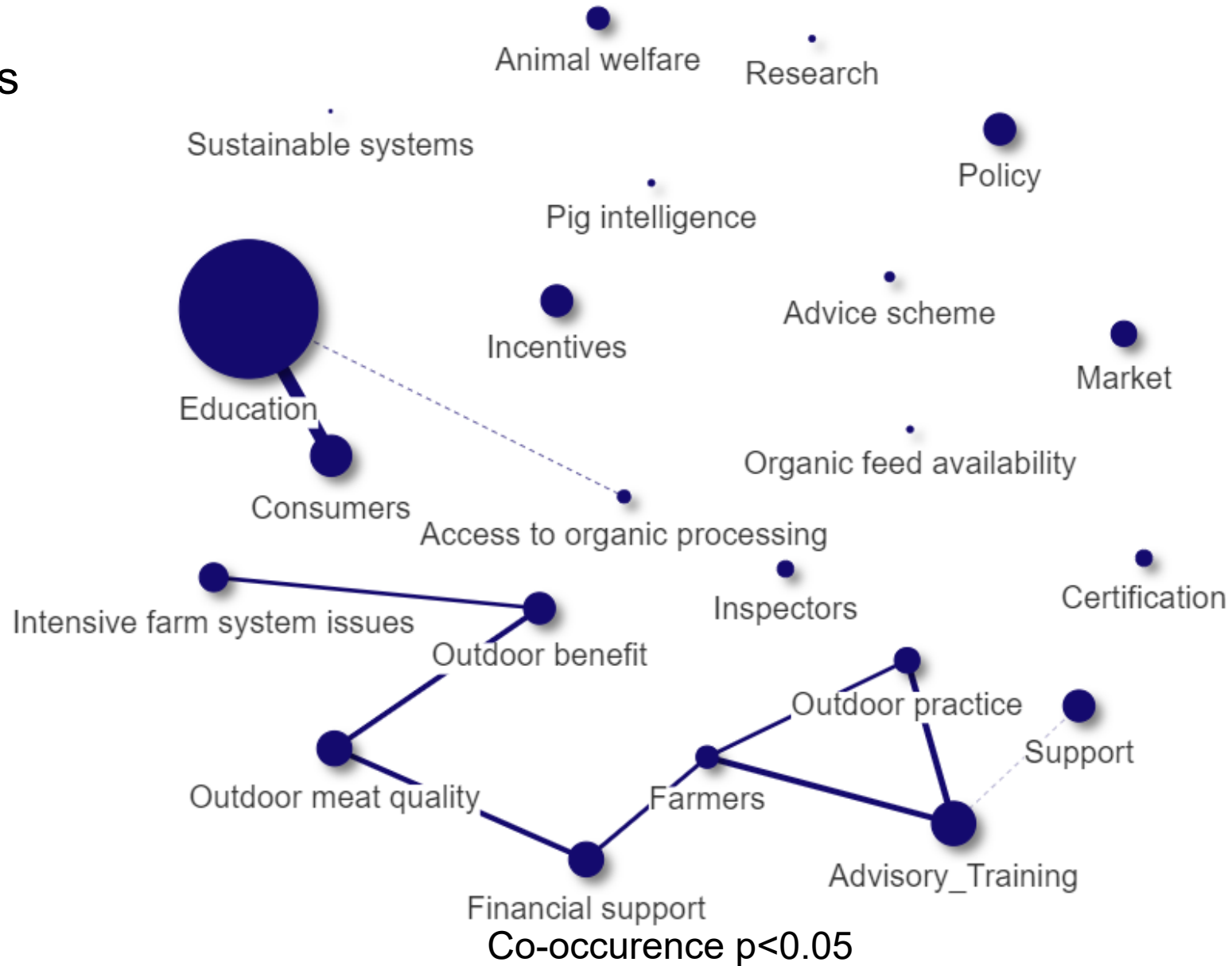
57 descriptives



Changes needed

N=57

21 descriptives



Discussion and conclusion

Small scale of the outdoor pigs systems

- Little policy, advisory, research and educational support
- Facing financial challenges

BUT

Big contribution in term of :

- + Addressing societal concerns
- + Provide more options for consumers
- + Provide sustainable systems
- + Animal welfare (Behaviour vs Health)
- + Breed conservation
- + Quality of life of the farmers



Thank you for your attention

Funding



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**



Acknowledgement:
Survey participants