



European  
Commission

# Ending surgical castration

## Reducing boar taint risk in entire males



2A | FARMERS

### TECHNIQUES & BEST PRACTICES FOR FARMERS



#### FLOORING & HOUSING

- Keep flooring and bedding clean and dry
- Ensure pigs have enough space to lie down, eat and defecate
- Separate boars from gilts and sows
- Implement wean-to-finish grouping of pigs of the same age
- House pigs in small groups of 30 or less
- Use semi-open walls to facilitate contact between pigs
- Maintain suitable temperatures, ventilation and day-night rhythm
- Provide environmental enrichment to keep pigs occupied in non-harmful behaviour



#### BREEDING

- Choose specific breeds or selective breeding methods to reduce boar taint risk from the outset



#### REDUCED COMPETITION

- Feed boars on demand



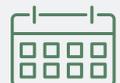
#### FEED COMPOSITION

- Use feed ingredients rich in inulin\*
- Feed boars a diet with adjusted amino acids
- Use commercial feed designed to reduce boar taint a few weeks before slaughter
- Switch to a low-protein, grain-based diet four days before slaughter



#### SCHEDULED SLAUGHTER

- Monitor age using markers
- Choose slaughter age rather than weight
- Exchange information with slaughterhouses about boar taint level and appropriate slaughter age



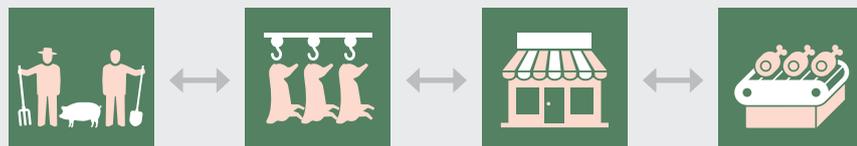
These methods have been successfully tested and used commercially at different stages and across entire supply chains

## BENEFITS



- **Improved welfare and overall hygiene** (e.g. cleaner pen, more additional space)
- **Lower costs due to more favourable feed conversion ratios** (entire males need approximately 10 % less feed to produce 1 kg of meat)
- **Reduction in aggressive behaviour, stress and competition** by providing enrichments, keeping pigs together with their siblings and feeding on demand
- **Contribute to growth and weight gain**
- **Lower levels of skatole\*\* and androstenone\*\*** (selective breeding, early slaughter, better hygiene, specific feeding)

\* natural food fibre \*\* main substances responsible for boar taint



## SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

WITH FARMERS, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD PROCESSORS,  
RETAILERS AND FOOD SERVICE OPERATORS

Many of the challenges of switching to entire males or immunocastrated pigs concern relationships and communication between members of the supply chain.



## SUCCESS STORIES

**Find out how farmers successfully transitioned to entire males or immunocastrated pigs.**

See Factsheet 2D



## FACTSHEETS

**01** Ending surgical castration

### FARMERS

**2A** Reducing boar taint risk in entire males

**2B** Vaccinating pigs against boar taint

**2C** Preventing detectable boar taint in immunocastrated pigs

**2D** Success stories

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

**3A** Detecting boar taint in uncastrated pigs

**3B** Ensuring absence of boar taint

**3C** Success stories

### FOOD PROCESSORS

**04** Managing boar taint in meat

### RETAILERS & FOOD SERVICE OPERATORS

**5A** Increasing the market value of meat from uncastrated pigs

**5B** Increasing consumer acceptance and raising awareness of meat from immunocastrated pigs

**5C** Success stories



[www.bit.ly/2vyHVTI](http://www.bit.ly/2vyHVTI)

For more information, see final report **Establishing best practices on the production, the processing and the marketing of meat from uncastrated pigs or pigs vaccinated against boar taint (immunocastrated)**