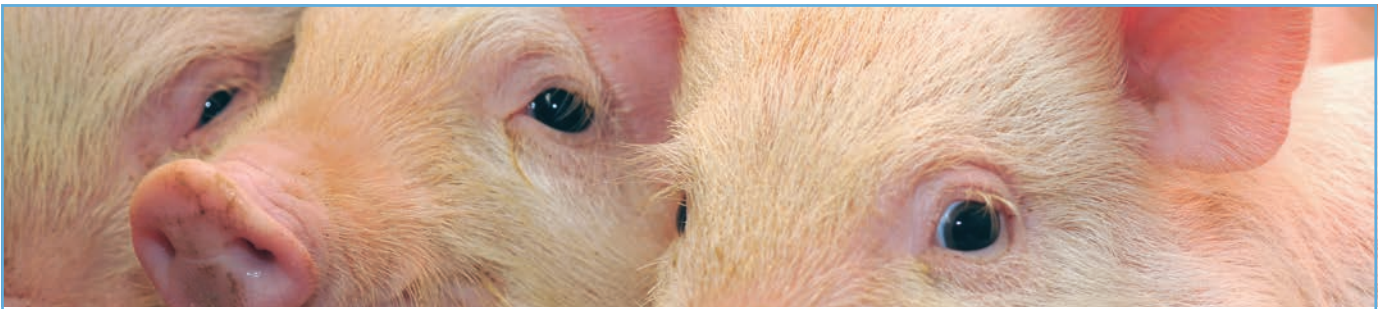




Boars heading for 2018



WAGENINGENUR
For quality of life



'The success of the 'Stop castrating' project is a result of the unique and open cooperation between researchers, government, NGOs and sections of the pork meat production chain. Together we dedicate ourselves to reach the goal; to stop castrating male pigs.'

Annechien ten Have – Mellema, President Steering committee Stop castrating

Wageningen UR Livestock Research and LEI Wageningen UR are working in close cooperation with Dutch companies to develop acceptable solutions, from market and societal points of view, for non-castrated boar meat production in Europe.

Challenge

In 2007 the Noordwijk Declaration set out an agreement between the Dutch government, animal welfare NGOs and leading retailers for adopting a new policy towards non-castrated boar meat production to come into force in the Netherlands from 2015. Wageningen UR and the swine production sector took up this challenge, undertaking scientific research on the feasibility of avoiding and reducing boar taint in meat from non-castrated animals and calibrating alternative boar taint detection methods. This Dutch approach has been of considerable value in the European political arena where the aim is to adopt EU wide non-castration policies from 2018.

Solution

Close co-operation with various partners from the swine production chain produced the data needed for this integrated project. The collaborating partners included: commercial swine farms producing pigs for VION, Topigs, an international pig breeder with a vast breeding database on genetic traits and Wageningen UR experimental farm at the Pig Innovation Centre (VIC) Sterksel, a multi-functional research centre for innovative and sustainable pig husbandry. The latter organisation provided data on animal behaviour and feed conversion of non-castrated boars. Wageningen UR Livestock Research used all data

provided by these organisations for statistical analysis and predictive modelling.

Results and impact

Resulting data analysis indicates that non-castrated boars have leaner meat and a more efficient feed conversion. Testing evaluations for detecting boar taint, have confirmed that trained professionals are able to detect boar taint by the nose, achieving high levels of detection that are in line with consumer perceptions. Adoption of this detection method would eliminate the need for costly chemical detection of the compounds held accountable for boar taint (skatole and androstenon). At the European level the topic of human nose-mediated boar taint detection is now fully on the agenda. Solutions for detection and control of boar taint and deviant behaviour were developed in this project, together with the collaborating partners. The results offers a unique dataset to generate knowledge for sustainable boar production within Europe. A production which is accepted by both society and industry.

Partners

Wageningen UR Livestock Research
LEI Wageningen UR
VION, Topigs, Commercial pig producers

Financing organisations

The Ministry of Economic Affairs
The Dutch Product Board for Livestock and Meat

Project website

www.boars2018.com

Contact

Wageningen UR Livestock Research
Carola van der Peet-Schwering
T +31 (0)320 293 506
E carola.vanderpeet@wur.nl
www.wageningenUR.nl/livestockresearch

LEI Wageningen UR
Coen van Wagenberg
Tel: +31 (0)317 484558
coen.vanwagenberg@wur.nl
www.wageningenur.nl/lei
