



European Commission

Ending surgical castration

Success stories



2D | FARMERS



Success story #1



FRANCE'S LARGEST PIG MEAT PRODUCER TRANSITIONS TO ENTIRE MALES

The leading pork producer in France **integrates farming, feed manufacturing, slaughtering and meat processing**. In 2013, it transitioned to the production of entire males.



PROVIDING ENTIRE MALE MEAT



TO ABOUT 13 MILLION CONSUMERS ANNUALLY

TESTING FEASIBILITY OF TRANSITION



The company convinced members of the supply chain to transition along with it. This transition involved several changes to practices at farm level. In a trial, volunteer farmers were asked to stop surgical castration but not change any of their other practices. The human nose method was used to detect boar taint.



The testing concluded that the farmer benefits greatly. Farmers who produced entire males had fewer dejections. They can more easily manage the environmental impact of their operations.

CONVINCING RETAIL AND BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS (B2B) CLIENTS

The company ran trials with both retailers and business-to-business buyers to reassure them that transition was beneficial to the company and didn't present risks. It also organised numerous visits for retailer and B2B representatives to inspect the full process, and especially the human nose method, to convince them of its reliability for detecting boar tainted carcasses.



Success story #2



VACCINATION PROTOCOL TO PRODUCE CURED HAMS IN SPAIN

In Spain, farmers **vaccinate Iberian pigs against boar taint** to produce cured hams. Vaccination has improved profitability and animal welfare while maintaining high product quality.

The vaccination protocols ensure high levels of meat quality. Trials in Spanish slaughterhouses and cutting plants demonstrate that cured meat from vaccinated pigs is similar to that of physically castrated pigs in terms of colour, percentage of marbling and water-holding capacity.

VALUE OF VACCINATION

Feed conversion ratio of vaccinated pigs nearly 3 % lower than that of castrated males.



As a result, feed expenses, a key component of pig farmers' costs, are reduced.

The transition from physical castration to vaccination did not require any changes in farms' existing infrastructures, management systems or vaccination guidelines.



Success story #3



POLISH PRODUCER SEES GREAT RESULTS WITH VACCINE

A Polish producer who uses a safe and reliable vaccine has had **success slaughtering animals at around 8-9 weeks after the second vaccination**. This maximises their revenues.

FAST FACTS

- **2 breeding farms** with a stock of about 7 000 sows
- **4 fattening farms**
- **180 000 piglets** produced annually (around 35 000 go to external farms for fattening, remainder are fattened at producer's own farms)

"...We think of vaccination as an investment in the production process. The benefits from using the vaccine are lower consumption of feed, better growth and better meat quality... We have seen that after the second vaccination, the animals start to grow very fast with high levels of daily gain. For our production, this 8-9 week period is optimal. It maximises our economic return and it is still completely safe in terms of boar taint..."



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

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)**