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Health and welfare of Finnish pigs

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FINLAND



- 60-70 latitude
- 338 000 sq.km
- 69 % forest
- 10 % water
- 188,000 lakes
- 5.3 million people
- <2 000 piggeries
- 1.5 million pigs



Pork production 2010, Finland

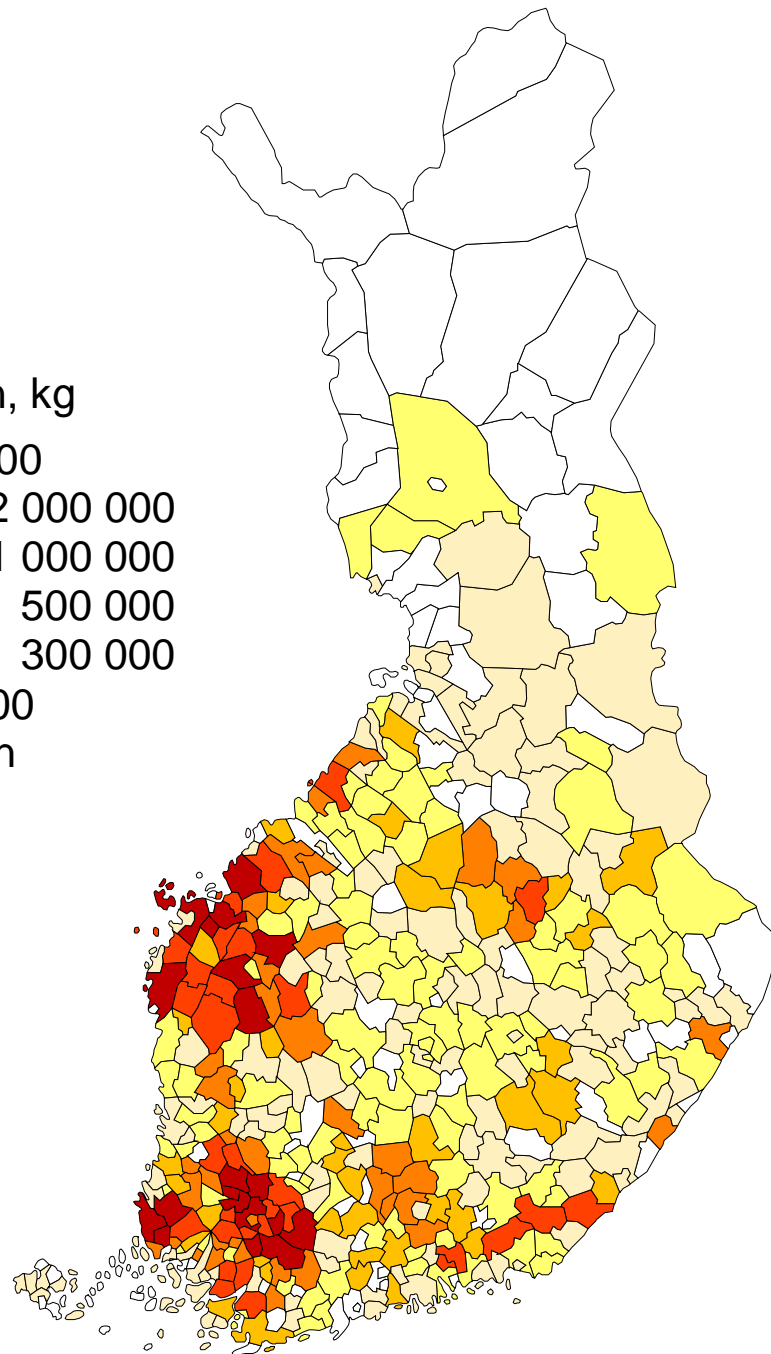
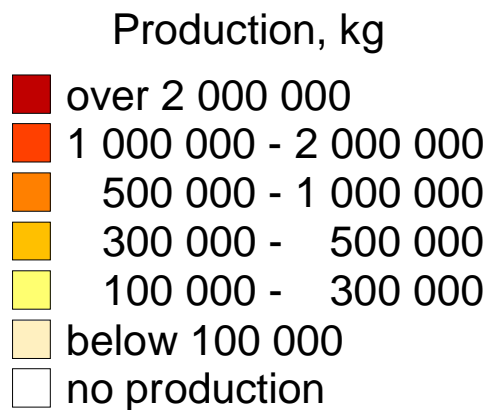
Production	203 mill.kg
Consumption	187 mill.kg
Import	28 mill.kg
Export	36 mill.kg
Pigs slaughtered	2.1 million
Slaughter weight	88kg
Piggeries	2000 (2002: 4000, 2015:1600?)

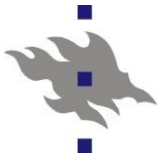
Source: Foodinfo Finland/Gallup Oy



Pork production in 2010

**203 mill. kg
in total**





Finland has a long tradition of healthy pigs

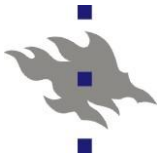
- No or very few live pigs imported
- Some import of boar semen
- Strict control of import, quarantine, sampling
 - Official control, ministry
 - Control by the industry, Association for Animal Disease Prevention, ETT
- Eradication of diseases
 - Plan to eradicate immediately exotic diseases if outbreak appears, controlled officially
 - Eradication programmes for several diseases
 - Swine enzootic pneumoniae, sarcoptic mange, swine dysentery, controlled by the industry



Healthy herds

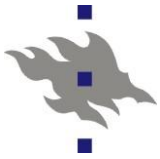
- Good laboratories for diagnosis
- Relatively small herd size, family herds





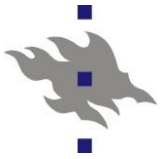
Finland is free from many infectious diseases

- Swine fever
 - Swine vesicular disease, SVD
 - Transmissible gastroenteritis, TGE
 - Aujeszky disease, AD
 - Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome, PRRS
 - Porcine Respiratory Coronavirus, PRCV
 - Teschen
 - Brucella suis
 - Foot and Mouth Disease, FMD
- And the prevalence of some pig diseases is very low, e.g.
 - PMWS, postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome
 - Atrophic rhinitis
 - Swine enzootic pneumoniae
 - Swine dysentery



The rest of the pig diseases are controlled

- Vaccinations
- Environment, management
- Medications when needed, but
 - The need for medications is low compared to other European countries
 - Antimicrobial resistance is low
- Herds are classified according to their health status
 - Internet based online register for swine farms since 2004, SIKAVA



Sikava

- Register contains information of
 - farm visits by a veterinarian, minimum 4 times/year
 - laboratory results, meat inspection, drug use
- www.sikava.fi
- Free for the farmer, costs paid by 8 slaughterhouses
- The use of register is authorised by the farmer





Pig herd classification in Finland

About 5% of herds,
100 herds

SIKAVA

Special level, Finnish SPF

Breeding

Sampling

Documentation

Follow-up

Biosecurity

National health level

Health care contract

ETT instructions

Animal welfare

Regular veterinary visits

Freedom of some diseases

About 92 % of herds

EU and national legislation = Basic level

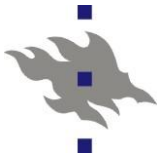
Act of Animal welfare

Carcass disposal

Notifiable diseases

Medication of pigs

About 3%
of herds



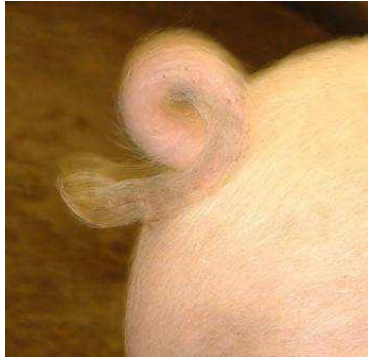
National Health Class

- freedom of diseases:
 - SEP, AR, SD, mange,
PRRS, salmonella, PMWS
- sampling for diseases
- erysipelas vaccinations
- control of endoparasites
- health care contract
- health care plan
- veterinary visits >4
times/year, documented in
database
- animal welfare
- production monitoring





Welfare of pigs



- Health

- Feeding

- growth, control of feedstuffs (e.g. salmonella)

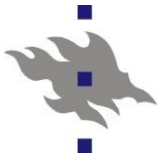
- Rooting material

- controlled by the vet

- Environment and management

- loose housing of sows most herds
- Floor area for pigs, mostly about 0.9 m² per finishing pigs (EU 0.65 m²)

- NO tail docking

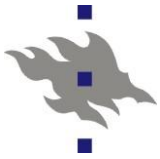


Tail docking, not allowed in Finland (same in Sweden & Norway)

- *“[...] tail docking [...] must [not] be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to [...] other pigs’ [...] tails have occurred.*
- *Before carrying out these procedures, other measures*
- *shall be taken to prevent tail biting and other vices taking into account environment and stocking densities.*
- *For this reason, inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed.*



Directive EC 2001/93, Art. 8 of the Annex



Future?

- Welfare and health issues more and more important

