

Information from the Commission on actions to prevent tail biting and prevent routine tail docking of pigs

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Commission Project to reduce tail-docking of pigs - Objectives

- **WHY?**

- Reduce animal suffering by improving the application of Council Directives 2008/120/EC & 98/58/EC over a three year period (17-19)

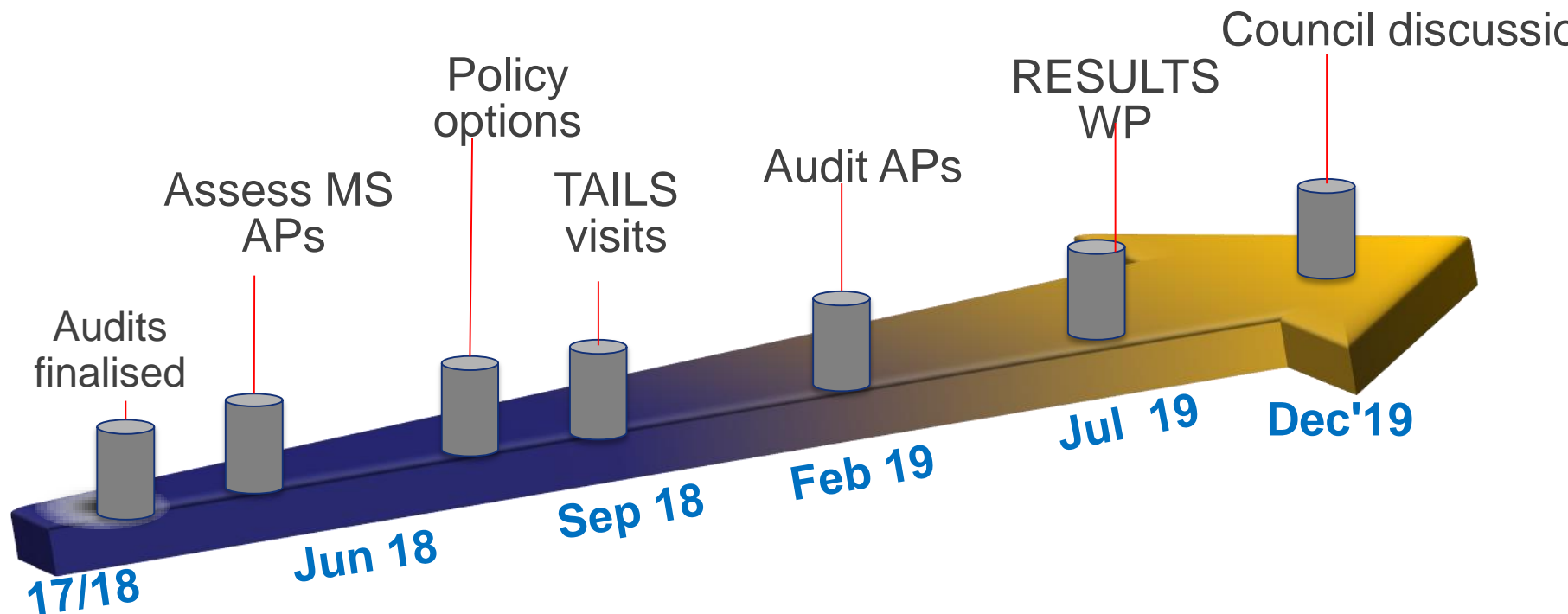
- **HOW?**

- Specific focus on the avoidance of routine tail docking and the provision of enrichment material



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WORK PROGRAMME MILESTONES





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Audit Outcomes

- 5 audits: NL, ES, DK, IT, DE- 4 published
- % Tail-docking – estimates 98.5-100% i.e. routine
- Measureable compliance criteria inadequate in most
- CA instructions imprecise/not followed in most
- Enforcement action variable
- Research and trials: extensive and expensive to none
- No progress on compliance/reduction in tail-docking
- CAP schemes-incl in Court of Auditors Report (Aug 2018)

Member State Action Plans

- Request MS Action Plans on 2008/120 & 98/58: Jan 2018
- Compliance end 2018 with
 - CA Compliance criteria
 - Farmer risk assessment
 - Evidence of tail/ear injuries
 - Assessment and changes to inadequate environmental conditions or management systems
 - Communication/liaison and enforcement

Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

- **24/26 received- 2 delayed. 22/24 assessed**
- **21/22 plans propose improvements**
- **Wide variation in scope of improvements**
- **Wide variation in plan details/deadlines**
 - **Consultation phase-majority before 9/18**
 - **Revision to procedures- majority before 9/18**
 - **Enforcement- majority late 2018/start 2019**

Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

- **Improvements in Compliance criteria**

• Enrichment material	19
• Cleanliness	12
• Thermal comfort/air	7/12
• Health status/training/sick pigs/weaning age	12/6/6/0
• Comp. for space/ fighting/Feed n water	8/4/7
• Diet	3

Preliminary Action Plan Assessment

- **Other planned improvements**

- **Assessing the risk factors for tail/ear biting** 16
- **Evidence of tail/ear injuries** 13
- **Assess/change inadequate env/man systems** 16
- **Communication/liaison with industry** 21
- **Enforcement** 17
- **Review provision of vet/QA attestations** 7

Next Steps

- Finalise AP review
- Review MS compliance
- Write to MS:
 - Updates
 - Clarifications
 - Omissions
 - Disseminate Good Practice
- COM Policy options



Next Steps

- **BTSF training on pigs aligned with SANTE Work Plan**
- **Work with AW Ref Centre on animal/resource indicators**
- **Contribute to DG AGRI consultation on revised CAP**
- **TAILS team visits**
- **Continued liaison with pig sector, research, NGOs, EP, FVE etc**
- **Animal Welfare Platform-sub-group on pigs**
- **Meeting end 2018 to refine/discuss improved APs**
- **Proposed audits on implementation of MS APs**



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Next Steps

Synergy for preventing damaging behaviour in group housed pigs and chickens

The GroupHouseNet aim is to provide the European livestock industry with **innovations in breeding and management for pigs and poultry that are needed for a successful transition to large group housing systems without necessitating painful tail docking and beak trimming.**

- **COM/pig sector/MS need your outputs now-!**



Next Steps

- **Group House Net Communication?**
- **COM commits to communicate your information on:**
 - **CIRCABC open access site on pig welfare (400 + Ovs & others)**
 - **Regularly through meetings with stakeholders**
 - **On DG SANTE webpage on tail-biting**
 - **Directly to Member State Competent Authorities**
 - **Directly to EU Ref Centre**
 - **Directly to industry and in DG AGRI meetings (CDG)**
 - **Through TAILS missions and audits**



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