Let's talk about on-farm euthanasia
On-farm euthanasia

• Why?
• When?
• How?
Why?

What are reasons for on-farm killing?
- Euthanasia
- Killing

How should they be valued?
- Animal health/welfare
- Ethical perspective
- Societal perspective

Aerts and Tavernier (2016), Bruijnis et al. (2016), Meijboom and Stassen (2016)
When?

Timely decision
- Animal welfare
- How to help?
- Training
- Vet/farmer relation

Decision aid

Anoxia with
• Center for Sustainable Animal Stewardship (UU/WUR)
• University of Utrecht
• Royal Dutch Veterinary Association
• with input of the Dutch Association of Pig Farmers
Loss of animals = information

- Is the piglet too light? (≤1000g)
- Is the piglet cold?
- Is the piglet slow?
- Does the piglet have a “dolphin-like” head shape?
- Does the piglet have an empty stomach?
- Does the piglet have a blue/yellow/white skin color?
- Does the piglet have a splay leg?

When in doubt always consult your vet

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How?

• With minimal impact on animal welfare
• Human factor
• Different methods (Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009)

Nitrogen filled high expansion foam

- Non aversive gas

- Proof of principle:
  Mc Keegan et al. (2013): poultry
  Lindahl et al. (2019-20) in publication: pigs

- Safety of staff
Science-based

- EU Interreg: foam generators
- EU sensors: Horizon 2020
- Anoxia: foam research
- NL and UK: poultry research
- Sweden: pig (aversion) research
- Anoxia patented foam production

Simple to use on-farm

- Automatic and semi-automatic mode
- Emergency button and safety key
- Foam guarantees low oxygen
Instruction video
Anoxia Awards 2019

Prize-winning farmers
The Netherlands (September 2019)
Theo Vernooij for addressing piglet mortality

Spain Porc’Or (November 2019)
“Nudesa - Vila de Cruces”

Animal Welfare Award
https://youtu.be/wUxle6Q8Il0

Spain
France 2 Gold Stars
Pig types

Piglets till 17 kg

Pigs till 60 kg
Poultry types

- On-farm chicks
- Small turkey/special
- Selection
- Hatchery insert
- Poultry vets
Let’s talk about on farm euthanasia…

…safeguard our licence to produce

- Quality systems
- Training
- Benchmarking
- …..?
Literature

Bruijn et al. (2016). Premature culling of production animals; ethical questions related to killing animals in food production. https://doi.org/10.3920/978-90-8686-808-7
Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009
Lindahl et al 2019/2020- in publication
Watteyn et al 2019- in publication
Anoxia BV
Hoge Eng Oost 52A
3882 TN Putten
The Netherlands
+31-341701687
anette.vanderaa@anoxia.ml
info@anoxia.co.uk
www.anoxia.eu
a worthy end for each animal