

## Sectoral strategies for the prevention of caudophagy and to avoid routine tail docking in pigs

### Summary

The implementation of the specific requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC for the protection of pigs has been the subject of various meetings since 2013 organised by the EU with Member States, organisations involved in pig production, scientists and experts in the field. Following those meetings, the Commission has adopted a Recommendation (2016) for the implementation of Directive 2008/120/EC, laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking. The EU's interest in the effective implementation of the regulations has increased since the publication of the 2016 Recommendation, and audits have been carried out in several EU countries, including Spain.

As a result, finding strategies to avoid caudophagy that are effective in the productive and climatic conditions in Catalonia is essential if the sector is to be able to provide a response to the EU as to whether it is possible to avoid routine tail docking in pigs.

### Objectives

The main objective of this project is to study the effectiveness of different strategies to prevent caudophagy under intensive production conditions in Catalonia, and to assess the suitability of the risk assessment systems currently applied on Catalan farms in terms of their effectiveness in preventing outbreaks of caudophagy, or in determining the causes. With these objectives in mind, the project aims to provide pig farmers in Catalonia with tools to respond to a legal requirement, which is a challenge for the sector, and also aims to provide information on whether eliminating routine docking is possible, which would achieve another important long-term strategic goal: increasing animal welfare.

### Description of the measures planned in the project

- ACTIVITY 1. Establish and agree on appropriate caudophagy prevention strategies for each participating company.
- ACTIVITY 2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the caudophagy prevention strategies.
- ACTIVITY 3. Assessment of the effectiveness of the risk assessment system.
- ACTIVITY 4. Assessment in the slaughterhouse.

### Expected results and practical recommendations

1. Assessment of the commercial effectiveness of different strategies for preventing caudophagy in undocked pigs.
2. Determine the incidence of caudophagy among undocked pigs at a commercial level under productive conditions in Catalonia.
3. Assessment at a commercial level of the effectiveness of risk assessment systems for preventing outbreaks of caudophagy.
4. Proposals to improve the strategies studied to increase their effectiveness
5. Online assessment of the condition of undocked pig tails.
6. Determine whether it is possible to comply with European regulations preventing routine docking without a negative economic impact on the sector.

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**Subject area(s) of application**

- Agricultural production system
- Agricultural practice
- Agricultural equipment and machinery
- Livestock farming and animal welfare
- Vegetable production and horticulture
- Landscape / Territorial management
- Pest and disease control
- Fertilisation and nutrient management
- Soil management
- Genetic resources
- Forestry
- Water management
- Climate and Climate Change
- Energy management
- Waste and by-product management
- Biodiversity and environmental management
- Food quality/processing and nutrition
- Supply chain, marketing and consumption
- Competitiveness and agricultural and forestry diversification
- General

**Geographical area(s) of application**

PROVINCE(S)	REGION(S)
BARCELONA GIRONA LLEIDA	EL BARCELONÈS LA SELVA LA SEGARRA OSONA

**Dissemination of the project (publications, seminars, multimedia, etc.)**

<https://www.innovacc.cat/2019/07/19/ajuts-obtinguts-per-a-7-projectes-pilots-de-grups-operatius-del-darp-2018/>

<https://www.innovacc.cat/2019/07/19/estrategies-sectorials-per-a-la-prevencio-de-la-caudofagia-i-per-evitar-lescuat-rutinari-en-porci-3/>

[https://www.innovacc.cat/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/0-Presentaci%C3%B3-AG-10juny2019\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.innovacc.cat/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/0-Presentaci%C3%B3-AG-10juny2019_compressed.pdf) (page 35)

Presentation to the Extraordinary General Assembly of 18/12/2019 (page 45)

[https://www.porcat.org/ca/noticies/porcat-intervindra-en-estrategies-per-a-la-prevencio-de-la-caudofagia\\_2609/](https://www.porcat.org/ca/noticies/porcat-intervindra-en-estrategies-per-a-la-prevencio-de-la-caudofagia_2609/)

**Project website**

<https://www.innovacc.cat/2019/07/19/estrategies-sectorials-per-a-la-prevencio-de-la-caudofagia-i-per-evitar-lescuat-rutinari-en-porci-3/>

**More information on the project**

PROJECT DATES	TOTAL BUDGET
Start date (month-year): July 2019	Total budget: €212,000.00
Completion date (month-year):	DARP funding: €86,640.00
Current status: Underway	EU funding: €65,360.00
	Own funding: €60,000.00

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*Order ARP/133/2017 of 21 June, approving the regulatory bases for grants for cooperation for innovation by promoting the creation of European Association for Innovation operational groups in the areas of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by those groups, and Resolution ARP/1282/2018, of 8 June, announcing the call for the grant.*

