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Experimental animal research: a sensitive issue for both scientists and society

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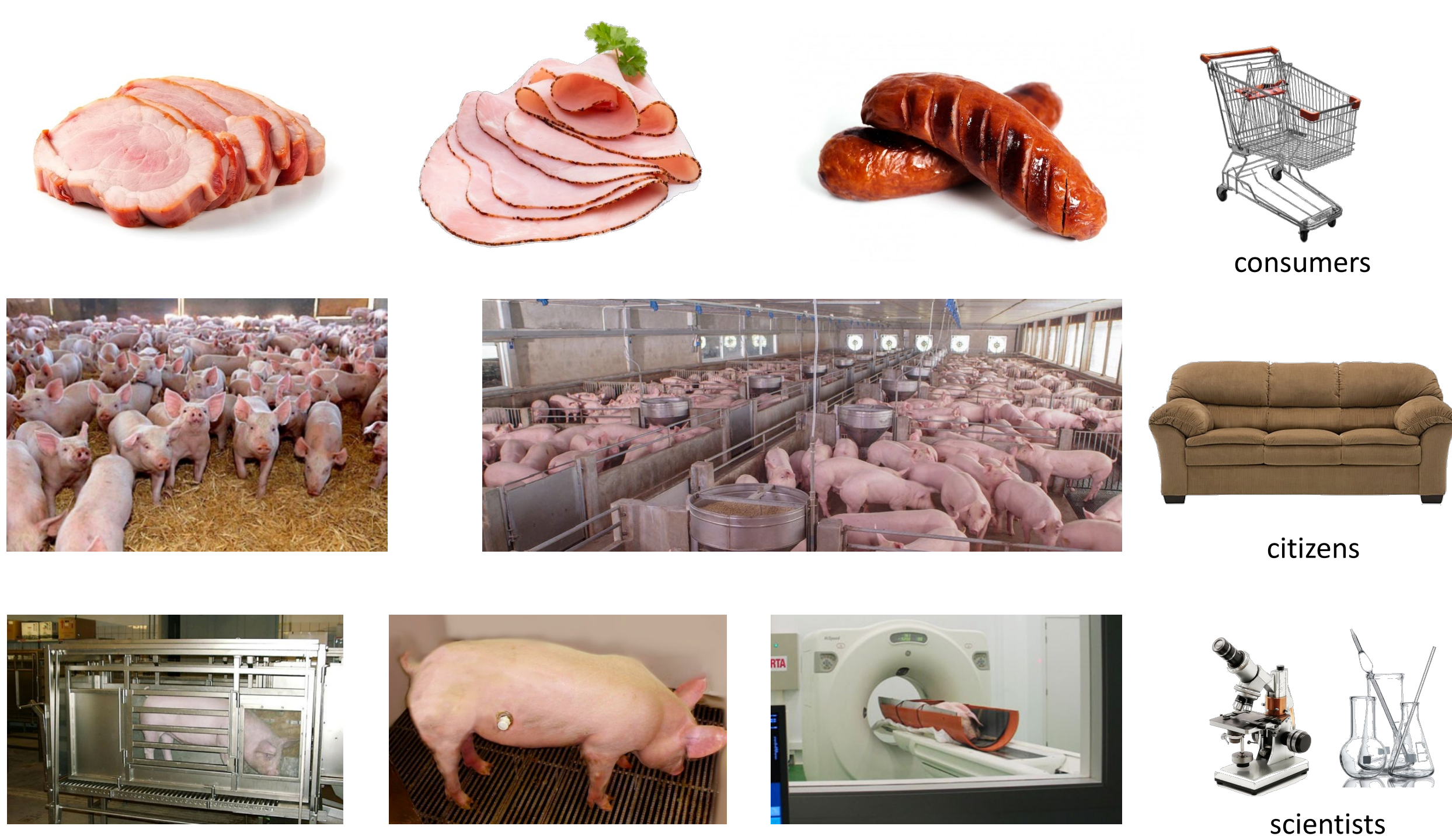
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Sustainable Environment

(0216) Experimental animal research: a sensitive issue for both scientists and society

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A sensitive issue



What is PIGWEB?

An infrastructure project for experimental research for sustainable pig production



PIGWEB's joint research activities:

- Develop non- or minimally invasive methods to replace procedures requiring surgery and invasive sampling, isolation, and/or spatial restrictions
- Develop novel methods, tools, and technologies that provide indicators of welfare, behaviour, and body composition
- Develop a research toolbox to phenotype pigs for traits using data obtained through non- or minimally invasive measurements and model algorithms

Initiatives to ask the EU Commission to develop an action plan to end the use of animals in research and testing

2021 Resolution by the EU Parliament



667 in favor, 4 against, 16 abstentions

2023 European Citizens' Initiative



1,217,916 signatories from 27 countries



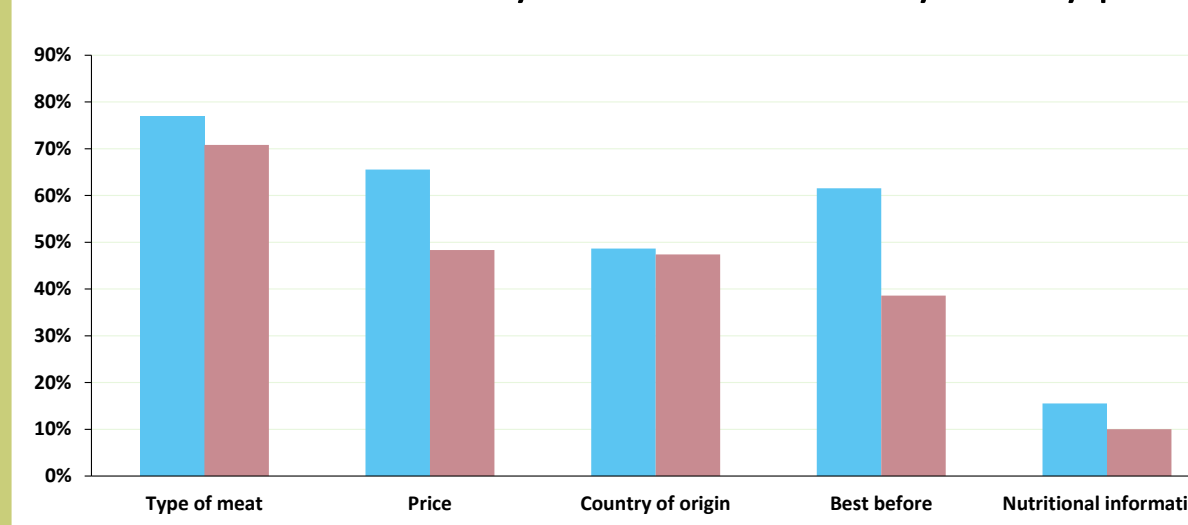
Response:

- Kick off work on a roadmap towards replacing animal with multiple actions and a step-by-step path to replacing animal testing involving all relevant stakeholders
- Initiate actions to accelerate the reduction of animal testing in research, education and training
- Continue to support research on alternatives to animal testing with EU funding

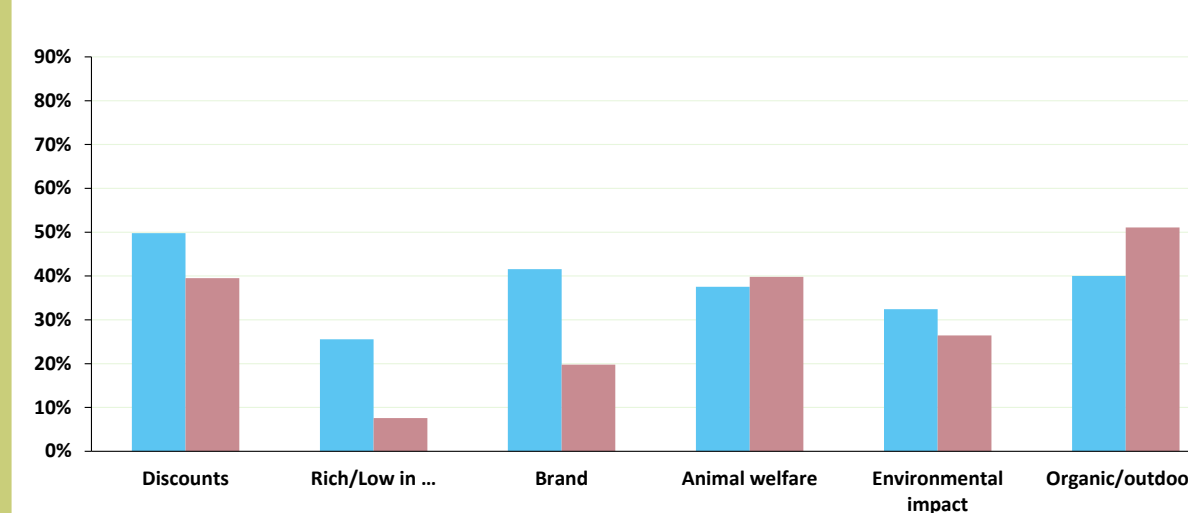
Views of EU citizens and the PIGWEB community on pork, pig production, and pig production research

As a consumer

What information do you look for when you buy pork?

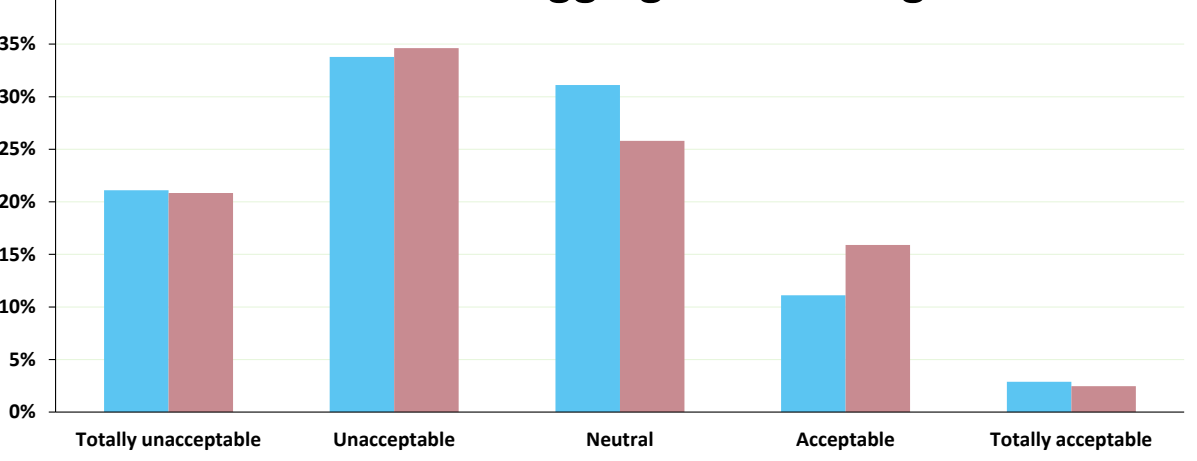


What other information do you consider?

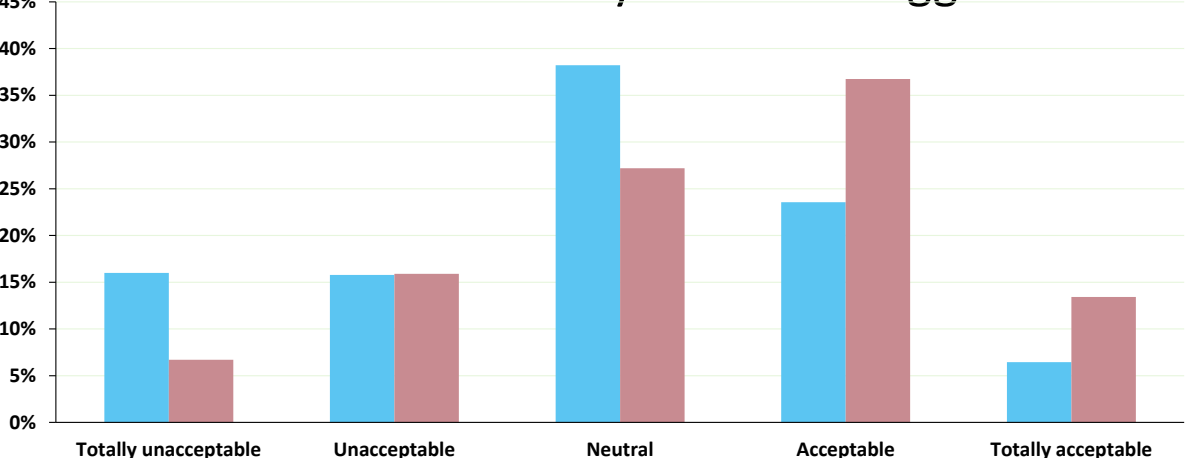


As a citizen

Keep pigs indoors to keep them clean but prevent them from digging and rooting

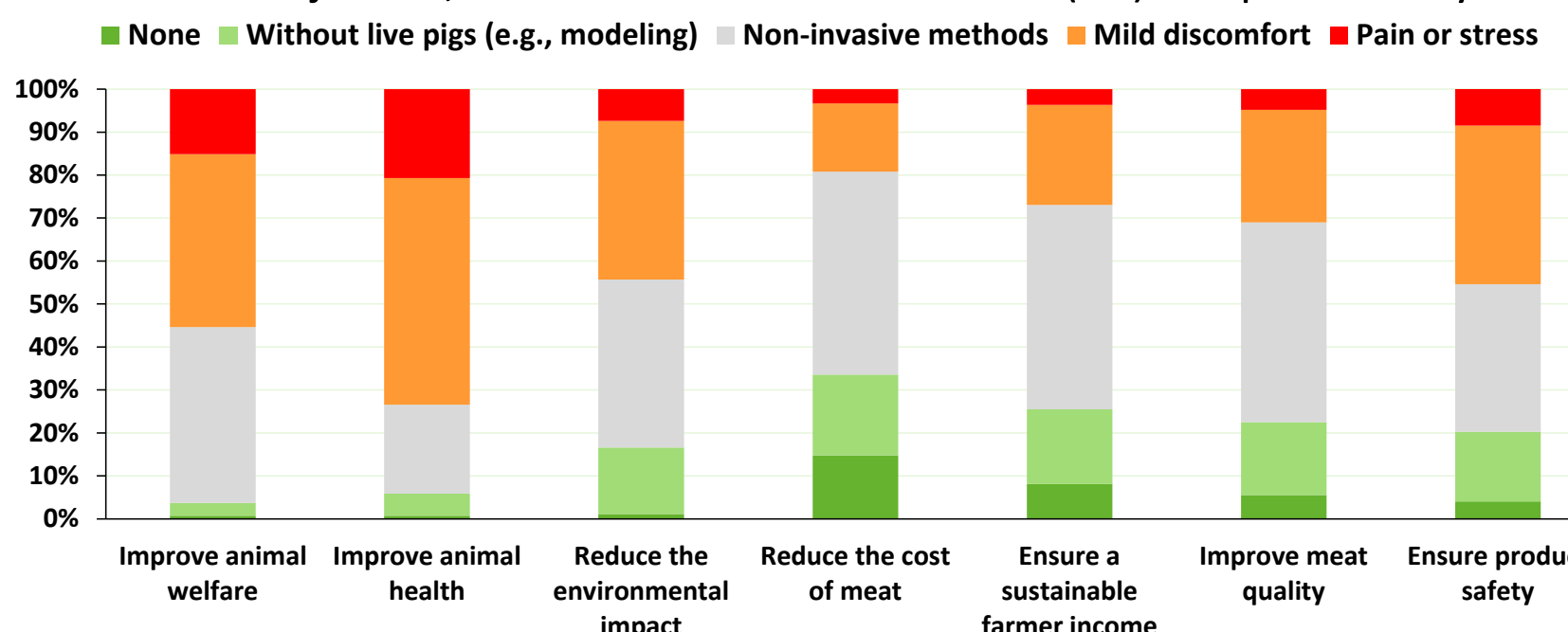


Castrate pigs to improve pork quality and prevent them to become sexually active and aggressive



As a scientist

Given the objective, which research methods are (in-)acceptable for you?



Conclusions

- Animal scientists are not at ease to communicate with society about their research
- There is a (increasing?) gap between consumers and citizens about animal products and animal production

Questions

- How can animal scientists overcome their hesitation and engage in a constructive dialogue with society?
- Can animal scientists contribute to re-aligning consumers and citizens?



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