



**HAL**  
open science

## A co-elaborative tool to assess growing pigs welfare

Valérie Courboulay, Marie-Christine Meunier-Salaün, Françoise Pol, Marie Stankowiak

### ► To cite this version:

Valérie Courboulay, Marie-Christine Meunier-Salaün, Françoise Pol, Marie Stankowiak. A co-elaborative tool to assess growing pigs welfare. 7. International conference on the assessment of animal welfare at farm and grip level (Walf), Sep 2017, Ede, Netherlands. Wageningen Academic Publishers, 2017, Proceedings of the 7th international conference on the assessment of animal welfare at farm and group level. hal-01595009

**HAL Id: hal-01595009**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01595009v1>**

Submitted on 2 Jun 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - ShareAlike 4.0 International License

**A co-elaborative tool to assess growing pigs welfare**

Valérie Courboulay<sup>1</sup>, Marie-Christine Meunier-Salaün<sup>2</sup>, Françoise Pol<sup>3</sup> and Marie Stankowiak<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>IFIP, breeding techniques, France, <sup>2</sup>INRA, UMR Pegase, France, <sup>3</sup>ANSES, Animal Health and Welfare, France, <sup>4</sup>ISA Lille, Grecat, France; [valerie.courboulay@ifip.asso.fr](mailto:valerie.courboulay@ifip.asso.fr)

Animal welfare assessment systems are mainly used by external auditors. Better commitment could be achieved if farmers could assess the welfare of their pigs themselves and act to improve it. A project was designed to build an animal welfare assessment tool with farmers from three different French regions. An exhaustive list of criteria was established at three co-design workshops involving farmers, their advisers and animal welfare experts. Farmers indicated how they evaluated whether their animals were doing well, either spontaneously in a brainstorming discussion, or by answering to questions from a naïve visitor. Then representatives of the groups gathered, prioritized and selected the criteria according to four dimensions: housing (cleanliness, moisture, resting posture), behaviour (fear of human, use of enrichment material), health (diarrhoea, coughing, lameness, severe body/tail lesions, physical appearance) and feeding (trough/drinker cleanliness, low body weight). They proposed rapid measurement methods (observation at group level from the corridor and individually in the pen) and stages to use them: two rooms in the post weaning period (PW) and two rooms in the growing-finishing period (G). A prototype tool was built on these bases. Farmers and advisers scored their animals twice, after the training session and six months later (spring 2017). The first series of evaluation indicated that lameness frequency was lower in PW than in G (0.27 vs 0.41% of pigs) and ranged from 0 to 1.7% (PW) and 3.6% (G). Exploratory behaviour was scored when entering the room and 10 minutes later. The percentage of pens with enrichment investigation was higher after 10 minutes presence, higher in PW period than in G period (34.5 vs 23.1%) and ranged from 0 to 100% of pens. The feedback of both sessions will allow to assess the feasibility of this tool in different type of farms, the difficulties encountered in the implementation by the farmers and to finalize with them a list of relevant measures.