



# Legislation and Pig Production

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Pig Producer and  
BPEX Board Member





# Agenda

- A little about me
- Antimicrobials in pig production
- Pig welfare
- Discussion



# A little about me



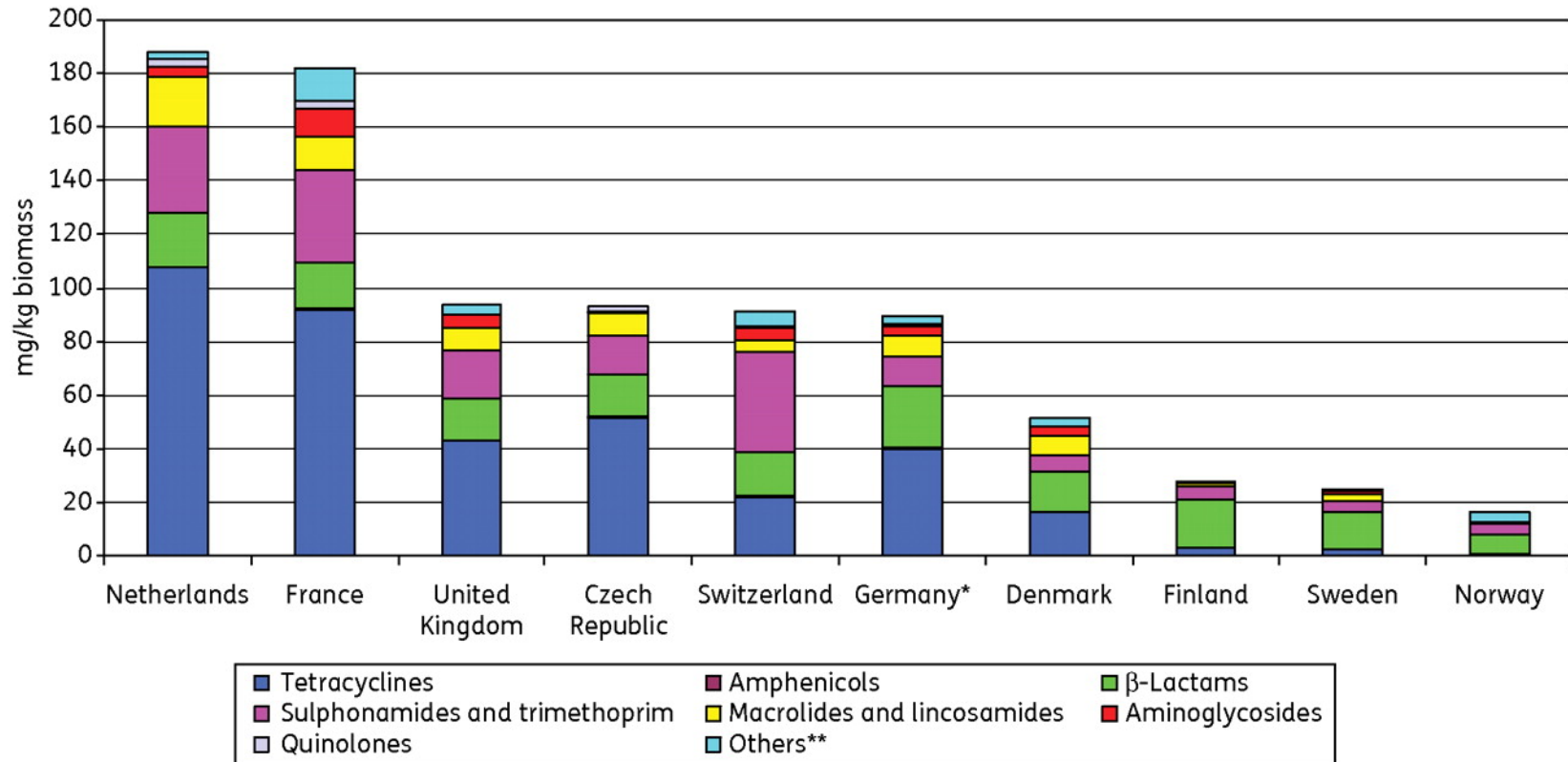


## Antimicrobial use in EU pig production

- Increase in multi- resistant organisms
- Consumer concern about the necessity to use antimicrobials
- The EU banned antimicrobials for growth promotion with effect from 2006.
- Initially this had little impact on overall use
- It is likely that national initiatives will have a more profound impact.



Amounts, in mg, of veterinary antibacterial agents sold in 2007 per kg biomass of pig meat, poultry meat and cattle meat produced plus estimated live weight of dairy cattle. \*2005 data.



Grave K et al. *J. Antimicrob. Chemother.* 2010;65:2037-2040

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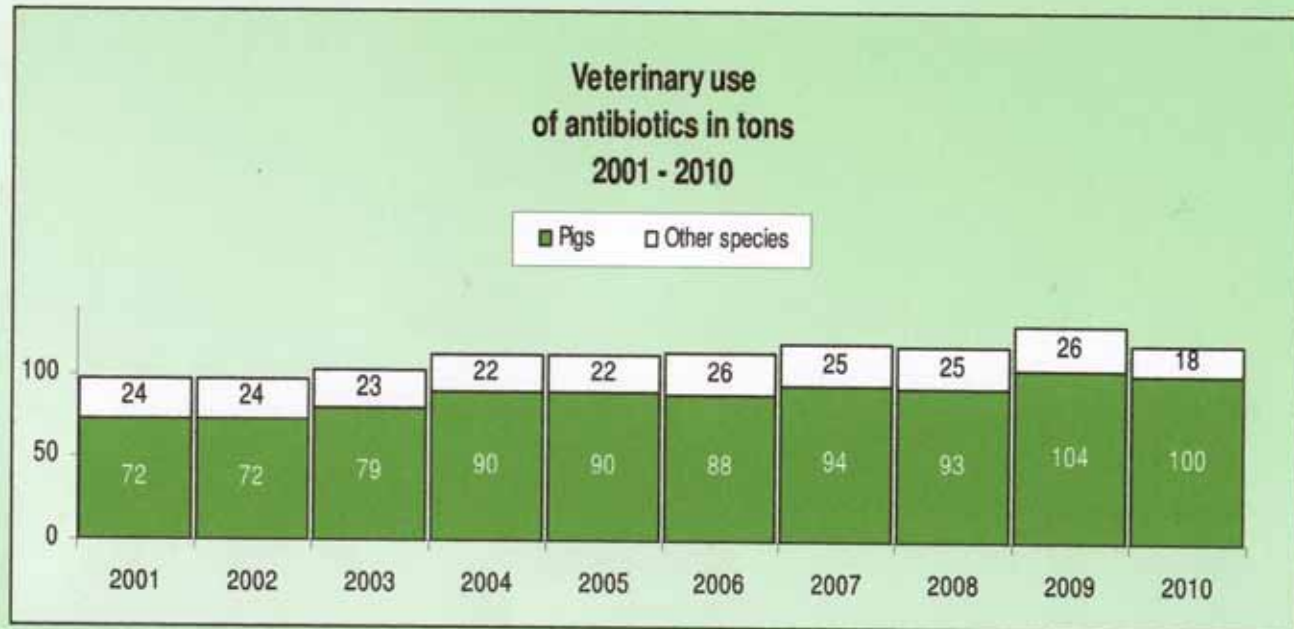
## Antimicrobial use in EU pig production – national examples

- The Netherlands have set up the SDa – The Animal Drug Authority – which is an independent organisation with the task of reducing antibiotic use. It has set a benchmark (2009) and a target to reduce use by 20% in 2011 and by 50% by 2015
- The Declaration of Den Bosch (a supply chain initiative in the Netherlands) has gone further and declared that producers will aim to use antibiotics only for the treatment of sick animals and that certain active ingredients that are of importance in human medicine will be banned in livestock production
- Denmark has introduced a new surveillance system to record the use of antibiotics on farm and then to issue escalating warnings (Yellow card / Red card) and require action if use is considered too high

## The result so far: Use of Antibiotics in Animal Production in Denmark

Decrease in  
AB-use:

3,5 % from  
2009 - 2010



Data from Vetstat

Source: Blaha, Thomas  
DVM, Ph.D., Dipl. ECPHM and ECVPH  
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany –Field Station for Epidemiology. After Tim Pederson



## Antimicrobial use in EU pig production – EU activity

The future will see greater pressure to reduce the use of antimicrobials.

For example on 17 November the EU Commission tabled an Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

This calls on Member States and stakeholders to adopt a 12 point plan including the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine and strengthened surveillance systems on antimicrobial consumption





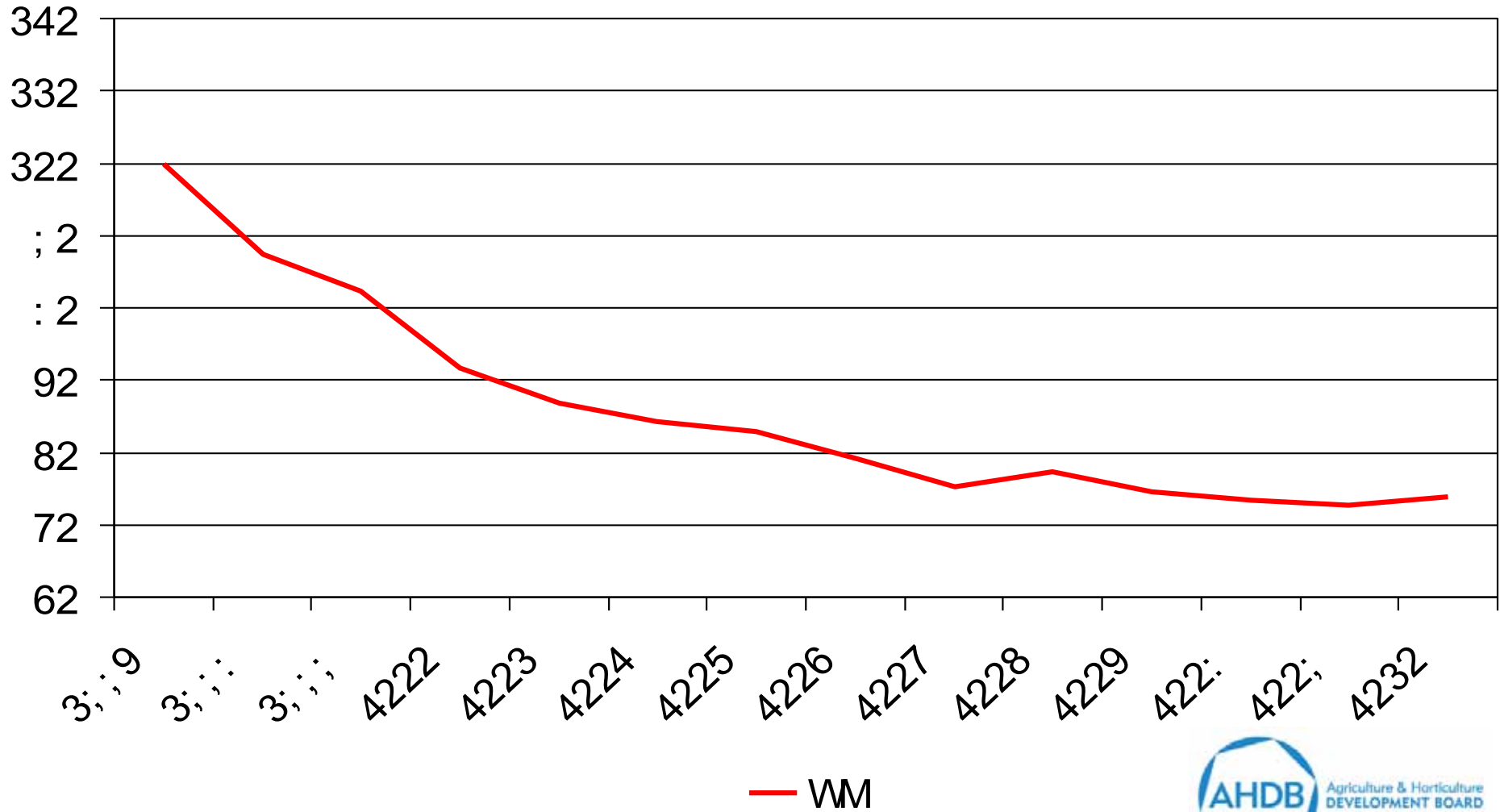
## Pig Welfare – British Experience

- The British are regarded as a nation of animal lovers. The RSPCA was formed in 1824 and became a Royal society in 1840
- We have a long history of legislation and farming practice to protect the welfare of the animals in our care
- Most recently a unilateral ban in gestation stalls was enacted in the UK in 1999 – against the will of most pig farmers



# Exporting our industry (December census 1997=100)

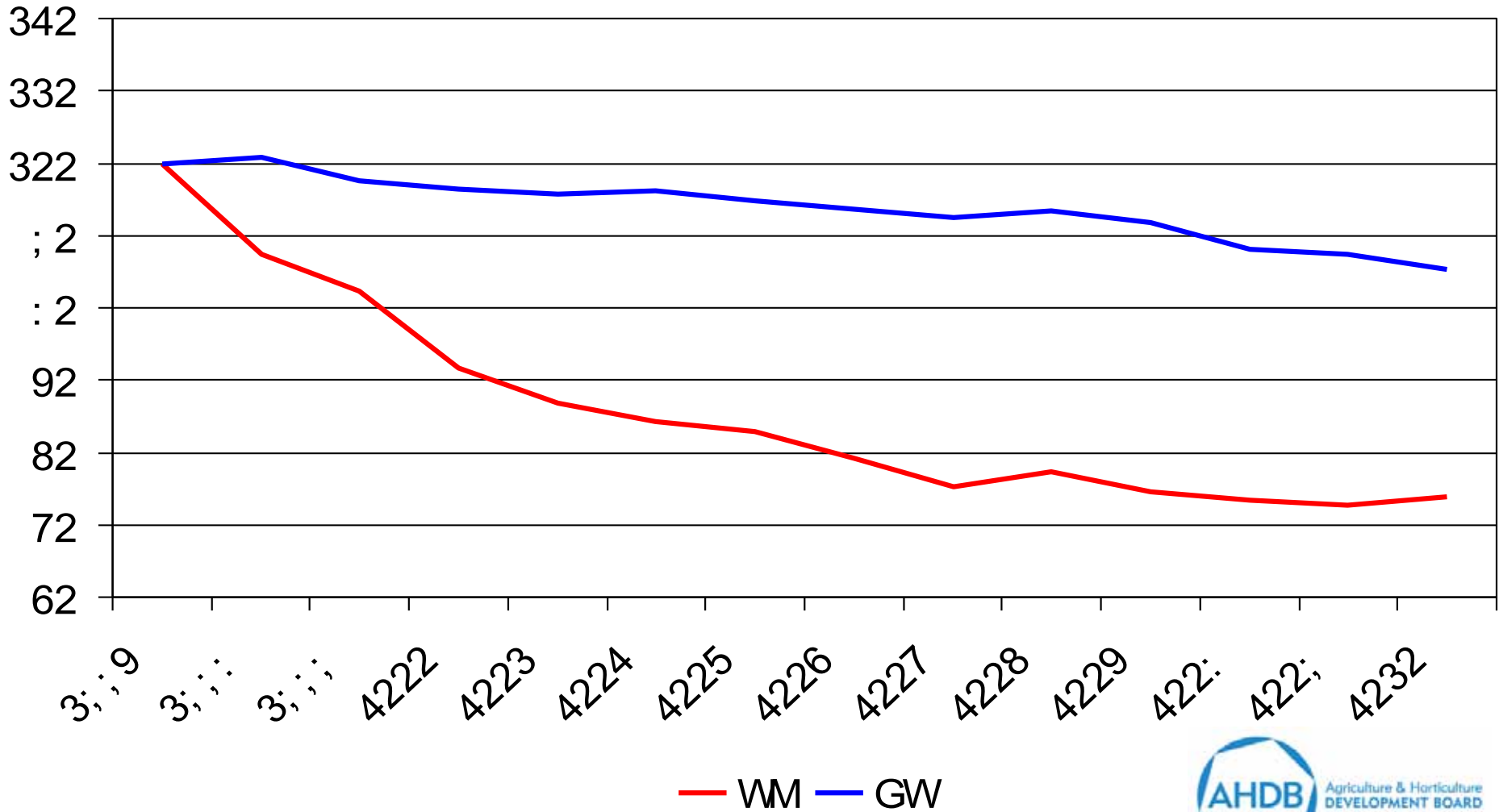
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# Exporting our industry (December census 1997=100)

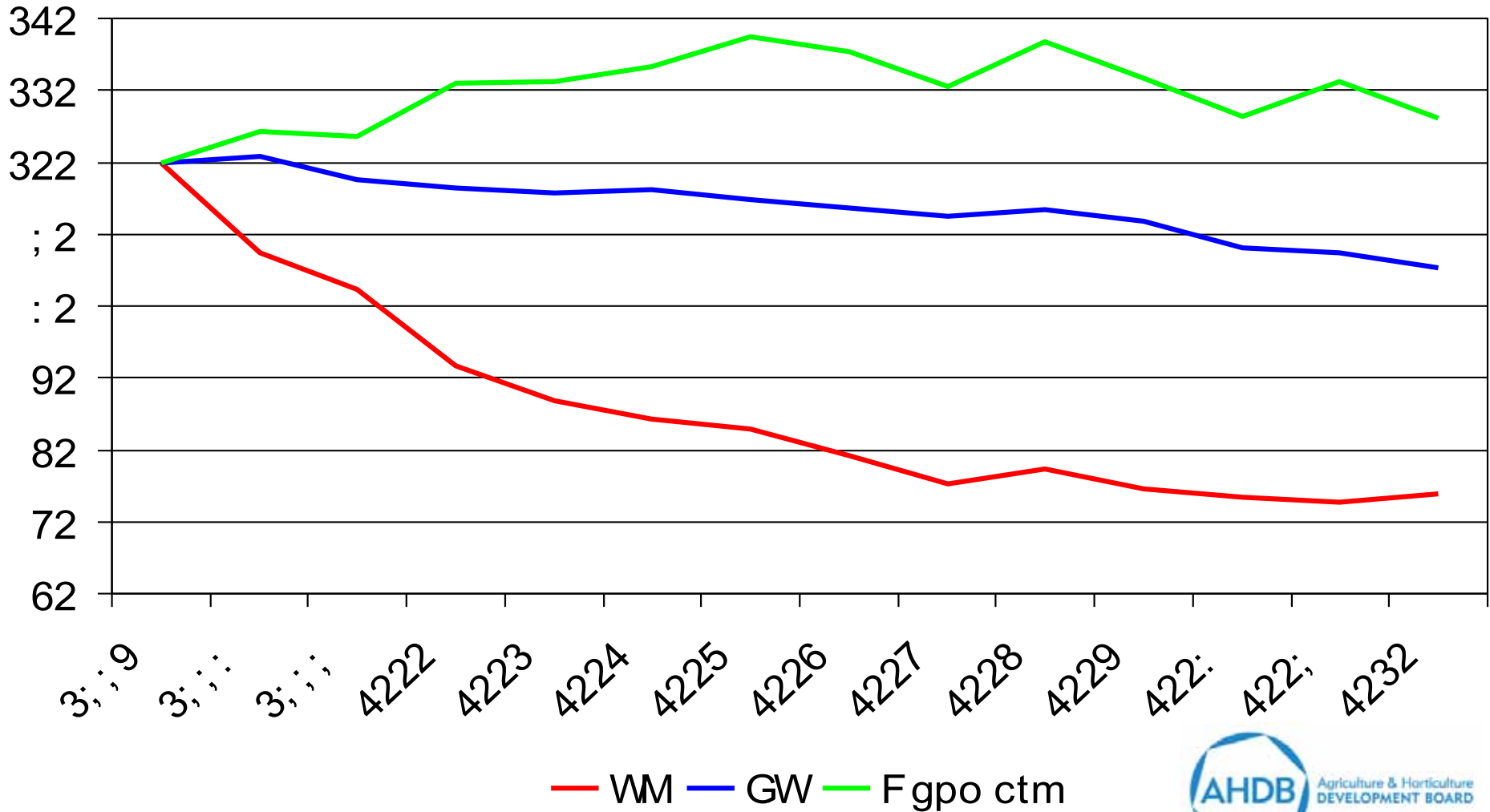
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# Exporting our industry (December census 1997=100)

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## Pig Welfare – Words Count

- Animals, including farm animals, are formally recognised as “sentient beings” in fundamental EU legislation (Treaty of Lisbon, December 2009)
- In short this means that animals are recognised as being capable of feeling things
- This has subsequently been interpreted by animal activist groups as animals “have feelings”
- The result is that animal activist groups have drawn up a long agenda aimed at changing farming practices or even the elimination of conventional animal agriculture



## Pig Welfare – Current Agenda

- Tethering of gestating sows banned in EU from 2006
- Conventional cages for laying hens banned in EU from 2012
- Gestation stalls banned in EU from 2013 (except for 4 weeks after mating)
- Castration subject to voluntary initiatives at present with various declarations to modify / phase out its use in time
- Supported by the EU Commission in its declaration of December 2010  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/initiatives\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/initiatives_en.htm)
- Subject of high profile campaigns by activist groups



...between ideals ...



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[www.tierschutzbund.de](http://www.tierschutzbund.de)

„Feel like a pig“

Campaign of Deutscher Tierschutzbund against piglet-castration.



## Pig Welfare – Current Agenda

- Environmental enrichment is a requirement of legislation but the methods employed by farmers are being challenged
- Tail reduction
- Teeth clipping/grinding
- Farrowing crates
- Flooring systems, especially fully slatted flooring





## Pig Welfare – Current Agenda

- It's a question of how fast the agenda progresses rather than if
- The political system in some EU countries can result in greater representation of animal activist groups (Partij voor de Dieren – Party for the Animals has two seats in the Dutch House of Representatives )
- The European Parliament is becoming more important making it easier for single issue groups to get a voice
- Activist groups are getting more international and more organised



# Where will it end?

“We believe factory farming is the biggest cause of animal cruelty on the planet”.

The screenshot shows the website for Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.ciwf.org.uk/?gclid=CNChep5mDgwCFQEMfAodmFeEhw>. The website header includes the CIWF logo, a search bar, and navigation links for "LOW GRAPHICS", "CONTACT US", and "PRESS". A prominent banner reads "WE BELIEVE animals should not be reared in factory farms". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "ABOUT US", "WHAT WE DO", "HELP US", "FARM ANIMALS", "YOUR FOOD", "RESOURCES", and "DONATE". The main content area features a large image of sheep and a text block stating: "We are the leading farm animal welfare charity. We believe factory farming is the biggest cause of animal cruelty on the planet." Below this is a "READ MORE >>" link. Further down, there are several featured articles and images, including "READ OUR Annual Review 2010/11", "YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE" with an image of sheep, "CALL IN THE POWYS MEGA-DAIRY DECISION" dated 23 Nov 11, "FARM ANIMALS CONSUME NEARLY HALF OF ALL ANTIBIOTICS WORLDWIDE" dated 16 Nov 11, and "ANTIBIOTICS: CASE STUDY OF A HEALTH CRISIS". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications including Microsoft Outlook, and the system clock showing 17:22 on 11/23/11.



# Thank You



# PORK

[www.bpex.org.uk](http://www.bpex.org.uk)

