

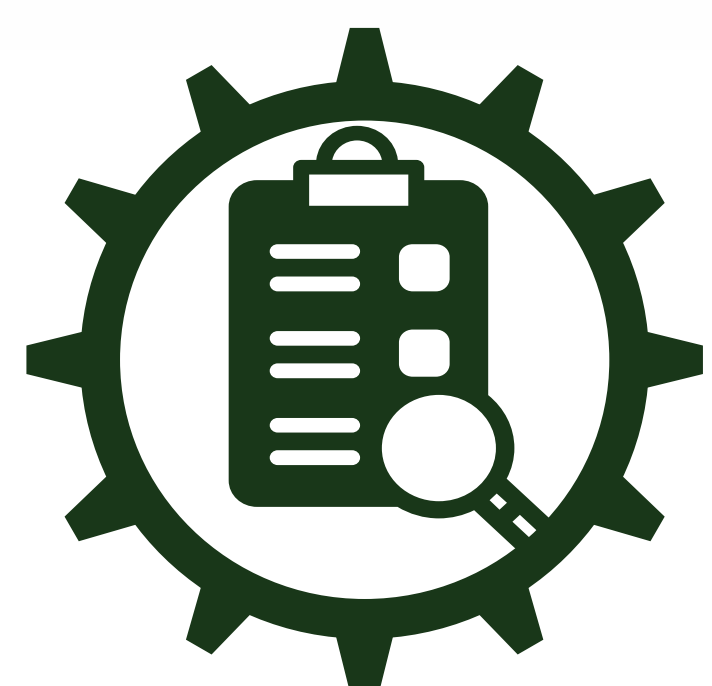


Perceptions of ASF in smallholder settings in Ukraine

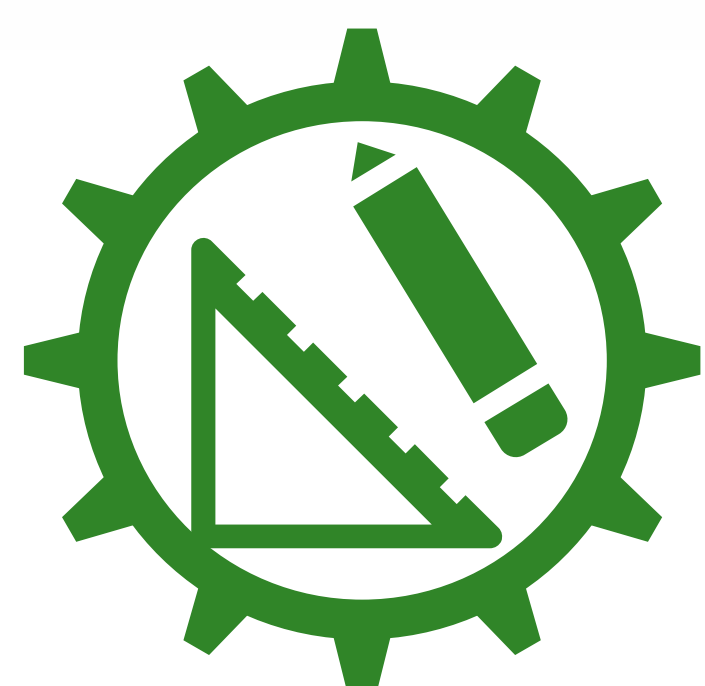
Background: African Swine Fever (ASF) is a devastating viral disease that affects pig populations and the farming economy. Currently, there is no approved vaccine for ASF. Its introduction and spread to the pig sector can be prevented by strict compliance with biosecurity measures. The quality of their implementation may depend upon the pig keepers' knowledge of ASF and acceptability of the control measures.

Aim: To reveal Ukrainian swine smallholders' awareness of ASF clinical signs, possible modes of transmission, preventive measures. Additionally, we aimed to discover consequences for the swine smallholders of being in the restriction zone and their acceptance of ASF control measures.

Materials & Methods:



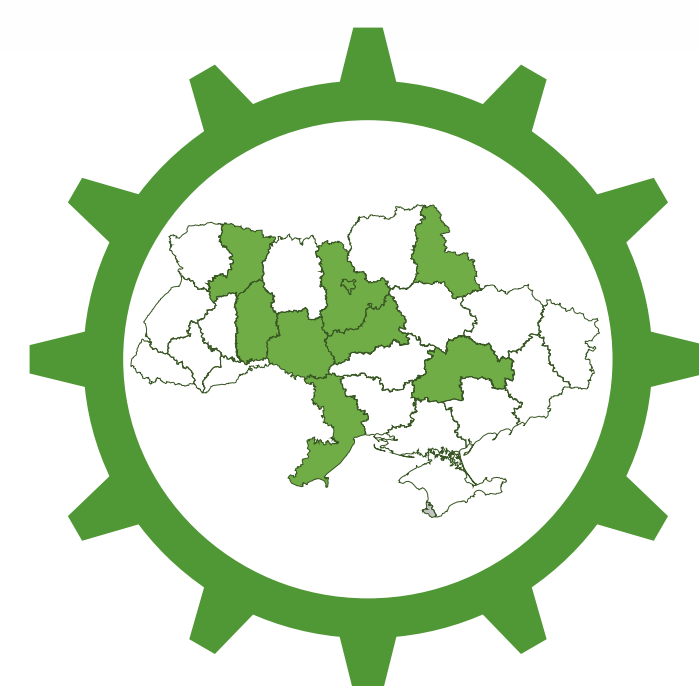
Study design:
Participatory epidemiology (PE) approach



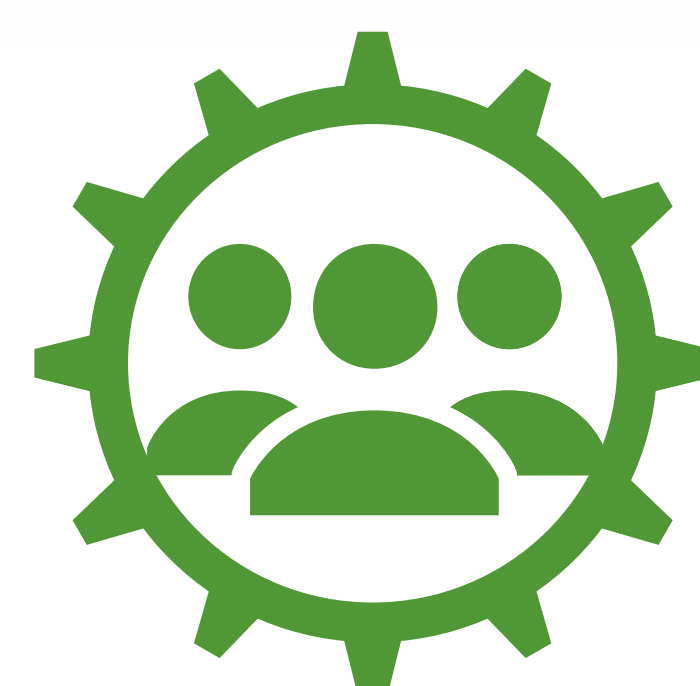
PE tools:
Semi-structured interview, proportional piling, emoji face scale



Data collection:
10 focus group discussions



8 oblasts



52 swine smallholders
(13 males, 39 females)



Data analysis:
Semi-quantitative analysis

Results:

ASF clinical signs ranked by the weighted sum of indicativeness:

1. Fever
2. Skin haemorrhages
3. Loss of appetite

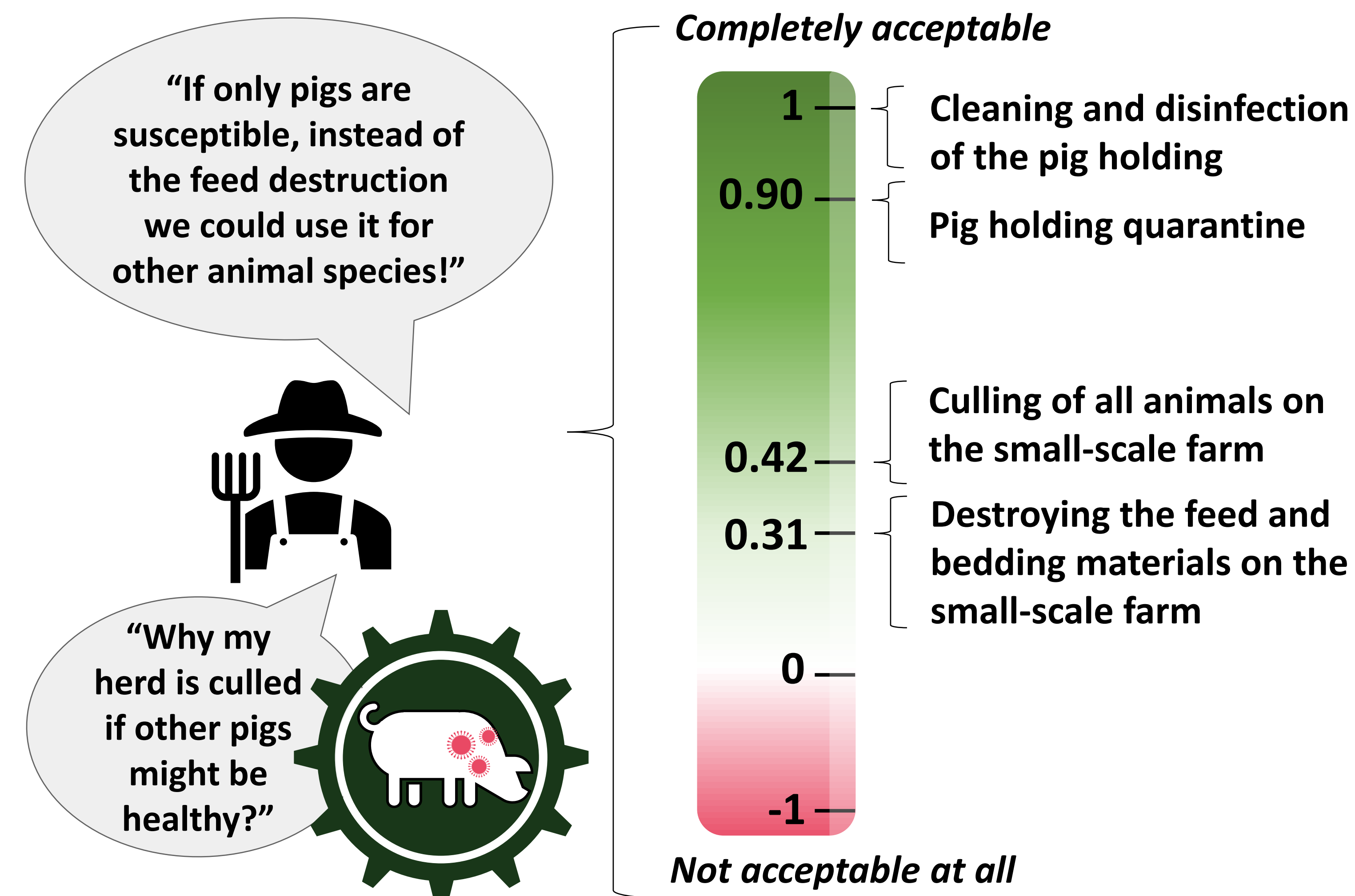
Modes of ASF virus transmission to the herd by the weighted sum of risk:

1. Rodents
2. Shoes
3. Transport vehicles

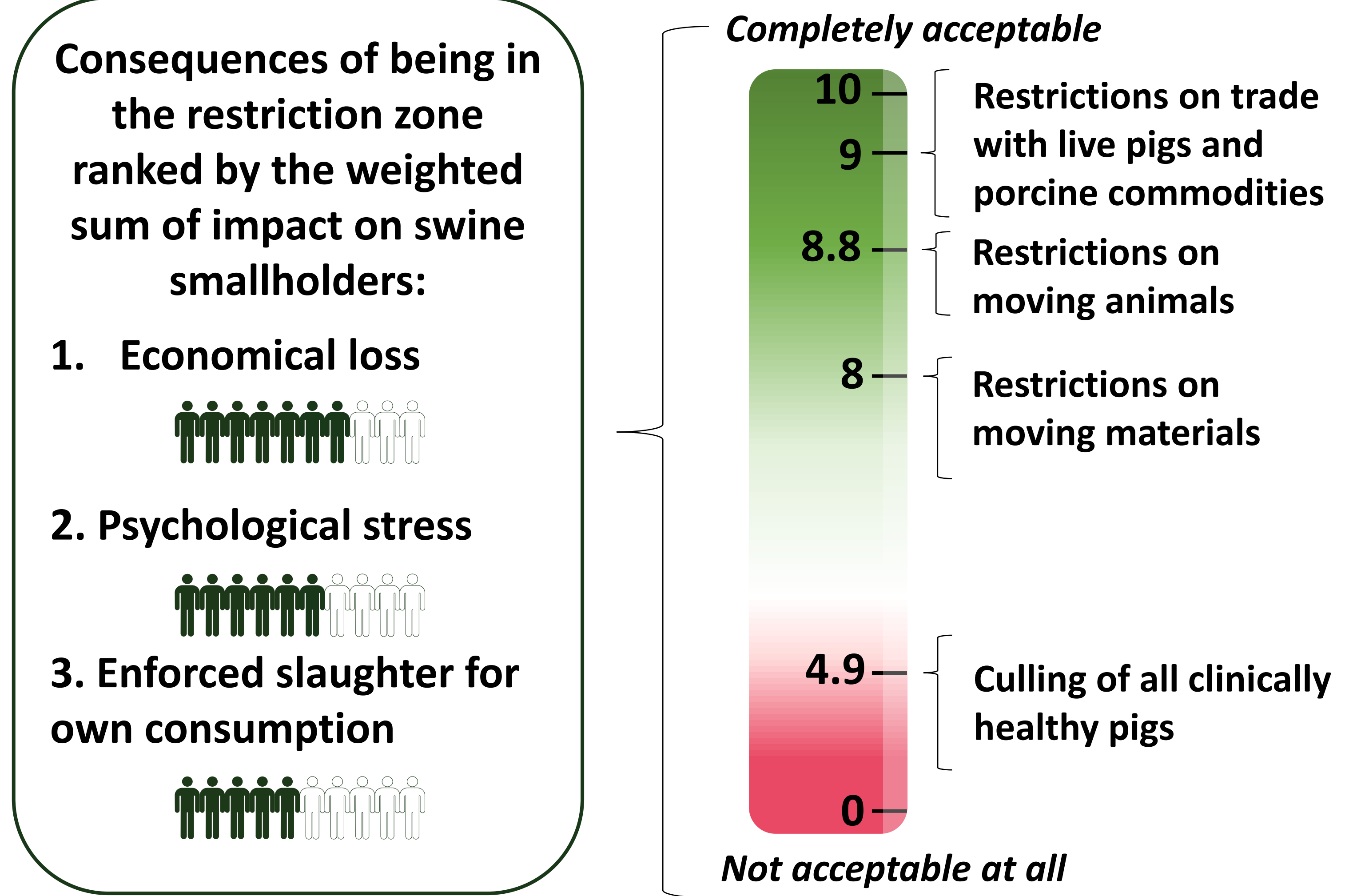
Preventive measures ranked by the weighted sum of effectiveness:

1. Disinfection of a pig holding
2. Access ban for people
3. Change of clothes, shoes

Acceptance of ASF eradication measures during an outbreak on a small-scale farm



Acceptance of measures in restriction zones



Conclusions and Recommendations:

- Swine smallholders in Ukraine are aware of ASF clinical features, modes of transmission, and preventive measures.
- Some ASF eradication measures should be explained thoroughly to livestock keepers to assure their better acceptance.
- Swine smallholders in Ukraine perceive ASF zoning measures in the restriction zones harmful for their farm economy and personal wellbeing.



Corresponding author: PhD student
lidiia.moskalenko@student.emu.ee