

# What are the perceptions of commercial and household pigkeepers about African swine fever?

## Background:

**African Swine Fever (ASF)** has been identified in Ukraine and Estonia beginning in 2012 and 2014, respectively. 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' awareness and perceptions regarding ASF.

## Aim:

This study used a participatory epidemiology approach to investigate pigkeepers' awareness of ASF signs, transmission routes, and preventive measures. Additionally, their acceptability of ASF control measures and perceptions towards stakeholders involved in ASF control was revealed.



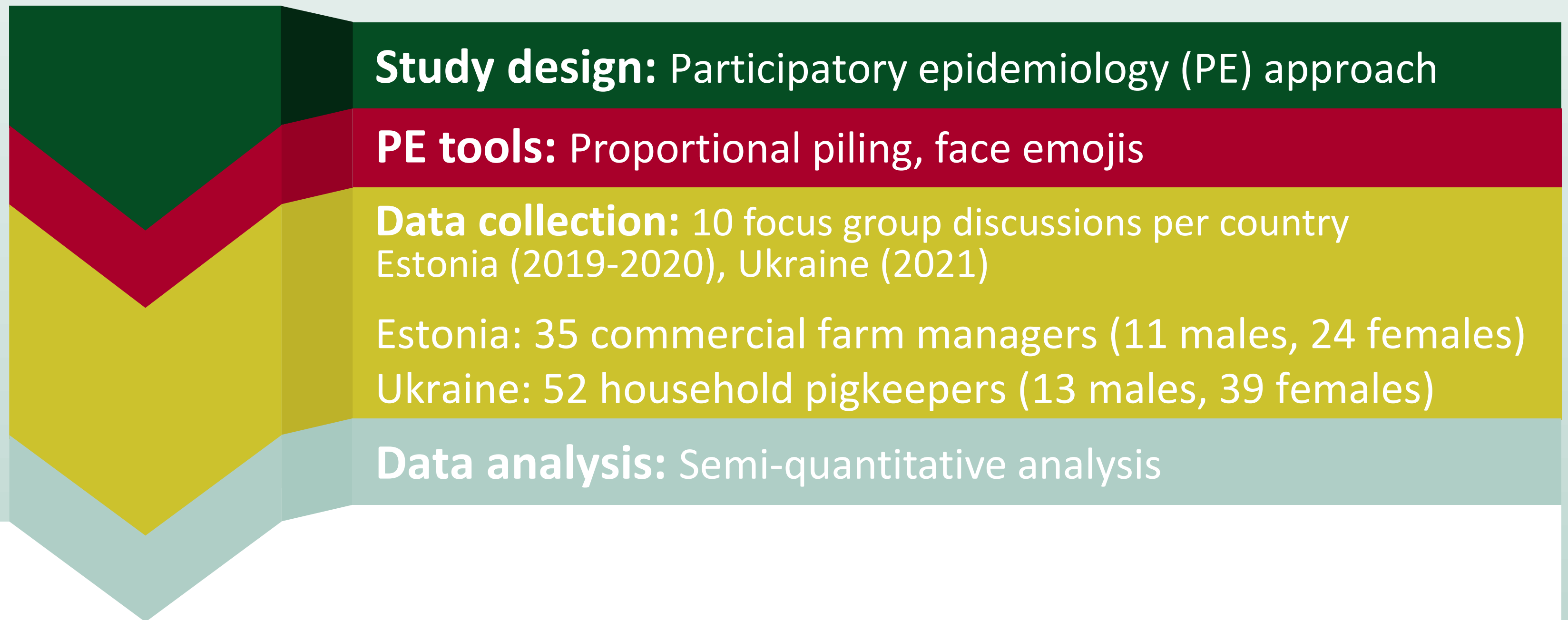
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## Materials & Methods:



## Results:

Commercial pigkeepers (Estonia)	Rank	Household pigkeepers (Ukraine)
<b>The perceived most indicative ASF signs in domestic pigs</b>		
Increased mortality	1	Fever
Fever, inappetence, lethargy	2	Skin haemorrhages
Haemorrhages on the body's surface	3	Inappetence
<b>The perceived most risky transmission routes of ASF virus introduction to the pig herd</b>		
Transport	1	Rodents
Rodents, birds, insects	2	Shoes
People	3	Transport
Farm visitors	4	Human
<b>The perceived most effective preventive measures</b>		
Farm training in biosecurity, informing the visitors	1	Disinfection of a pig holding
Fencing	2	Access ban for people
Changing clothes, footwear	3	Change of clothes, shoes
Disinfection barriers for people and vehicles	4	Rodents and flies control

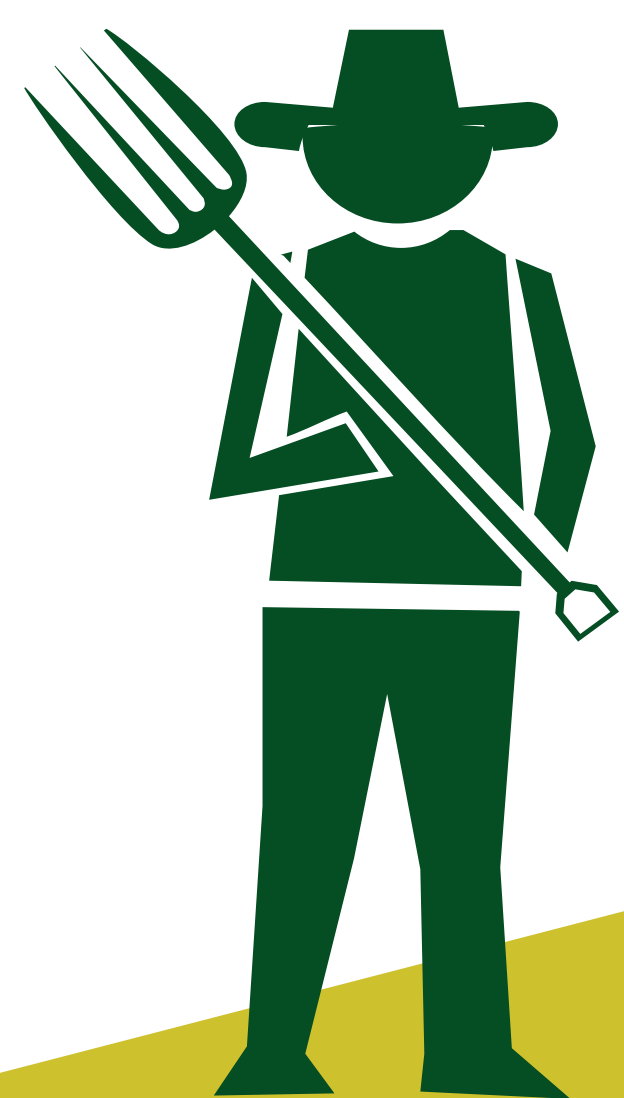
## Conclusions and Recommendations:

- Pigkeepers in Estonia and in Ukraine are well aware of ASF clinical features, modes of transmission, and preventive measures.
- However, some farm-level ASF control measures should be explained thoroughly to pigkeepers to assure their better acceptance.
- Commercial and household pigkeepers from both countries perceive ASF zoning measures in the restricted zones harmful for their farm economy and personal wellbeing.
- The existing reimbursement system should be adjusted to cover pigkeepers' actual expenses during the ASF outbreak.

Commercial pigkeepers (Estonia)	Rank	Household pigkeepers (Ukraine)
<b>The most trustworthy stakeholders concerning the implementation of control measures in an appropriate manner</b>		
Pig keepers	1	Pig keepers
Veterinary authority	2	Local veterinarian
Local university of life sciences	3	Regional veterinary hospital
Hunters	4	Local government
Pig Breeding Association	5	Veterinary authority
<b>Perceived consequences of ASF zoning with the highest impact on the pigkeepers</b>		
Restrictions on trading pigs and pork products*	1	Economic loss
Lower meat prices	2	Psychological stress
Economic loss	3	Slaughter of pigs for own consumption

\*listed element by the facilitator prior to the task

Farm-level ASF control measures	Commercial pigkeepers (Estonia)	Household pigkeepers (Ukraine)
Farm quarantine	1.0	0.9
Cleaning and disinfection	1.0	1.0
Destroying the feed and bedding materials	0.3	0.4
Culling of all animals	-0.3	0.3



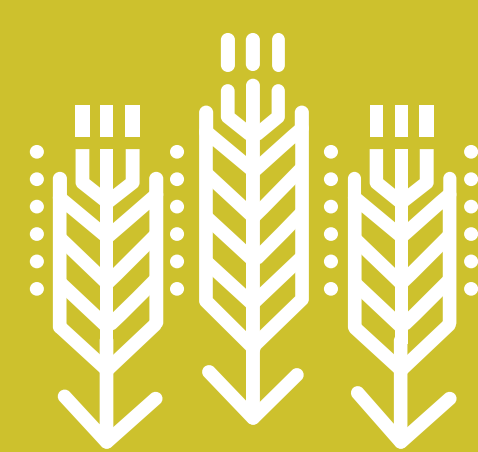
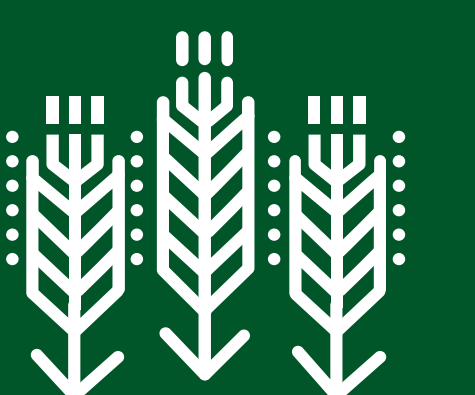
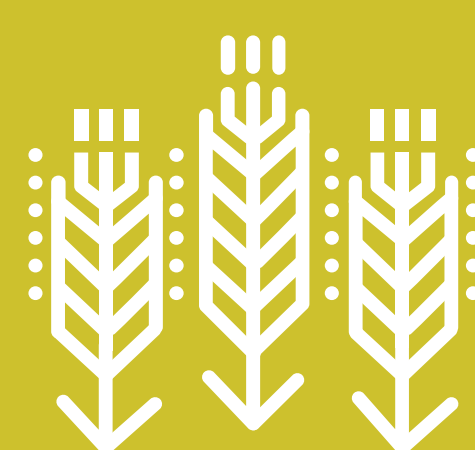
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