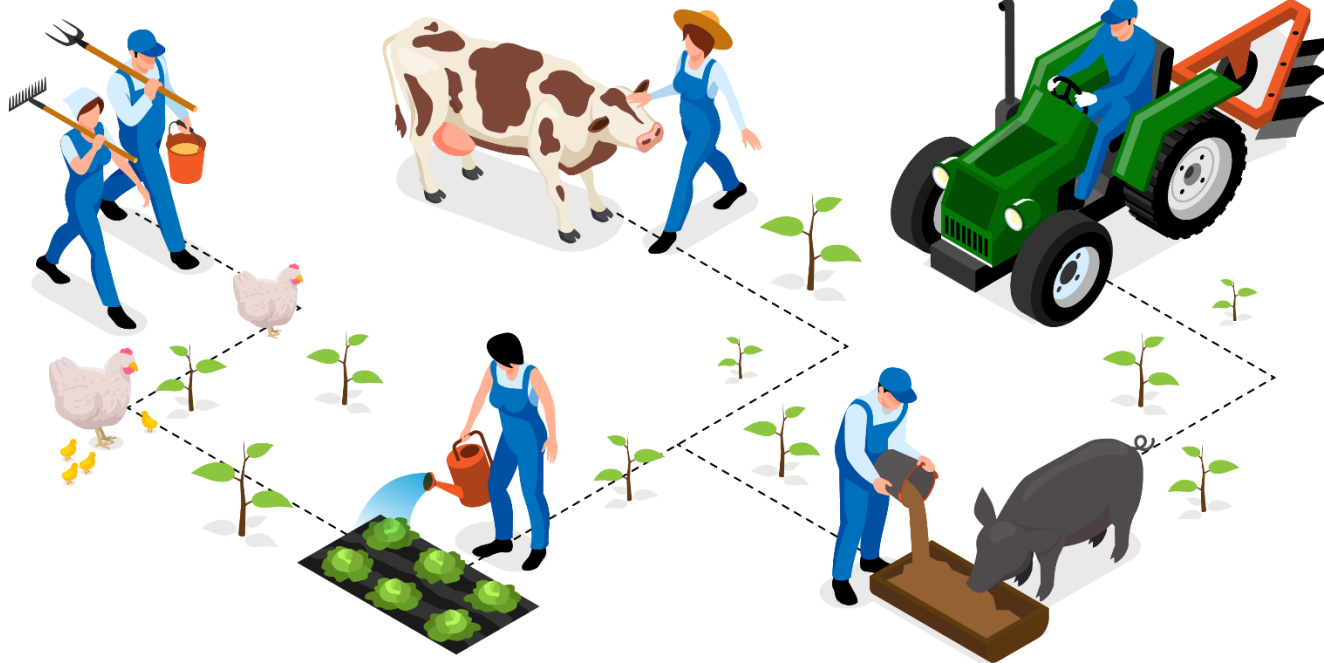


13th ATF Seminar*‘Sustainable livestock systems’ – what does this mean?*

‘SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS’
– what does this mean?



“Ruckli’s pig farm”

Antonia Ruckli

Gabriel Ruckli

Location of our pig farm





Our team



Innovations on our farm

Intermittent suckling



Total mixed ration feeding



Innovations on our farm

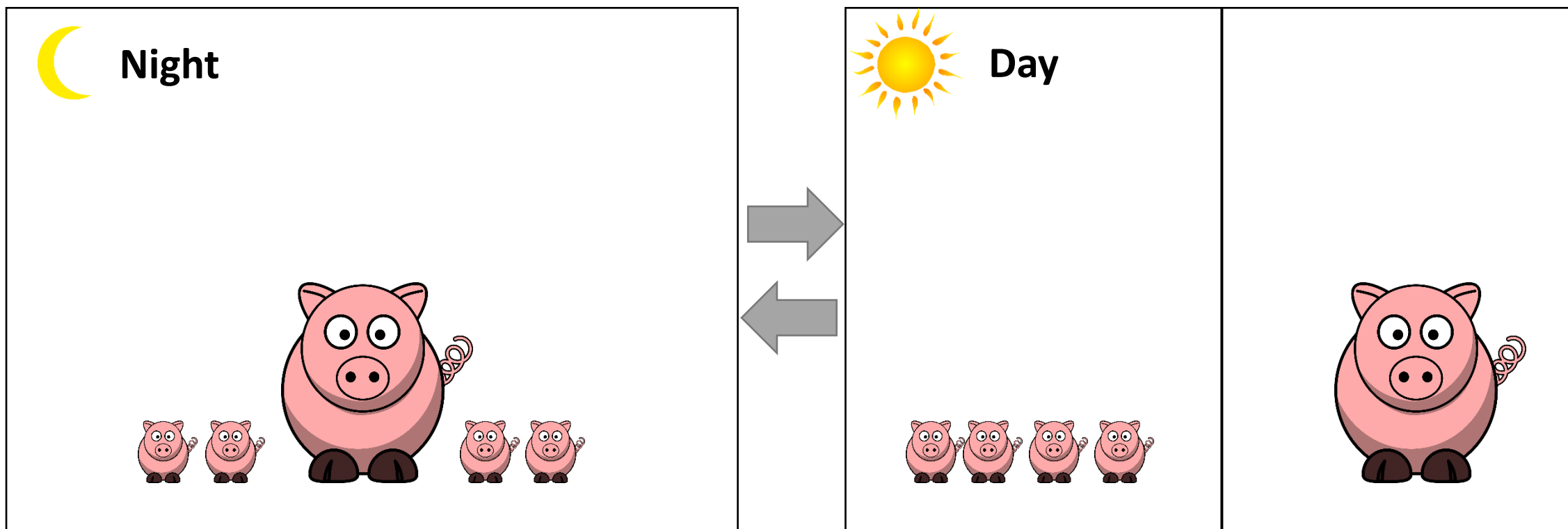
Intermittent suckling



Total mixed ration feeding



Intermittent suckling



Why?

Natural weaning age: 16-20 weeks

(Jensen and Recén 1989)

Weaning is a gradual process

IP-SUISSE: 4 weeks

BIO-SUISSE: 6 weeks

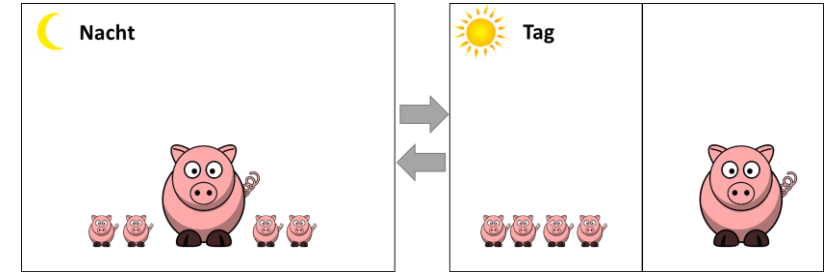
Weaning abrupt → leads to stress

→ Health problems after weaning

(Campbell, Crenshaw et al. 2013)



Intermittent suckling



- Induction of lactational oestrus
- Insemination of sows during lactation
- Prolonged lactation (in total 8 weeks)

Sow rhythm



Gestating sows

One large group

Sow rhythm



Gestating sows

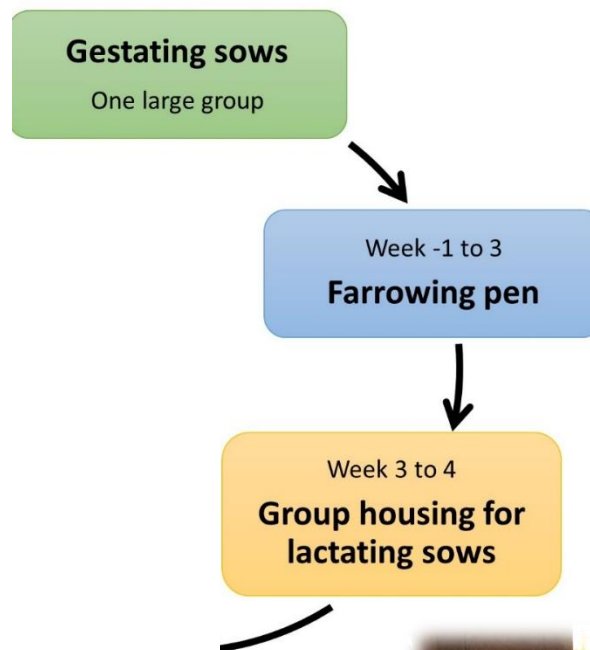
One large group



Week -1 to 3
Farrowing pen



Sow rhythm



Sow rhythm



Gestating sows
One large group

Week -1 to 3
Farrowing pen

Week 3 to 4
Group housing for lactating sows

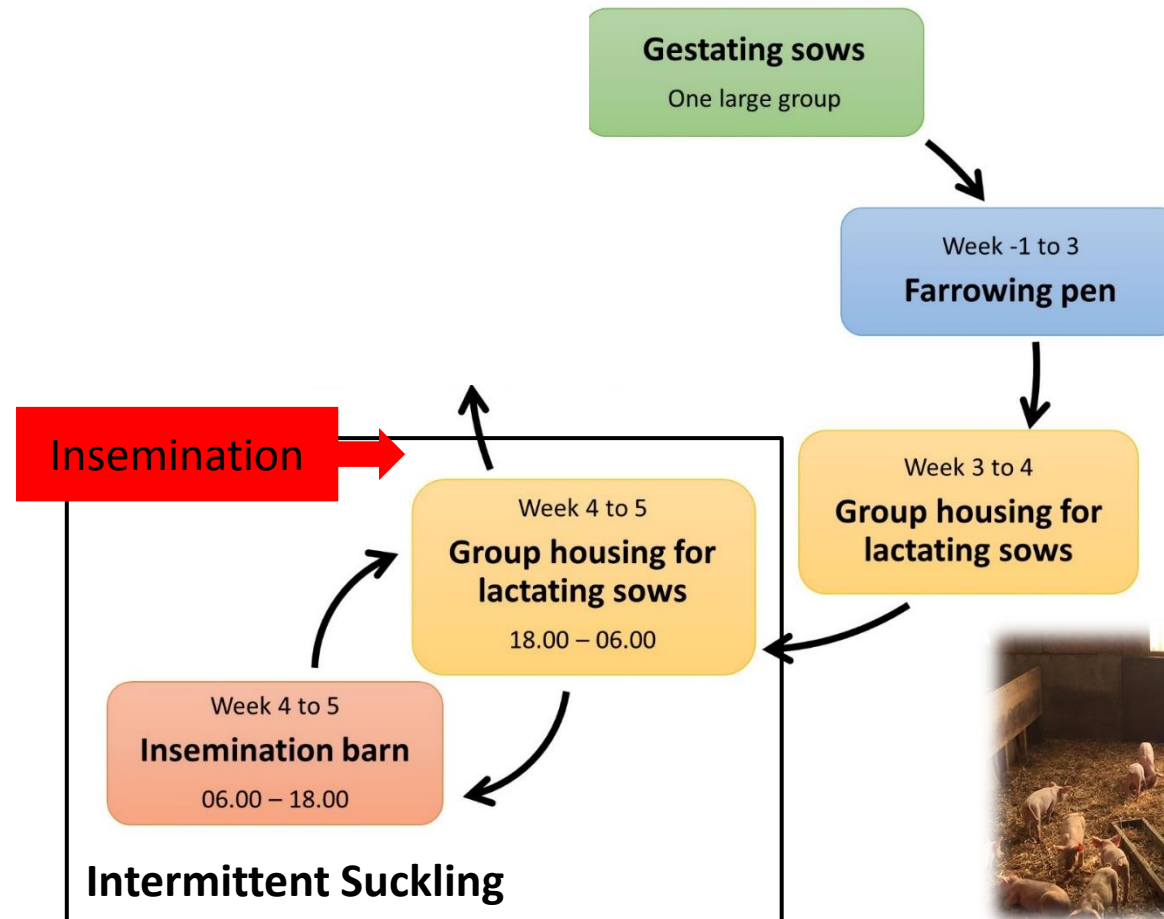
Week 4 to 5
Group housing for lactating sows
18.00 – 06.00

Week 4 to 5
Insemination barn
06.00 – 18.00

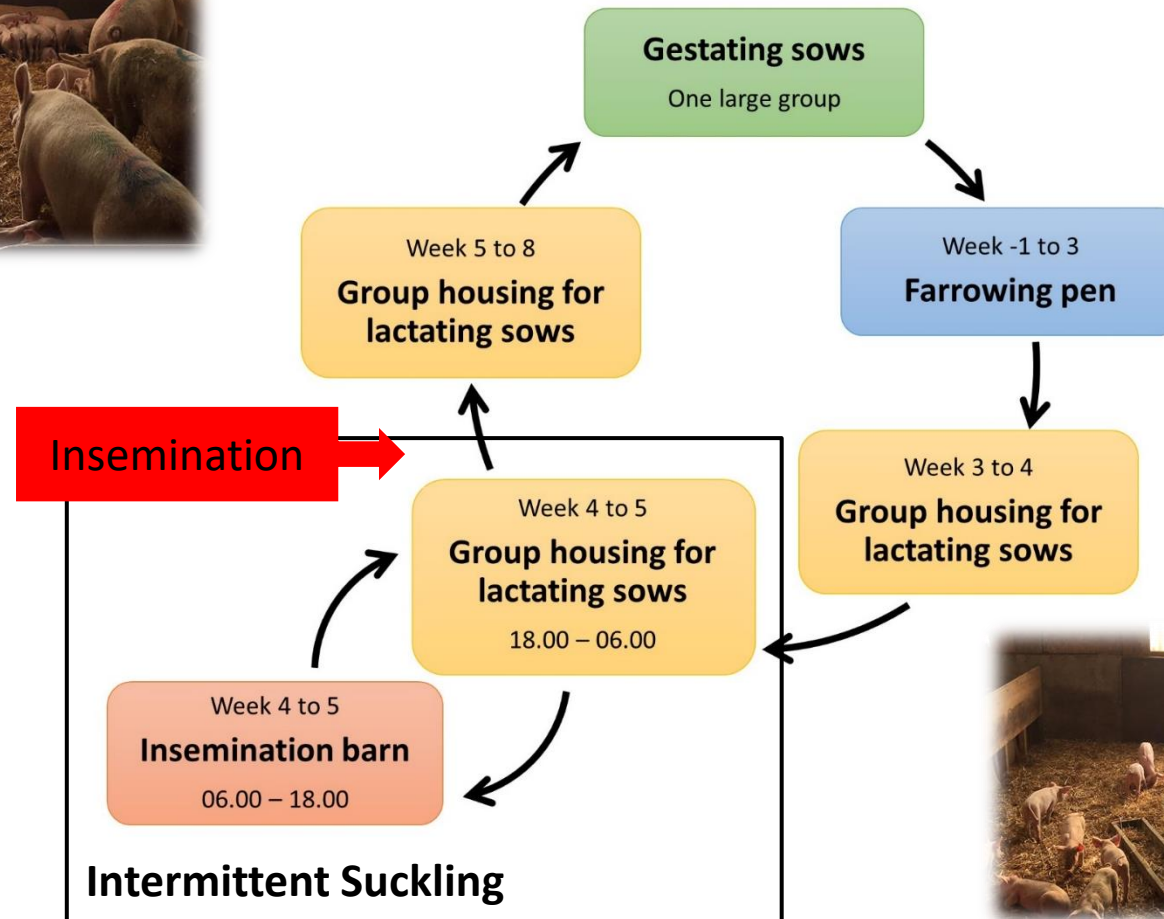
Intermittent Suckling



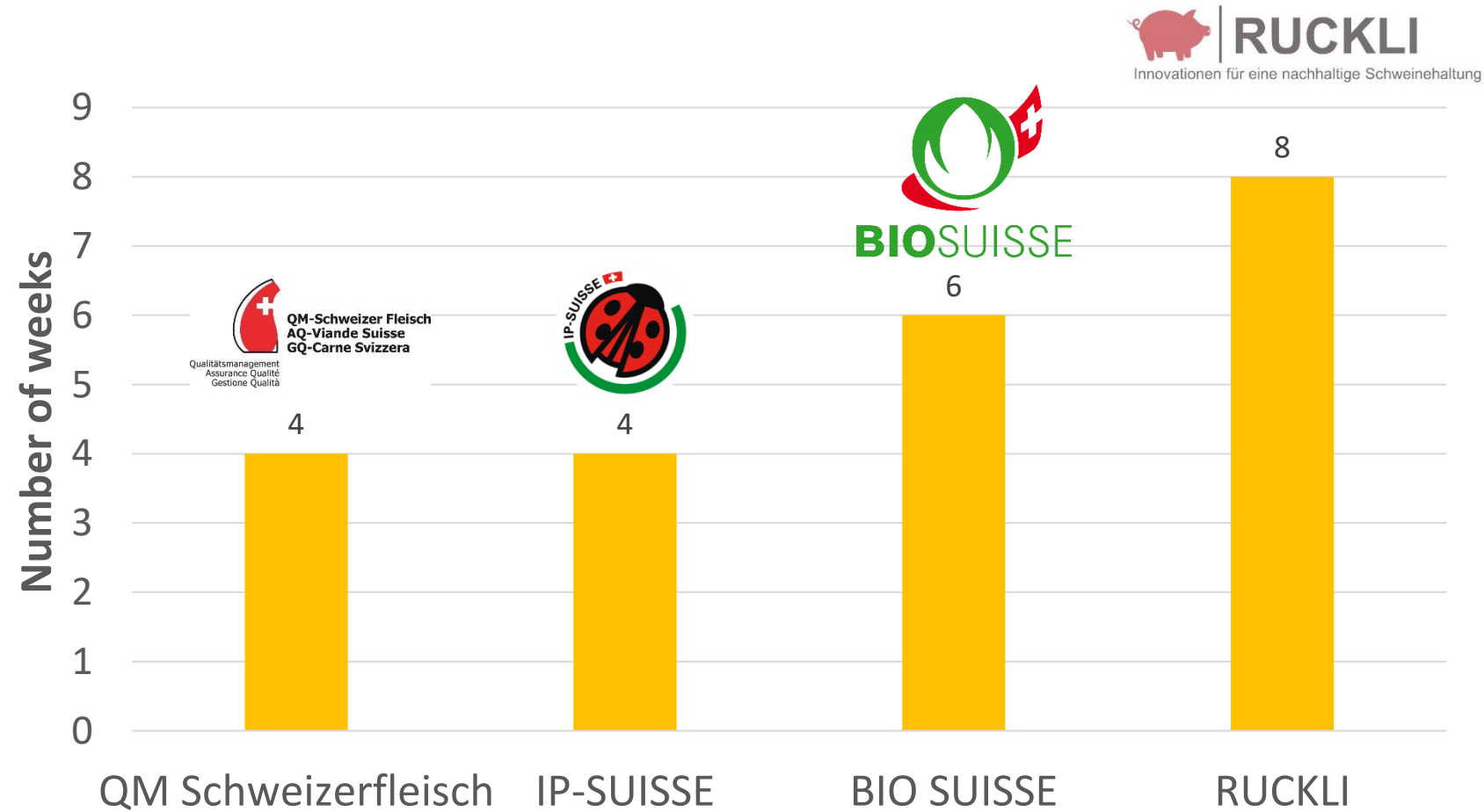
Sow rhythm



Sow rhythm



Length of lactation



Innovations on our farm

Intermittent suckling



Total mixed ration feeding



What is a pig doing throughout the day?



Searching for
food/ Exploration
23%

What is a pig doing throughout the day?

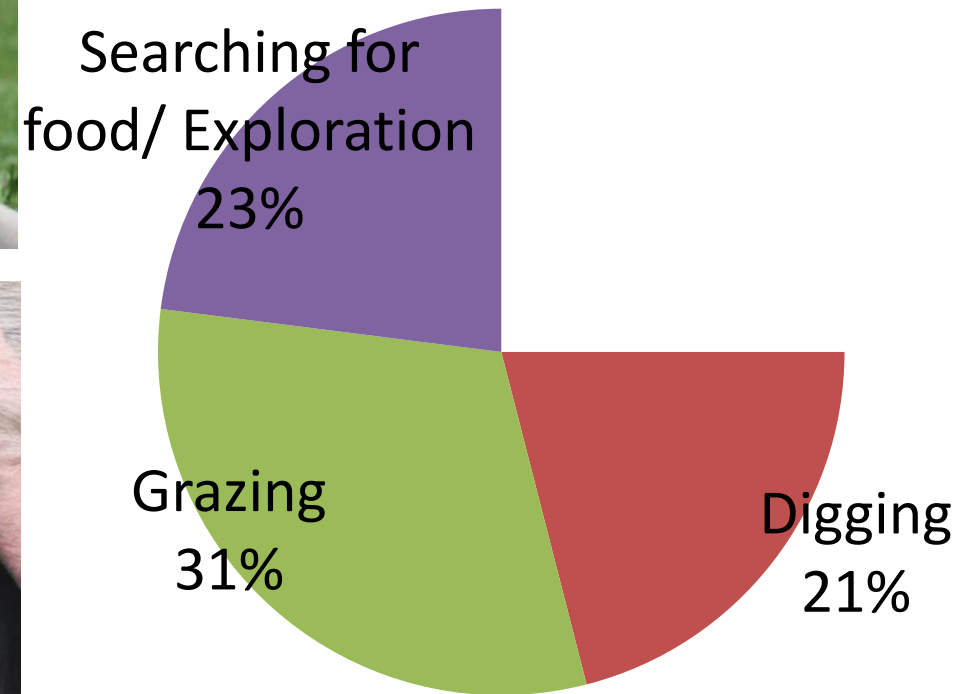


Searching for
food/ Exploration
23%

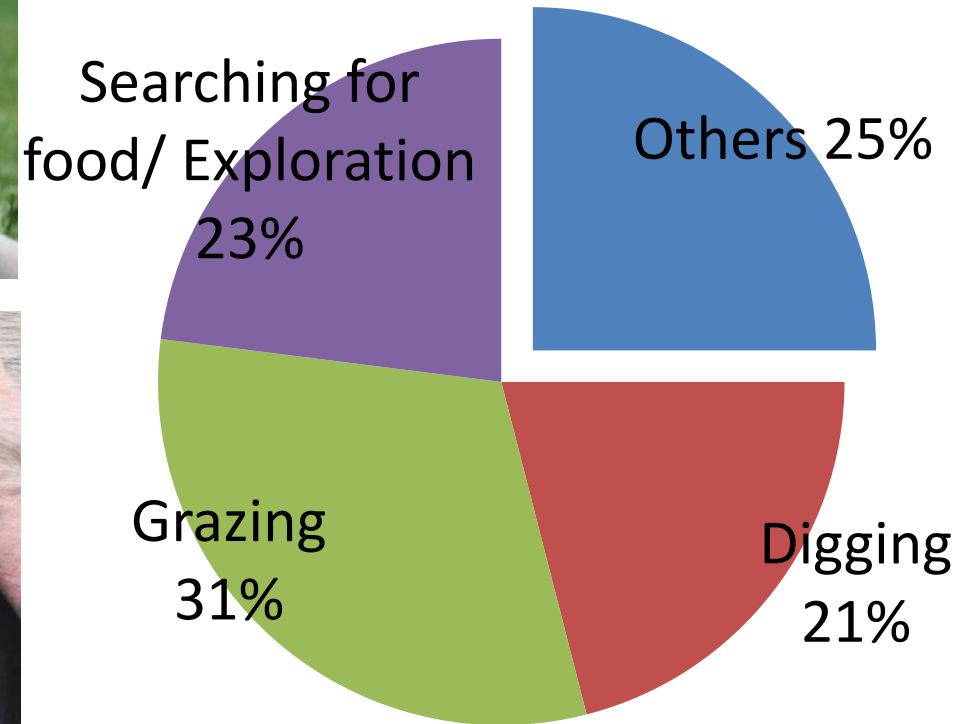
Grazing
31%



What is a pig doing throughout the day?



What is a pig doing throughout the day?





Home-grown protein source?

- 800 m. above sea level + 1300 mm rain per year
→ Growing of soy not yet possible



© Pixabay

Home-grown protein source?

- 800 m. above sea level + 1300 mm rain per year
→ Growing of soy not yet possible
- Switzerland is a grassland?!
→ Grass-clover mix



© Pixabay



© Ruckli

Home-grown protein source?

- 800 m. above sea level + 1300 mm rain per year
→ Growing of soy not yet possible
- Switzerland is a grassland?!
→ Grass-clover mix
- Resilience: extreme weather conditions



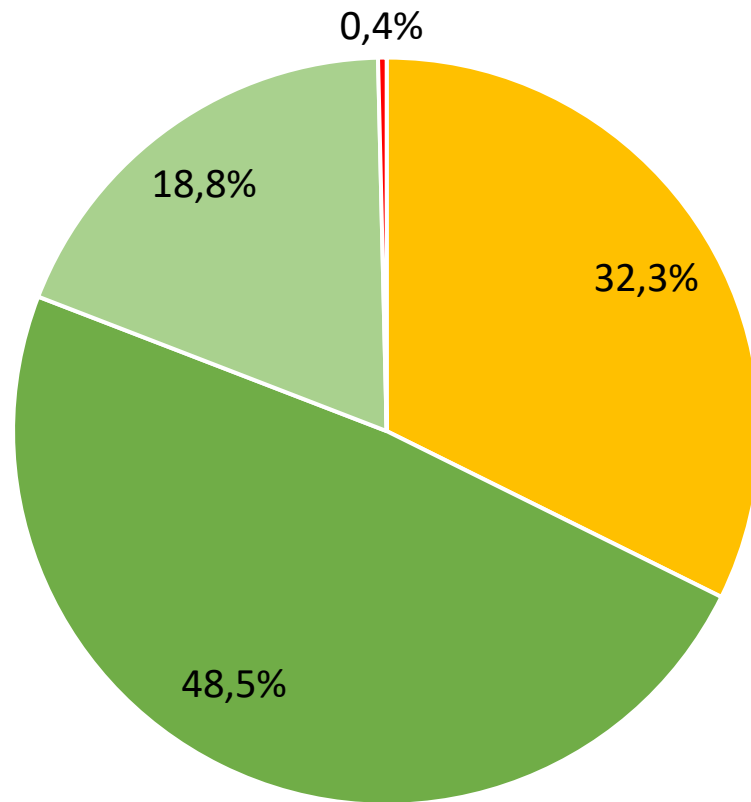
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Composition of our TMR feed

Fresh matter



■ Compound feed ■ Silage ■ Hay ■ Minerals

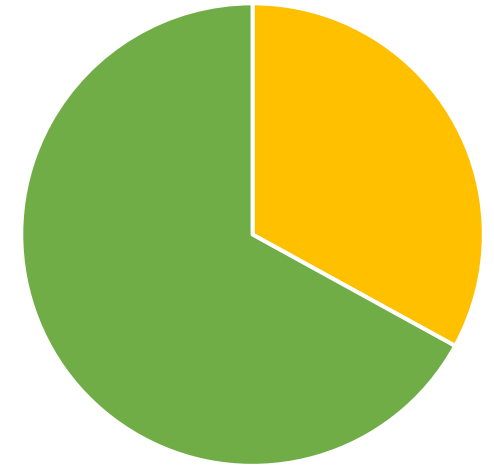
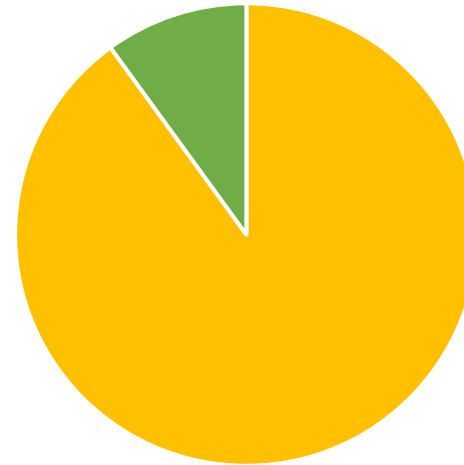
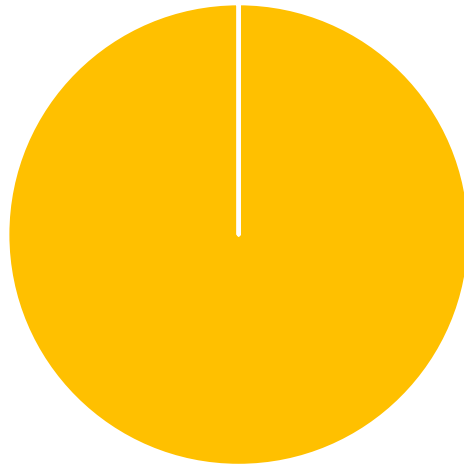
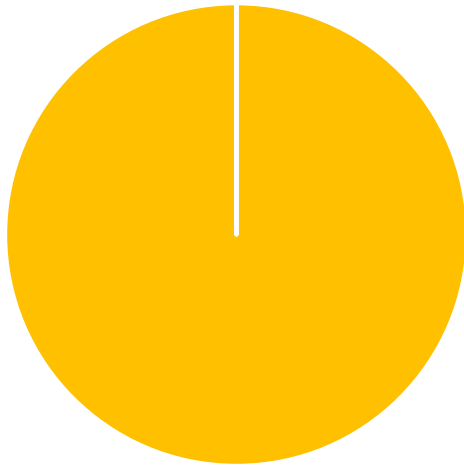


In fresh matter:
1.4 kg compound feed
2.1 kg silage
0.8 kg hay

	In DM
Digestable protein/MJ	10.2
Energie (MJ/kg)	11.5



Compound feed : Roughage



■ Compound feed ■ Roughage (hay, silage)

Sustainability?

- Animal welfare: natural behaviour of pigs
- Economic efficiency: reduction of feed costs + veterinary costs
- Environment: substitution of compound feed with our own clover-grass mixture + reduced use of antibiotics
- Happy farmers!



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Thank you!



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