



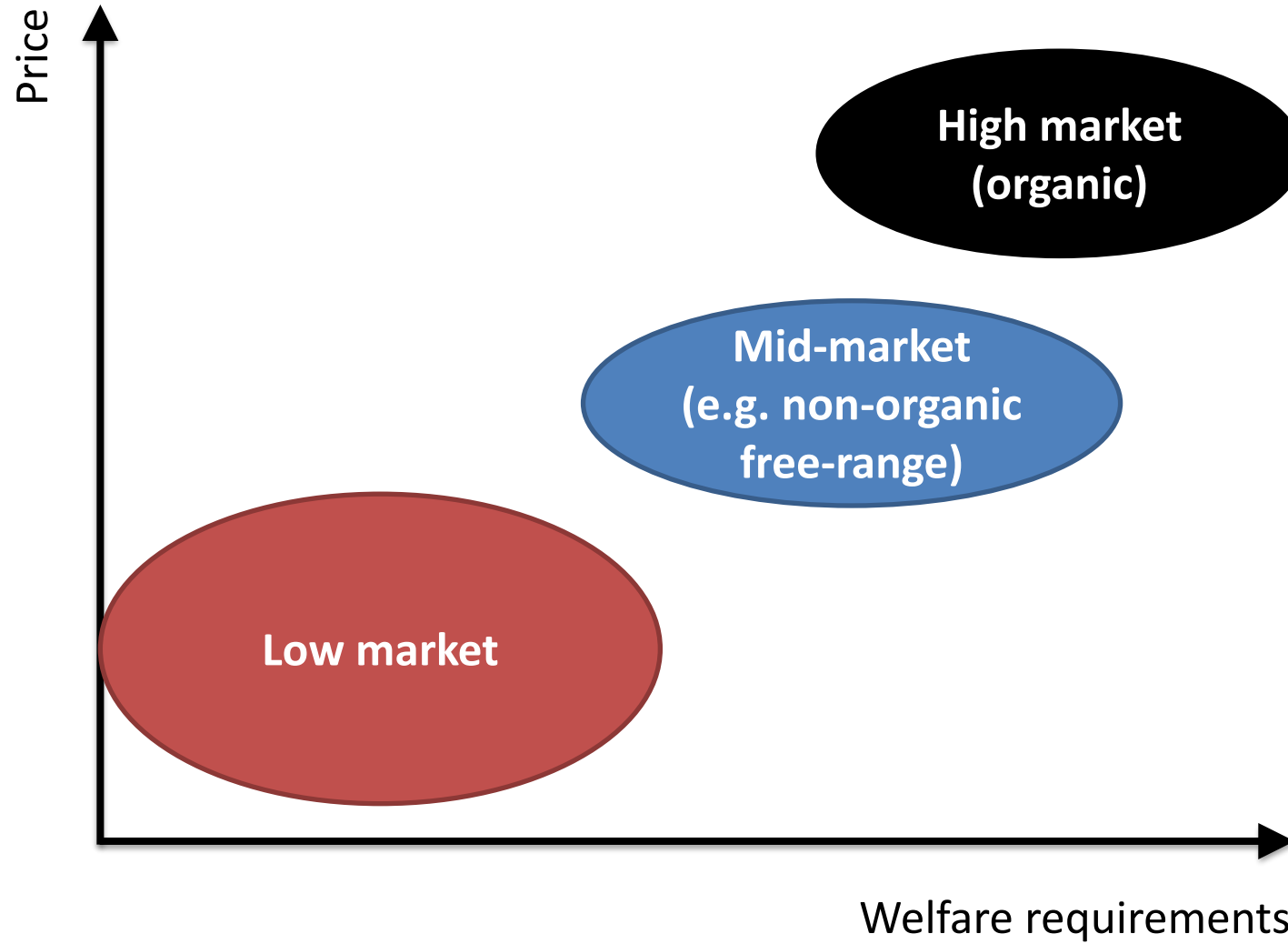
## • Review of European Pig and Poultry Productions Systems and Marketing Labels Elaborating Animal Welfare •

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- Consumers are paying increasing attention to farm animal welfare as a characteristic of sustainable animal production and the topic is gaining also broader importance.
- To respond to consumer expectations, stakeholders have introduced both low-intensity farming systems and systematic animal welfare certifications schemes into the European food market.
- An initiative towards harmonized animal welfare labelling scheme.
- The aim of this presentation is to give an overview of farm animal welfare labelling schemes, especially, low-intensity and organic pig and poultry farming systems across Europe.
  - Heterogeneity of these systems and possibilities for harmonisation and their value propositions.
  - Cost factors associated with specific systems, system governance, and approaches used to ensure the validity of the systems, which is critical to ensure consumer confidence towards the system.

- We reviewed altogether 17 animal welfare labelling and marketing schemes and 70 organic or outdoor low-input pig and poultry farming systems.
- → 34 of these were selected for further analysis because they were covering either organic or outdoor pig or poultry production
- The review focused on
  - Animal welfare-related quality characteristics that these labels and systems provide
  - Systems' governance and marketing
  - In addition, we looked at some of the cost elements of these systems



## PPILOW - What low-input and organic systems were identified?

Enhanced organic production going beyond 889/2008/EC

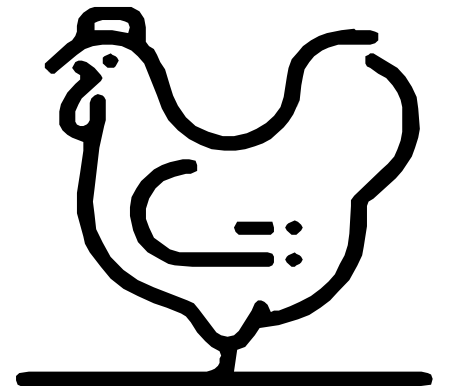
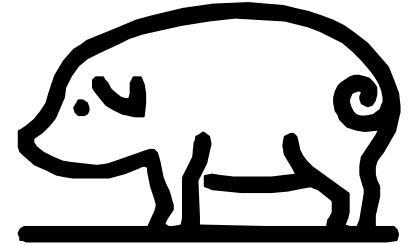
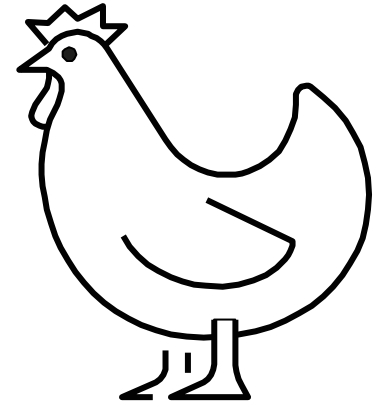
Standard organic production (889/2008/EC)

Low-input non-organic alternative production with mobile housing (the birds live in movable shelters with access to pasture)

Low-input non-organic alternative free-range production (in layers three subcategories of free-range according to 543/2008/EC)

Extensive non-organic alternative non-free-range production where the animals live indoors and they have access to an outdoor run/yard.

(Non-organic indoor production with enhance animal welfare qualities)



- The organic directive EC 889/2008 (new directive from 2022)
- The typology of extensive broiler production systems (543/2008/EC): extensive indoor systems, free-range, traditional free-range and free-range - total freedom.
- Marketing standards for eggs (1999/74/EC and EC/589/2008): organic and alternative production (free-range, Barn eggs)

## PPiLOW - Characteristics of standard organic systems

- The directive EC 889/2008 outlines the rules for **standard organic** pig production systems in the EU.
- Organic animals are provided with space so that they can stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom, assume all natural postures and make all natural movements such as stretching, and account for their behavioral needs.
- Routine mutilations are prohibited, but mutilations can be allowed based on veterinary reasons.
- For instance, tail docking or castration are allowed in some countries.
- Outdoor access required, but in pigs not necessarily to pasture or vegetative area.
- The minimum weaning age in organic systems is 40 days.
- Slow-growing broiler breed (definition varies by country) or a slaughter age of at least 81 days.
- Limitations in maximum poultry flock size
- Requirements relating to feed organic feed → Mainly an environmental issue
- Rules concerning veterinary interventions
- Environmental enrichments (rooting, perches)
- Housing conditions such as space allowance, lighting

## PPILOW - Characteristics of enhanced organic systems

- In addition to standard organic regulations, several voluntarily defined (by organic associations) organic rules exist. These systems tend to
  - Require additional space allowance, especially outdoors
  - Prohibit mutilations (partly / completely) and/or the use of veterinary inputs
  - Require the use of specific genetics
  - Specificities of pasture, agroforestry
  - Some systems utilise animal-based welfare outcomes to assess animal welfare
  - Some systems aim at a fair remuneration to the farmers. Mutilations, especially castration, were prohibited explicitly by several systems and it was among the most common levers mentioned to enhance the welfare of organic pigs.
  - In chicken, require even lower growth or smaller flock size



## PPILOW WP1 – Characteristics of non-organic low-input systems

- Additional space allowance, often in line with standard organic systems
- Outdoor access or free-range
- Specialty breeds
- Wider range of variability of features than in organic systems.
- Mutilations are typically prohibited
- Environmental enrichments
- No confinement (crates or cages)
- Some, usually small-scale, poultry systems utilize mobile housing
- Facilitation of natural behaviours

- Organic production in the EU is certified by authorities
- Some enhanced organic systems have additional inspections or monitoring
- While some non-organic low-input systems are certified by an external party not involved in the production chain (e.g. welfare labelled production), other low-input systems are not certified and “just” marketing claims are used.
- Non-organic systems tend to be either welfare-labelled mid-market production or products of short supply chain or officially recognized systems (e.g. PDO).

## PPILOW– How do the systems respond to consumer expectations

- According to the literature, consumers perceive animal welfare especially through the concepts of humane treatment and naturalness
- Low-input systems tend to facilitate naturalness through provision of enrichments, outdoor access and facilities which allow natural behaviors
- Low-input systems tend to facilitate humane treatment, for example, through provision of additional space, outdoor access, absence of mutilations and painful procedures.
- Independent verification of conformity appears to be important also in mid-market systems
- Mid-market and high-market systems tend to focus on measures to enhance welfare rather than the (animal-based) outcomes

- Literature provides some evidence that mid-market (i.e. non-organic) production is a way to produce animal welfare attributes more cost-efficiently
- The most costly measures tend to be those which require plenty of labor frequently, or reduce production performance or
- Local or slow-growing breeds tend to increase production costs substantially, but may also provide access to a price premium
- Because of heterogeneity of systems, no one-size-fits-all definition for a low-input farming system and that further harmonization and standardization of marketing arguments would be useful.

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