



Opinions of organic and free-range pig farmers on animal welfare and the PIGLOW app for animal welfare self-assessments

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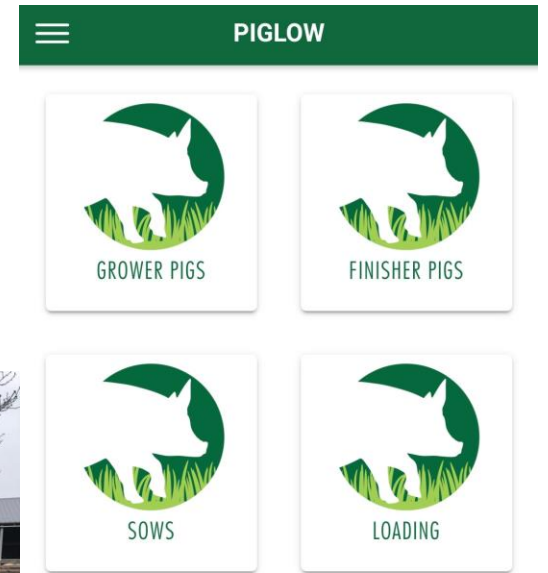
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PIGLOW app and longitudinal study

- PIGLOW app for animal welfare self-assessments by farmers
- Automated advice and comparison with other users
- Two-year study on the effect of the app on animal welfare
- Before using the app: participant survey to assess current ideas about animal welfare
- End of the study: survey to find out what has changed

Participants

- 13 volunteering organic and free-range pig farmers
- Belgium and The Netherlands



Survey

- Definition of animal welfare (open question)
- Rate the importance of different welfare aspects (relevant for fattening pigs)
- Rate your own performance on these welfare aspects
- Usefulness of an app for animal welfare assessment

Scoring system

- Scores between 1 (lowest) and 7 (highest)

Welfare principles and aspects

Welfare principles

Welfare aspects

Good Housing

Enough space | Floor type | Thermal comfort | Hygiene

Good Health

Disease control | Absence of wounds and lesions | Absence of lameness | Absence of diarrhoea

Good Feeding

Water availability | Food availability | Feed (structure) | Feed (vitamins and minerals)

Appropriate behaviour

Expressing positive behaviour | Enrichment use | Absence of aggression | Reaction to humans

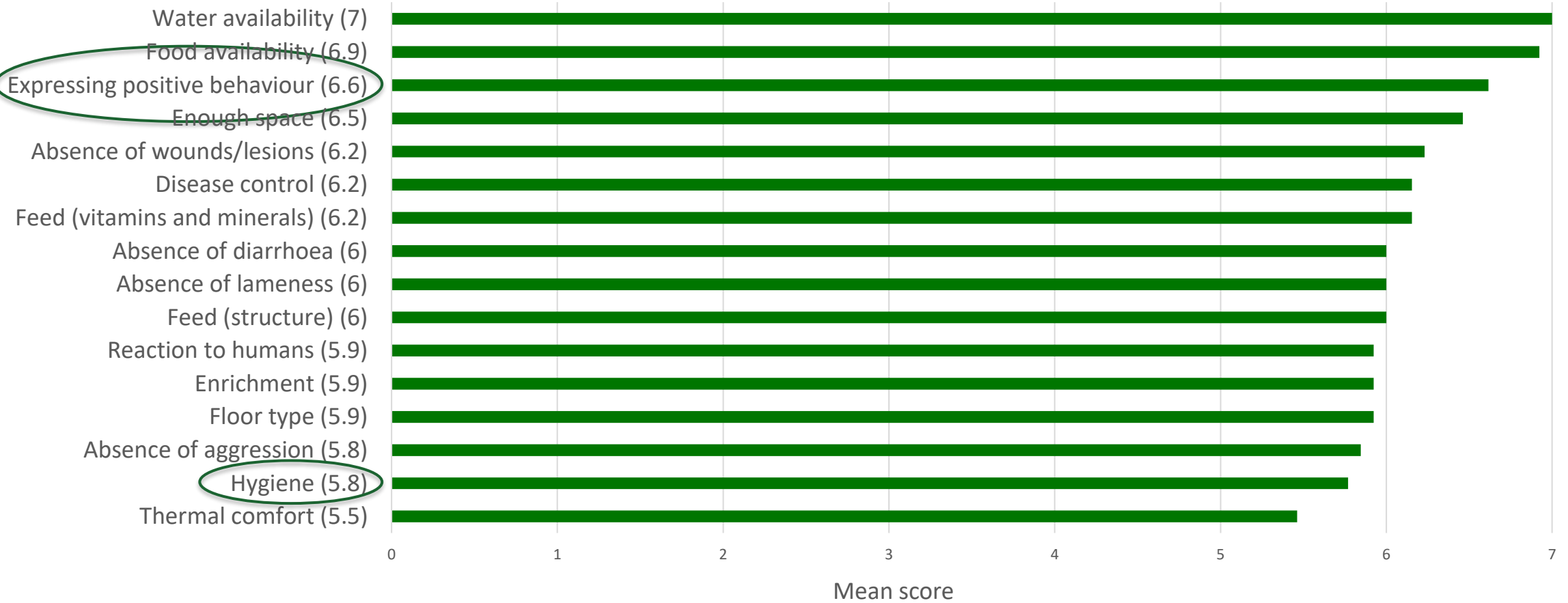
Survey results – What is your definition of animal welfare?

Natural behaviour/express its natural needs	11
Good/natural environment	5
Freedom of hunger and thirst / good food	4
Good health	4
Enough space	3
More time to grow	3
Happiness	3
Freedom of pain/stress	3

n = 13

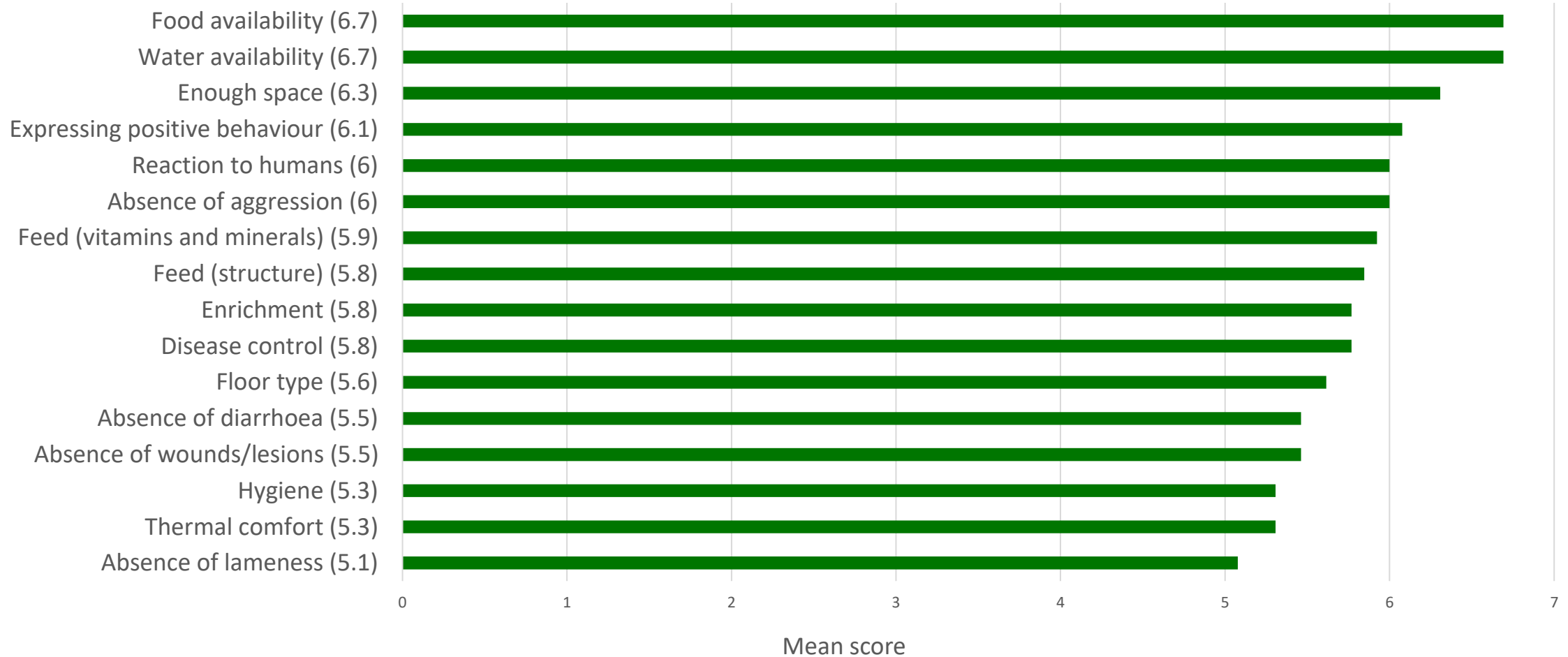
Survey results – “In your opinion, how important is each of the following elements for good animal welfare?”

Importance of welfare aspects



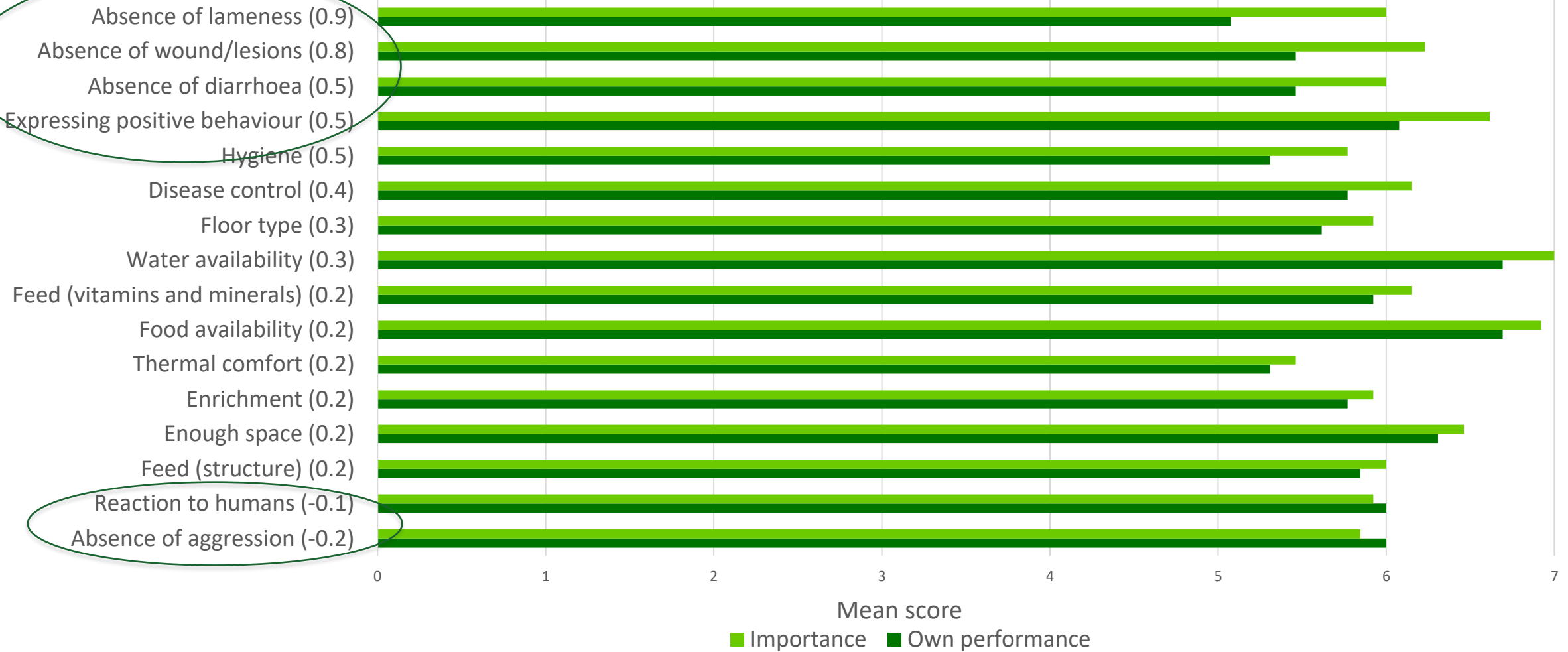
Survey results – “Please rate how well you think your own farm performs on these same elements of animal welfare”

Own performance on welfare aspects



Survey results – Importance of and own farm’s performance on animal welfare

Importance of and own performance on welfare aspects (mean difference)



Survey results – importance and ease of improving animal welfare

	Mean	SD
I attach a lot of importance to animal welfare	6.8	± 0.6
I am well informed about animal friendly farming practices	5.2	± 0.8
I find it easy to obtain information on animal friendly farming practices	4.8	± 0.7
I find it easy to see which practices can be applied to my farm	4.8	± 0.8
How useful do you think an app could be to monitor the welfare of your animals?	5.2	± 1.5

Summary

- Organic and free-range pig farmers in our study attach a lot of importance to animal welfare
- Definition of animal welfare: expressing natural behaviour
- Welfare aspects for which improvement is most desirable: lameness, positive behaviour, wounds/lesions and diarrhoea
- Progress to be made on informing farmers about animal friendly farming practices
- Perhaps the PIGLOW app can help

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Thank you for your attention

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