Trough or bowl? Observers need training for assessing resource as well as clinical parameters

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Background & Aim

The need for training observers for clinical assessment has been recognised, but the assessment of husbandry resources is often regarded as self-explanatory.

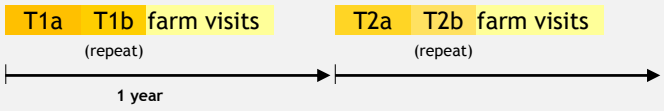
- share experiences from training observers with different levels of experience and from different countries in assessing clinical & resource parameters

Conclusions: tips for training

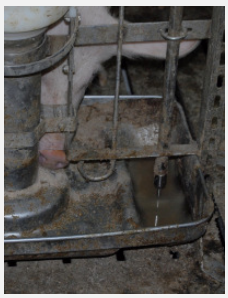
- include resource parameters in observer trainings
- prepare detailed definitions with pictures
- discuss parameters in real life training sessions
- assign sufficient time for training (several days)

Methods

- international project ProPIG
- 7 observers from 7 countries
- trained (1 - 2 days) and tested (T) by experienced observer (gold standard)

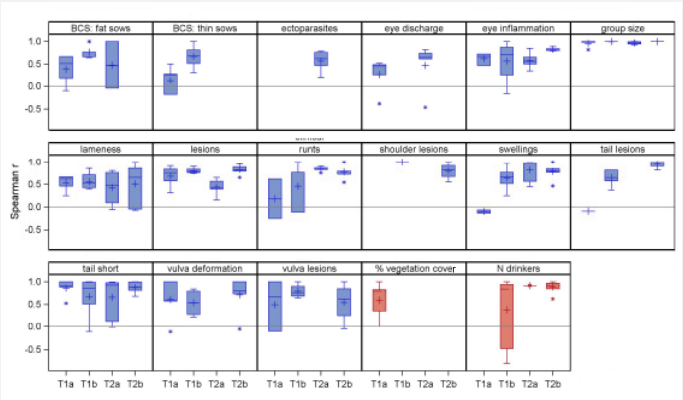


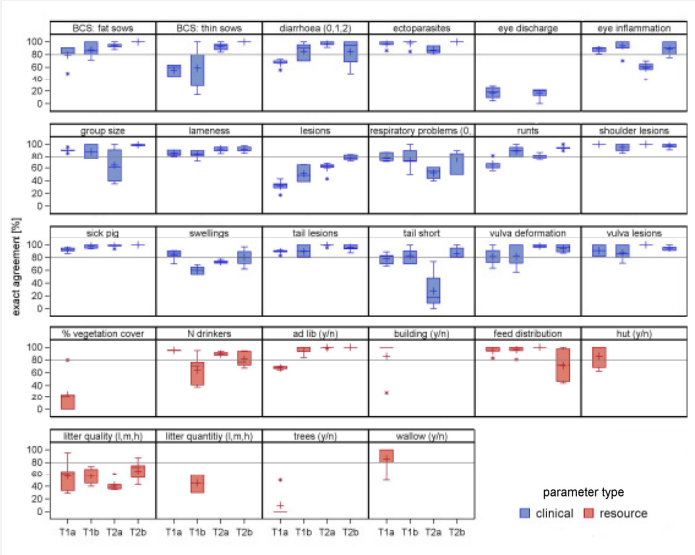
- 18 clinical and 10 resource parameters
- n = 4 to 48 (mean 22) groups or animals per parameter
- exact agreement for all parameters
- Spearman rank correlation for numerical parameters



Results

- $r_{Spearman}$ (below) and % agreement (right) varied for both clinical and resource parameters
- 80 % agreement and r > 0.7 were regarded as sufficient





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