

## **The value of production without castration in the Danish Pig production**

### **Master project**

Today, the main part of male pigs in Denmark are castrated to avoid boar taint. From 2018, a voluntary agreement has been made in EU to stop castration without anaesthesia. A production of entire males gives challenges for the pork industry as some carcasses will have to be sorted out due to boar taint, but also because meat quality and the proportion of the carcass from entire males are different from the castrate carcasses. Furthermore, the response from different markets on a production of entire males, can affect the sale. In addition, there will be a need for alternative usage of the meat, which has been sorted out due to boar taint.

On the background of different scenarios for stop of castration (full stop, partly stop), the master project will calculate the economic value for the pork industry. On the background of existing knowledge about the quantifiable differences between entire males and castrates, an economic value is together with the industry assigned to the different quality attributes of which some are relatively abstract such as tenderness. It will be possible to focus the project depending on interest e.g. the influence on the export markets or include the primary production in the calculations.

The project will be in co-operation with Danish Meat Research Institute, Tåstrup, and the pork Industry. A desk and PC will be available at DMRI.

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