Organic male pigs in Denmark

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Analysis methods used

- **Slaughterhouse**
  - Human nose
  - Skatole equivalents (skatole eq)

- **Laboratory HPLC**
  - Skatole
  - Indole
  - Androstenone

Human nose - At-line

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Screening of organic male pigs

- **Screening of male pigs (2011):**
  - Skatole eq, skatole and androstenone (ppm)
  - Human nose = ”sniffer method”
    - 0: nothing; 1: a little; 2: a lot
- **Design:**
    - 6 herds with production of 50 male pigs each,
    - In total 300 male pigs were slaughtered
    - Collaboration with Friland Food

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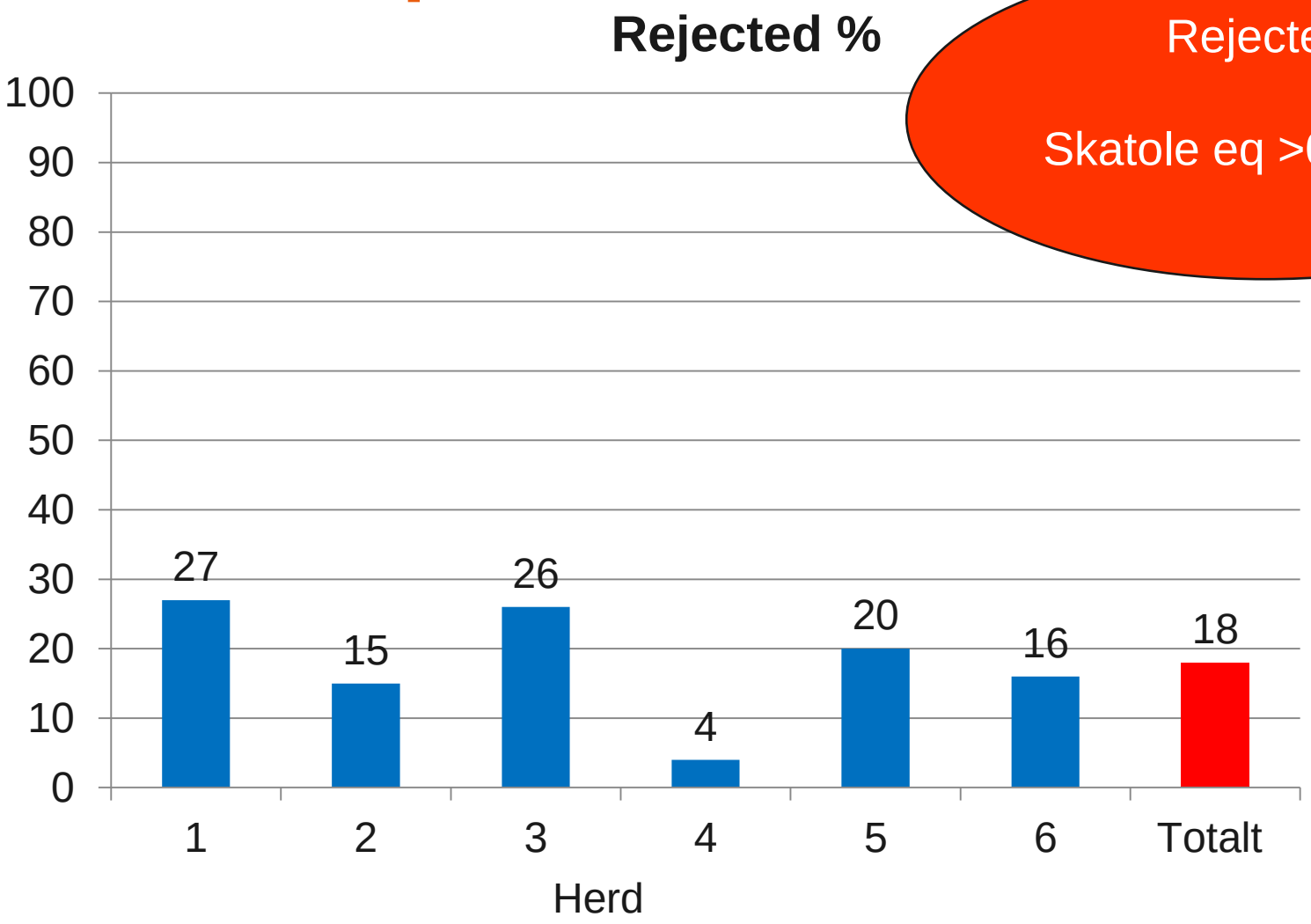
Organic male pigs, skatole eq



Rejected:

Skatole eq >0.25 ppm

Maribo, 2013, trial report no. 955

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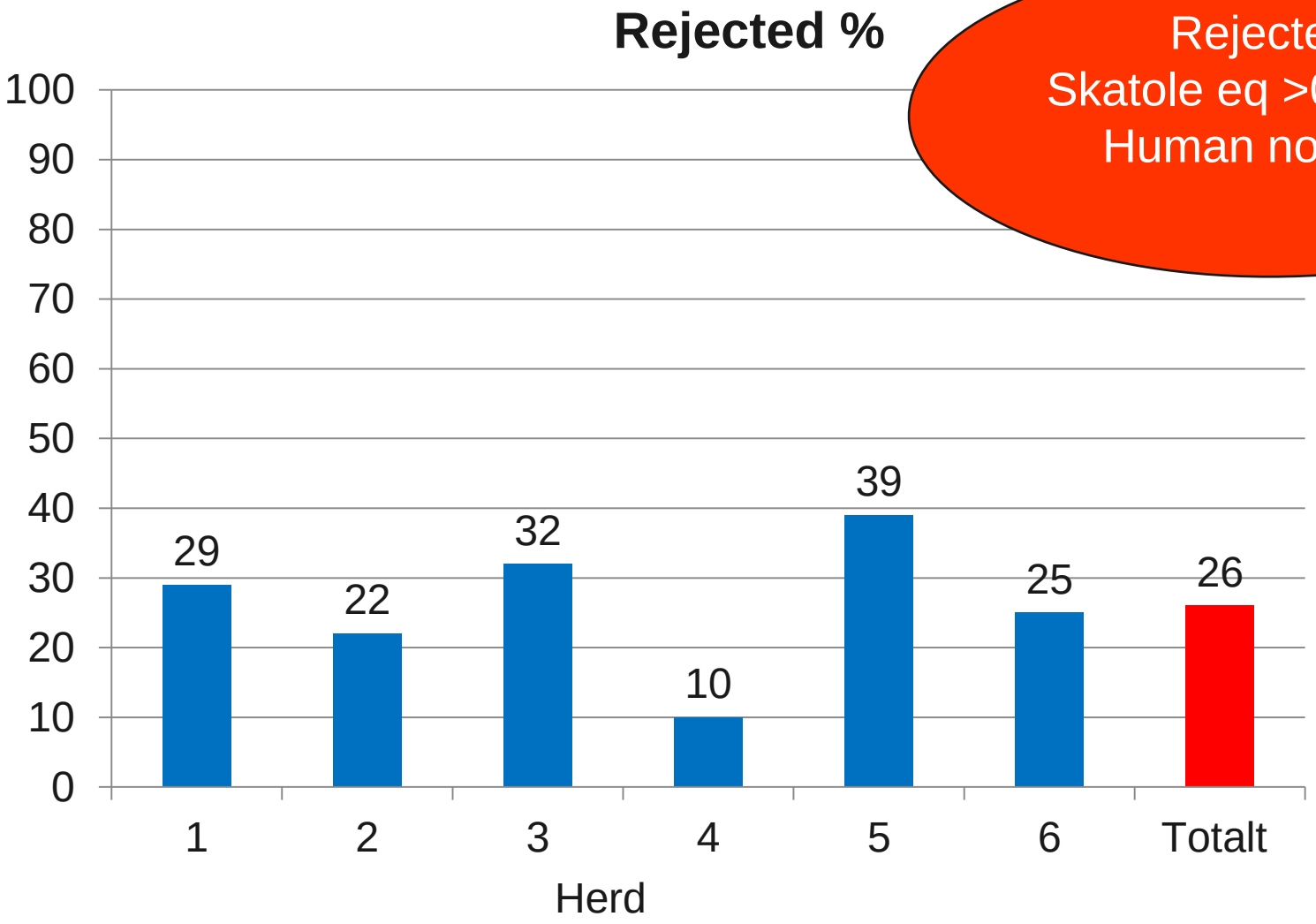
Organic male pigs, skatole eq and human nose!



Rejected:
Skatole eq >0.25 ppm
Human nose =2

Maribo, 2013, trial report no. 955

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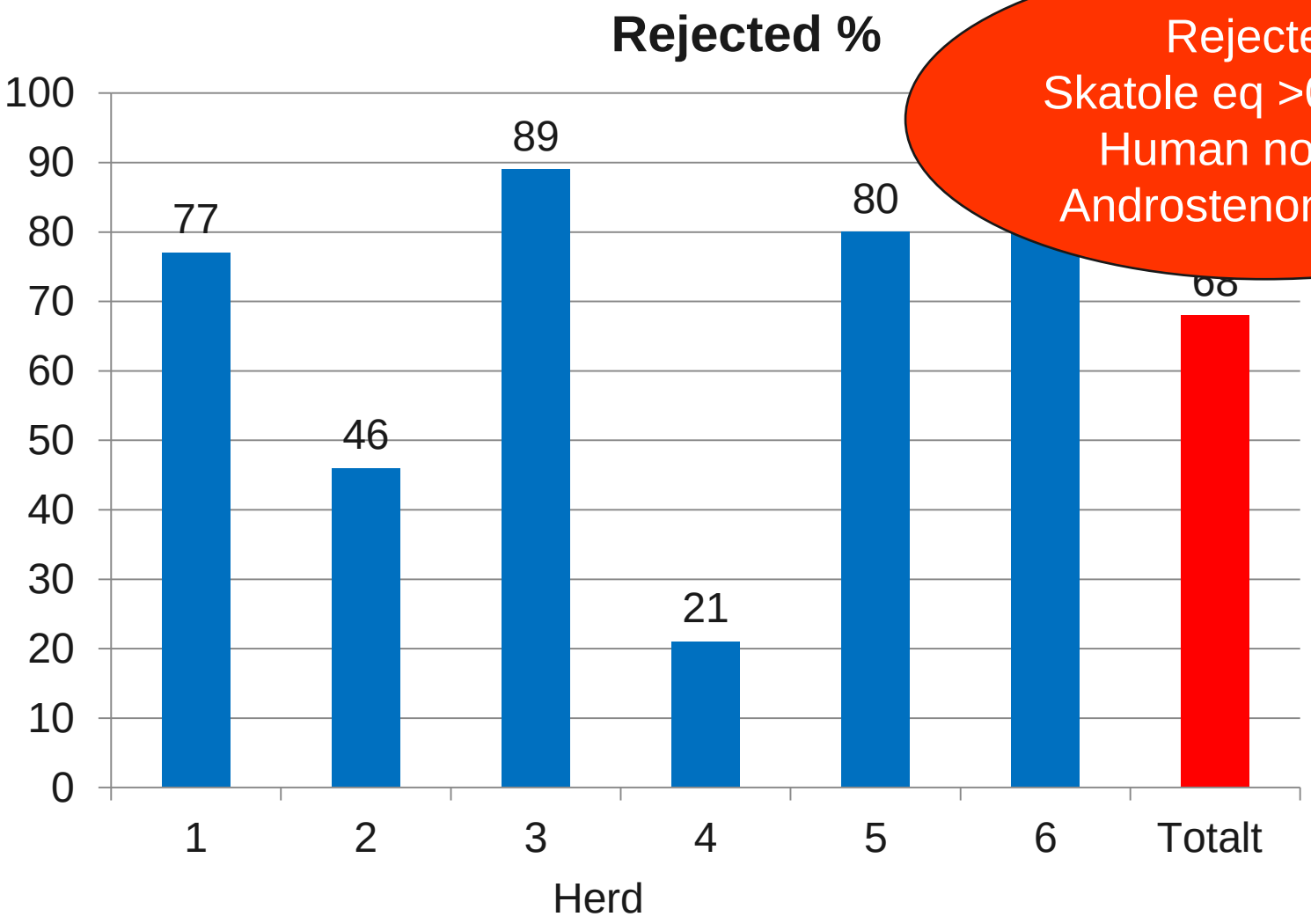
Organic male pigs,
skatole eq, human nose and androstenone



Rejected:
Skatole eq >0.25 ppm
Human nose =2
Androstenone > 1.0

Maribo, 2013, trial report no. 955

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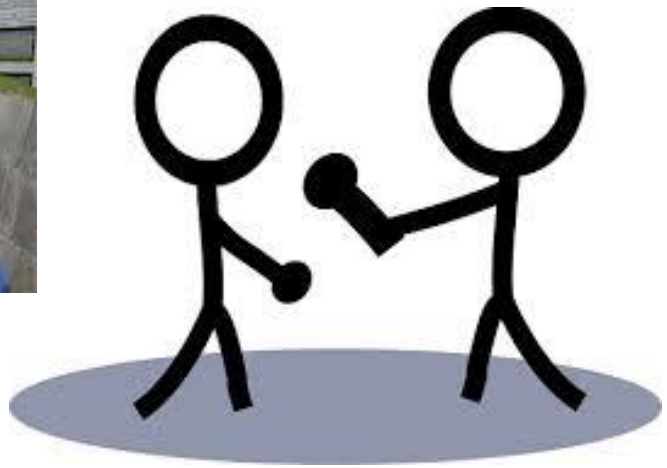
Previous work with entire males ('90)

	Male pigs database	Tested in trials
Liquid feed	Reduction	Reduction
Whey	Reduction	Not tested
Fully slatted floor	Reduction	Reduction
Feed with more than 6 % fibres	Reduction	Not tested
Fasting before slaughter	Reduction	Reduction
Feed with more than 5 % sugar beet pellets	Reduction	Reduction
Liquid feed + 5 % rape seed meal	Reduction	Not tested
Dry feed + 5 % coconut meal	Reduction	Not tested

Conclusions - visit & interview herds

- **<u>Previous work with entire males</u>**
  - Farm level - risk of male pig odour

- **High slaughter weight and age**
  - Farms 2 and 5 had the lowest slaughter weight,
    - only farm 2 had low average androstenone levels.
  - Farm 1 high average androstenone levels
    - Health problems – older pigs
  - In general:
    - Daily gain was relatively low - older male pigs



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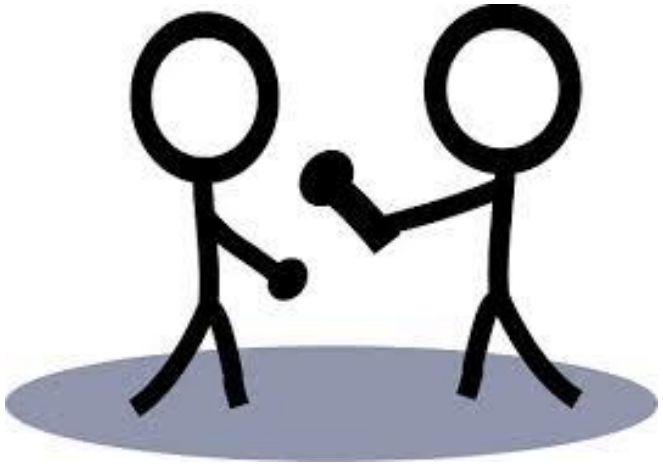
Conclusions - visit & interview herds

- **Dirty pigs: risk of increased skatole level.**
  - Farms 3 and 6, risk of dirty pigs.
    - Farm 3 skatole levels were high
    - Farm 6 skatole levels low
- **Housing according to gender: reduces boar taint**
  - Theory: entire males housed with female pigs - early maturity
  - Farm 2, 3 and 6, pigs mixed housing
    - Farm 2 had low average androstenone levels
    - Farms 3 and 6 had the highest average androstenone levels.



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Organic male pigs conclusion

- Organic male pigs high rejection rates
- Large variations between herds
- Economic balance at rejection rates of approx. 4%
- Help required for reducing rejection rates

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