



Introduction

ProYoungStock
Promoting young stock and cow health and welfare by natural feeding systems

EU-financed research project 2018 – 2021

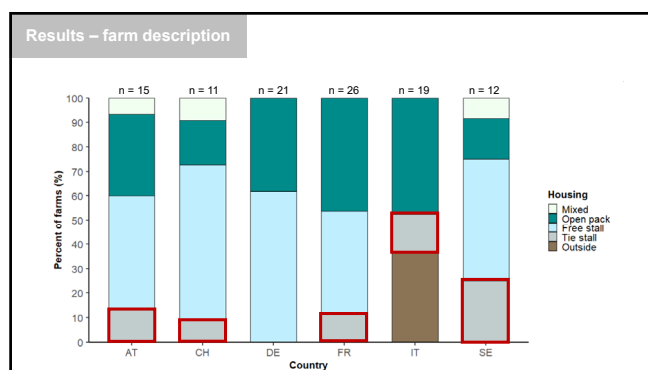
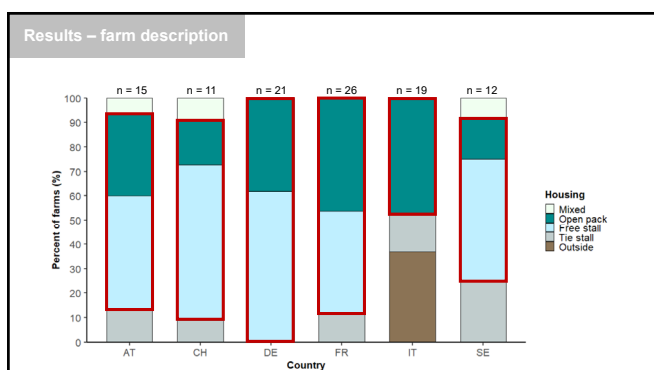
Participating countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland

CORE organic

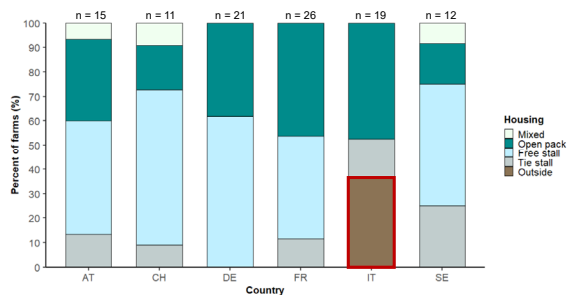
Methods

Survey study

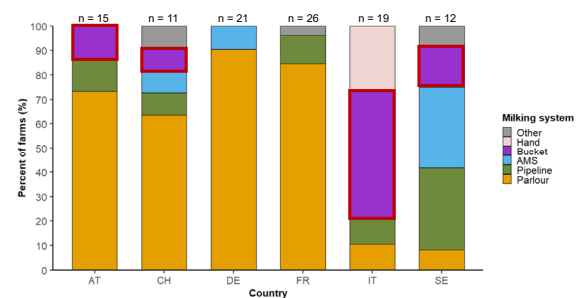
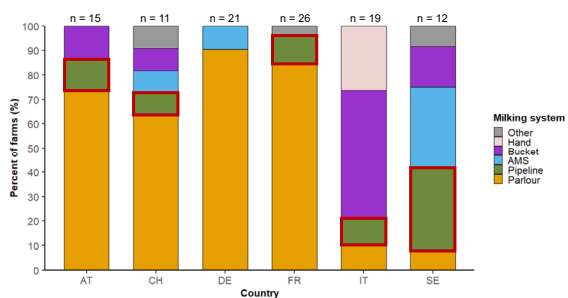
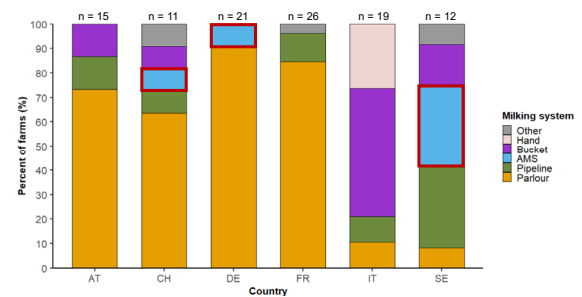
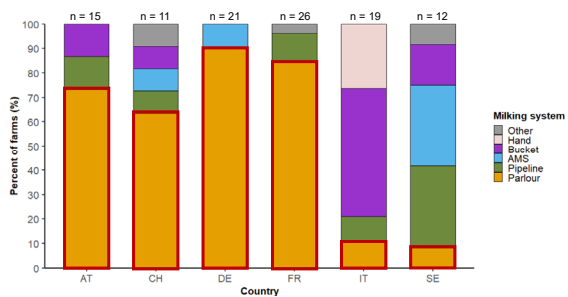
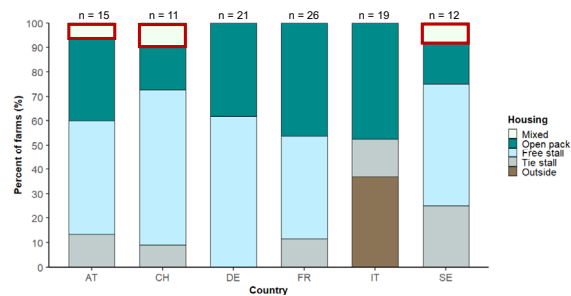
- **Goal:** describe the type of housing and management used on European farms with cow-calf contact (CCC) systems
- Farm selection based on each country's individual circumstances
- **Prerequisite:** calves kept with lactating cow at least 7 days
- 104 farms with CCC identified in six countries
- Farmer/manager interviewed on site or over the telephone

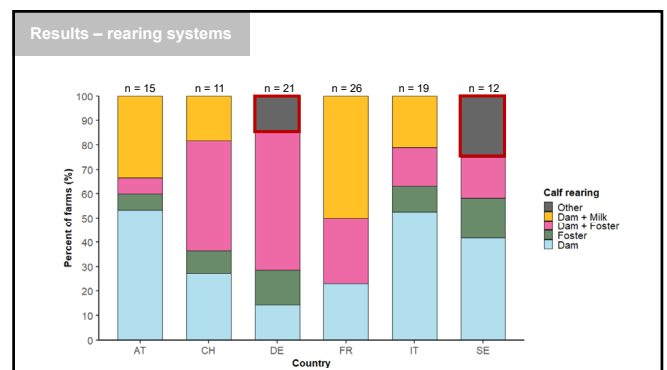
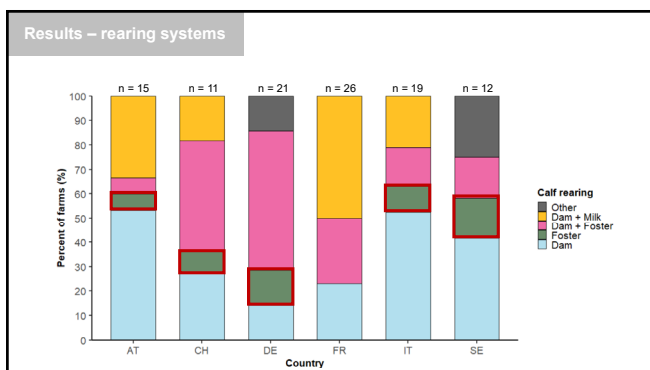
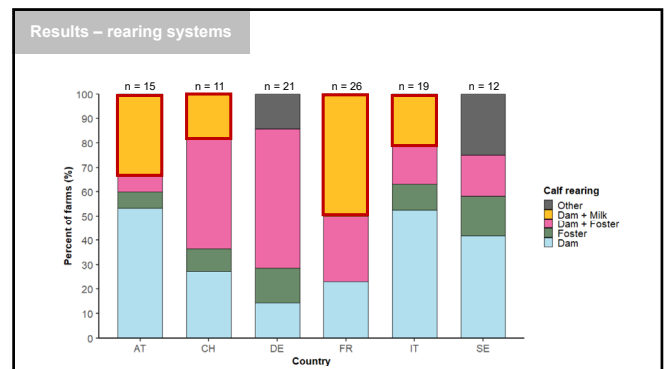
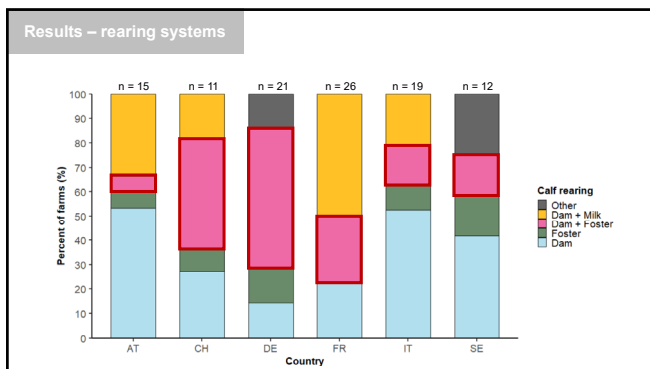
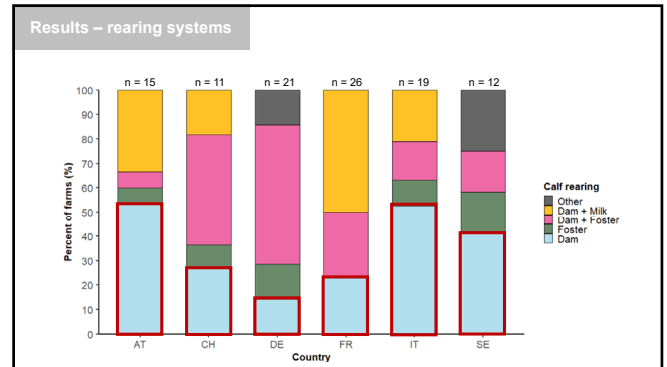
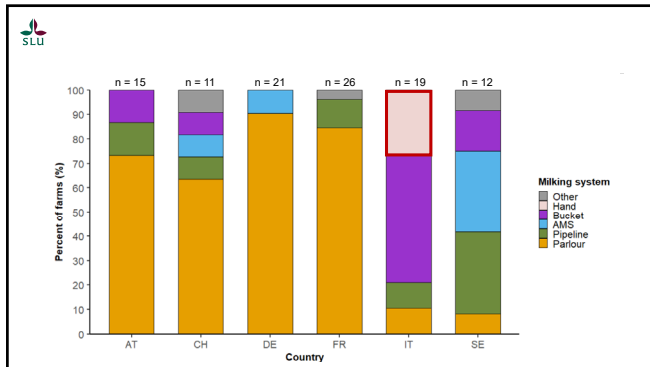


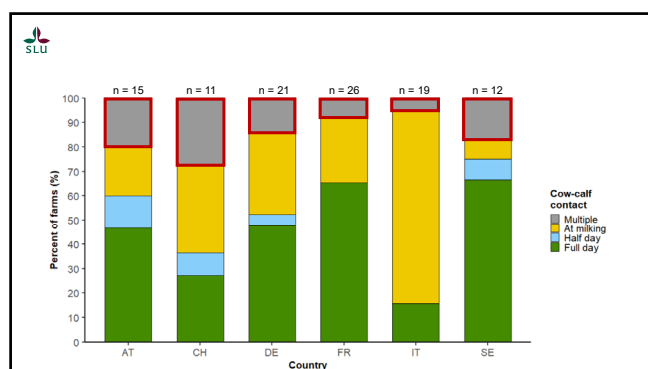
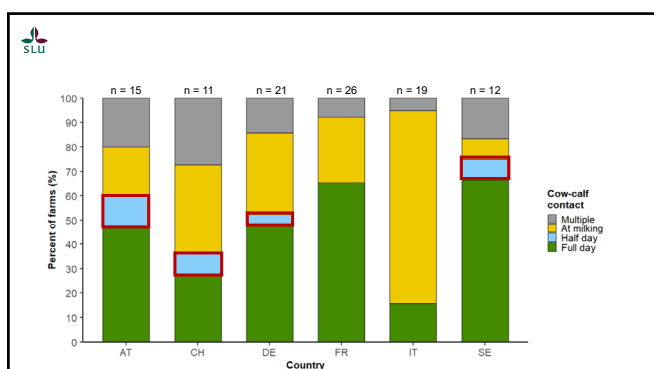
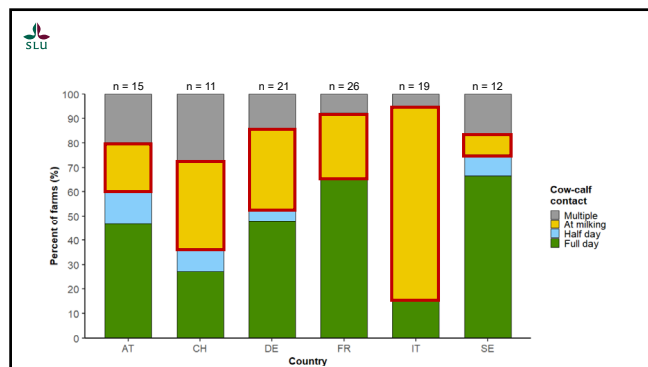
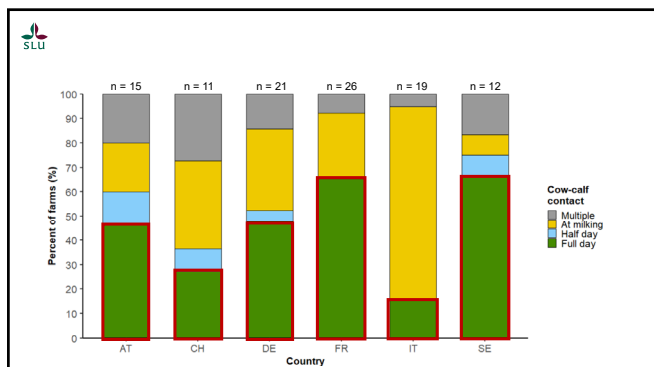
Results – farm description



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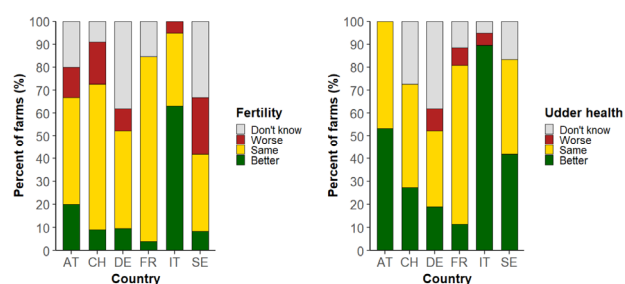


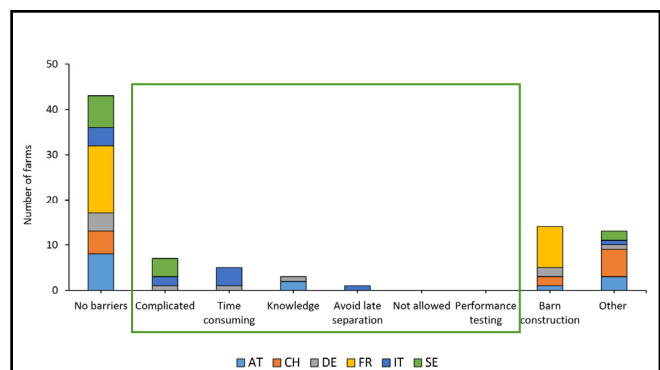
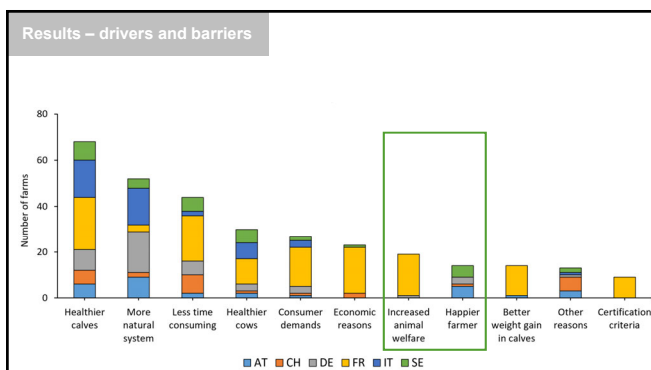
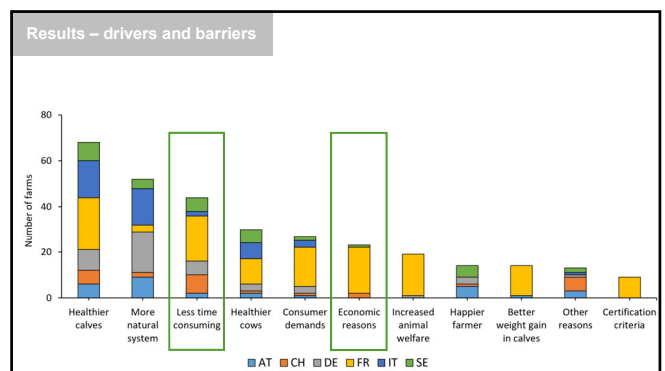
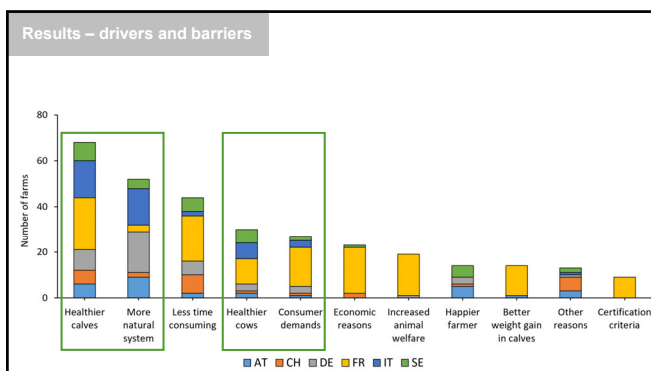
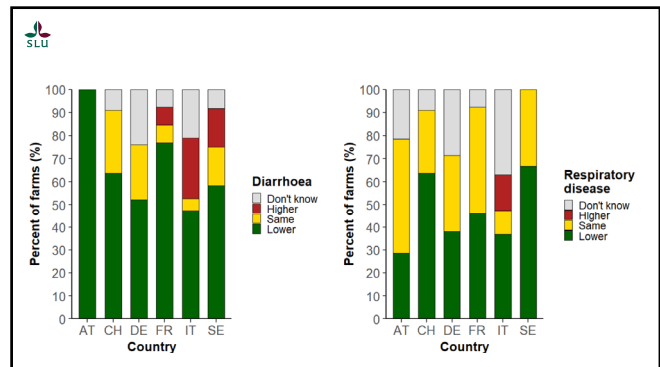
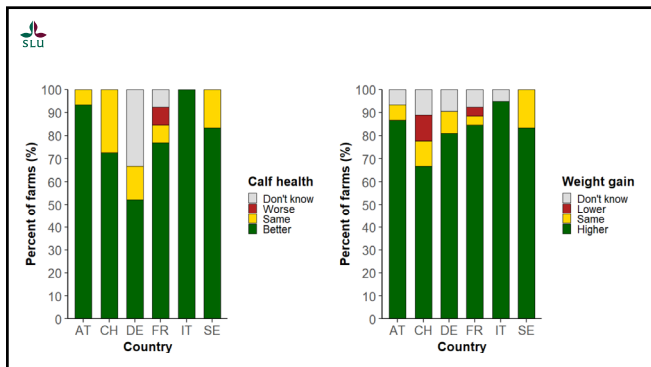


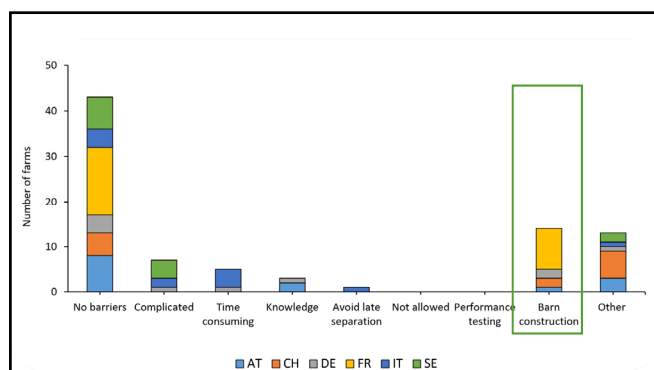
Results – separation

- 85% of farms practiced abrupt separation
- Negative responses after separation
 - Vocalisation among cows: 73% of farms
 - Vocalisation among calves: 54% of farms
 - Impaired milk let-down: 16% of farms
 - Decreased calf weight: 9% of farms

Results – perception of health







Conclusions

- Non-random farm selection
- CCC is practiced under very variable conditions on European farms
- Large differences in breed choices, housing systems, milking systems, and calf rearing practice between countries
- What is optimal weaning practice?
- Challenges with indoor housing




Photo: Emma Tegler

PRO YOUNGSTOCK

CORE organic

Thank you!

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SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE

