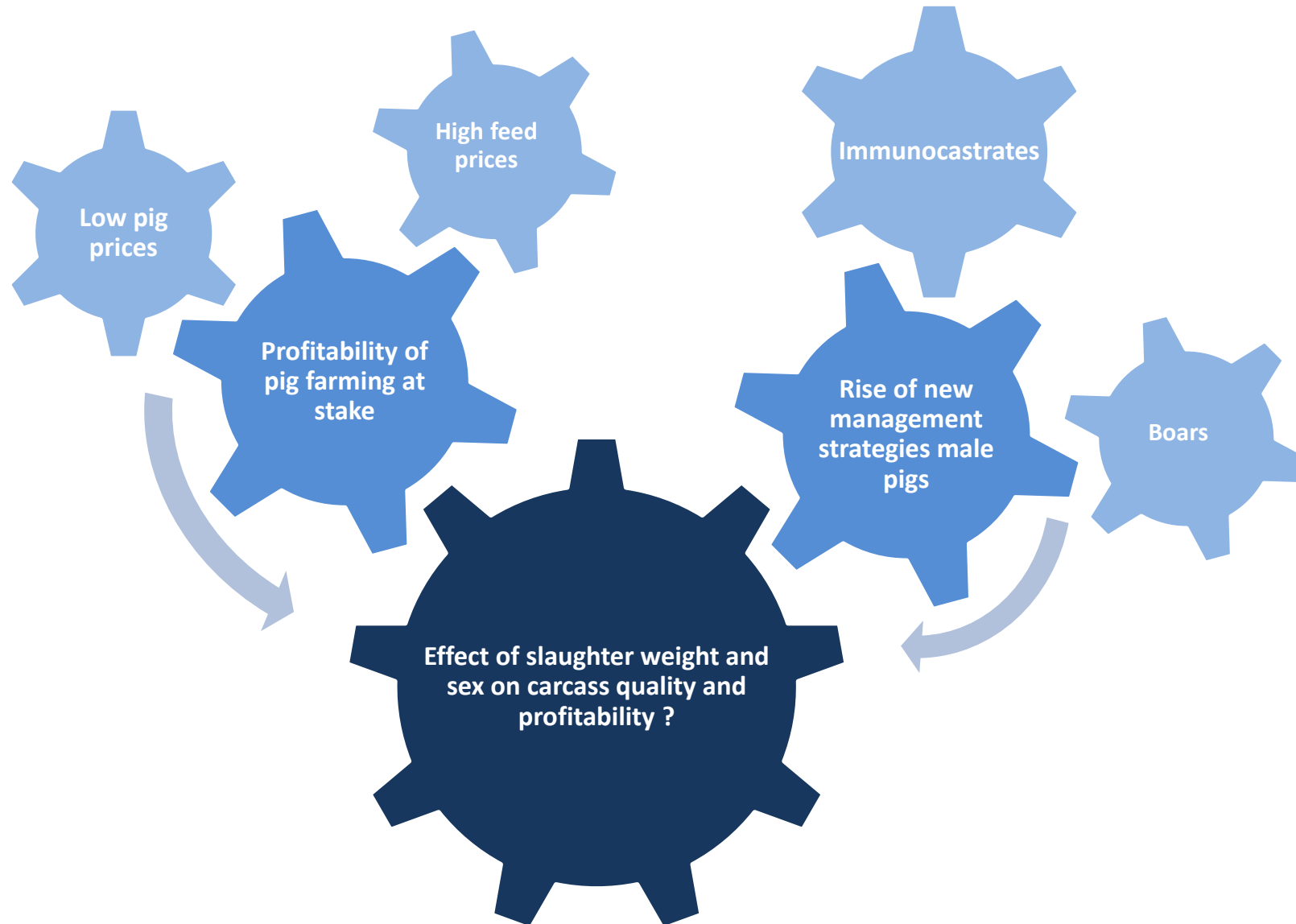


# The effect of sex and slaughter weight on carcass quality in pigs

*A. Van den Broeke, F. Leen, M. Aluwé, J. Van Meensel, S. Millet*

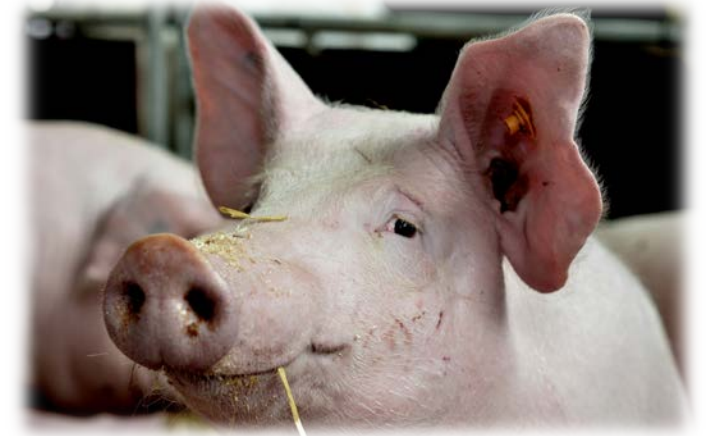


# Introduction and objectives



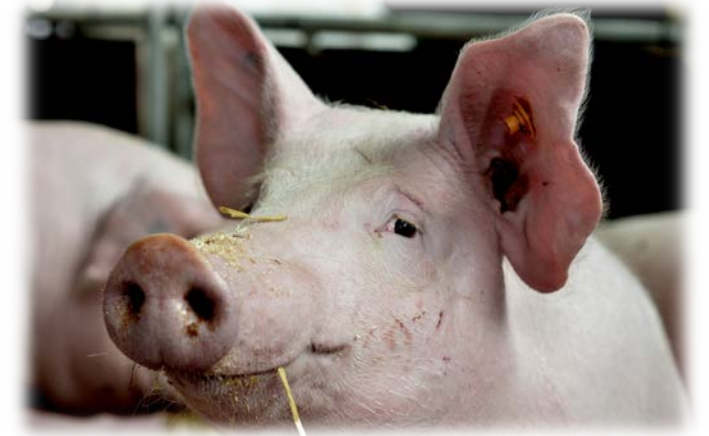
# Experimental design

- 4 sexes
  - Boars
  - Barrows
  - Immunocastrates (IC)
  - Gilts
- 3 slaughter weights: 105, 117 and 130 kg
- Group pens
- *Ad libitum* feed
- 2 farms: different genetics, pen density and feed



# Experimental design

- Weekly weighing
- Growth, feed intake, gain to feed ratio
- Slaughtered at the same slaughterhouse
- Carcasses classified using the AutoFom III Classification System



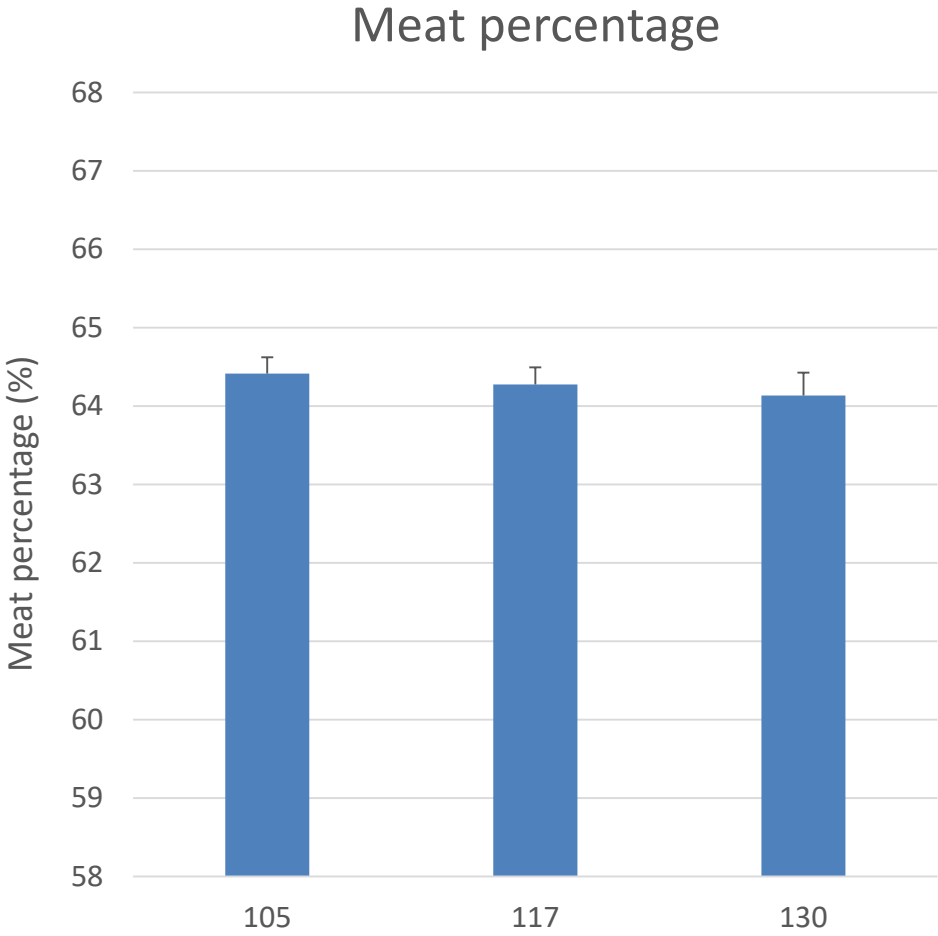
# Statistical analysis

Farm had a significant effect on all parameters,  
but no interaction with sex and slaughter weight

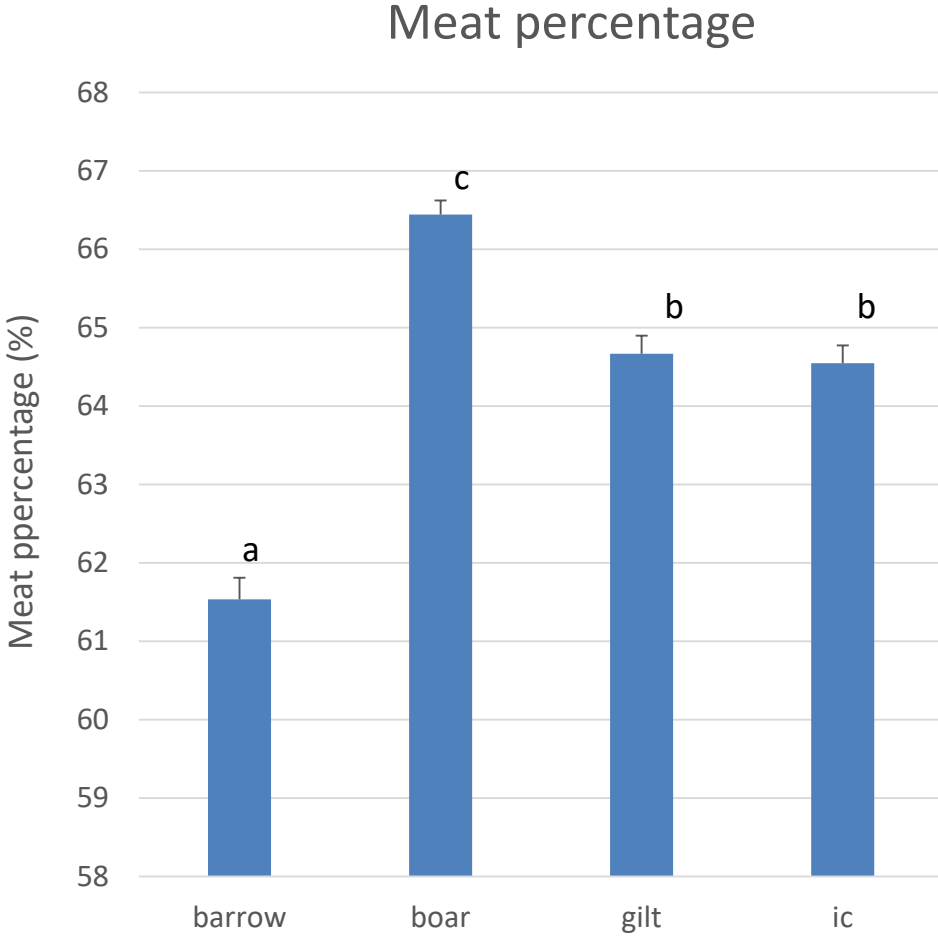
No interaction between sex and slaughter weight



# Results

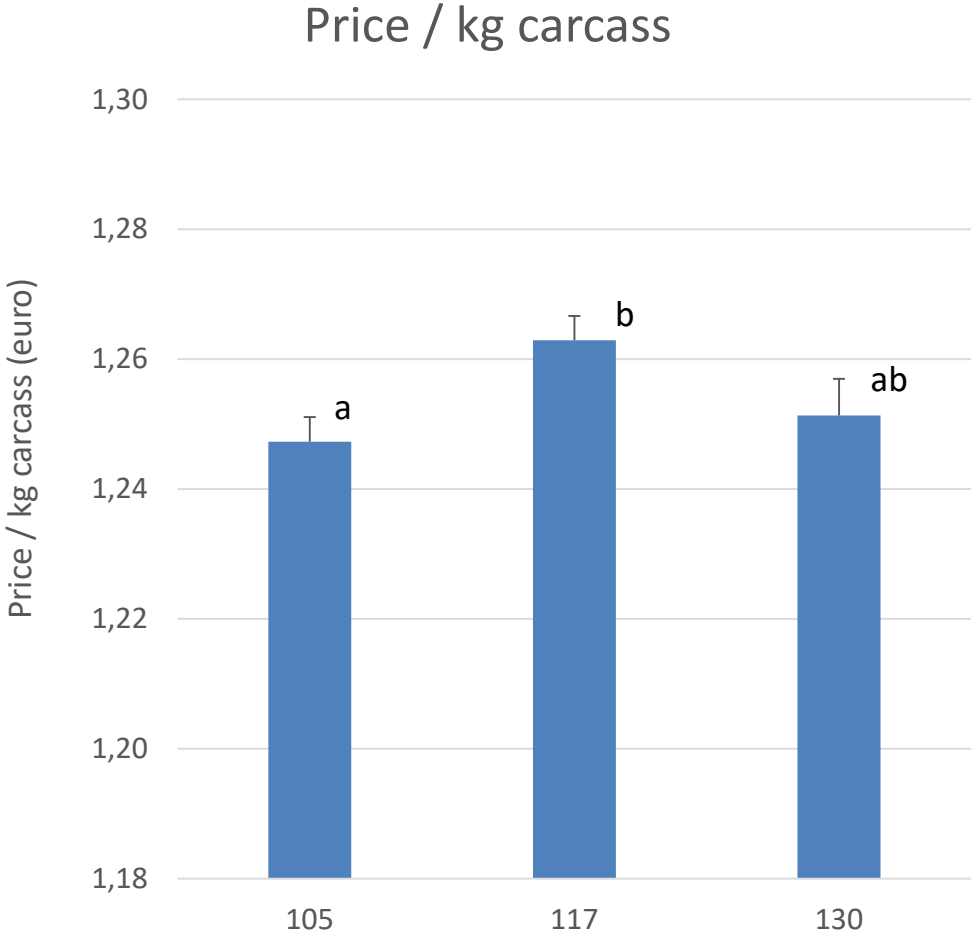


Slaughter weight: P=0.261

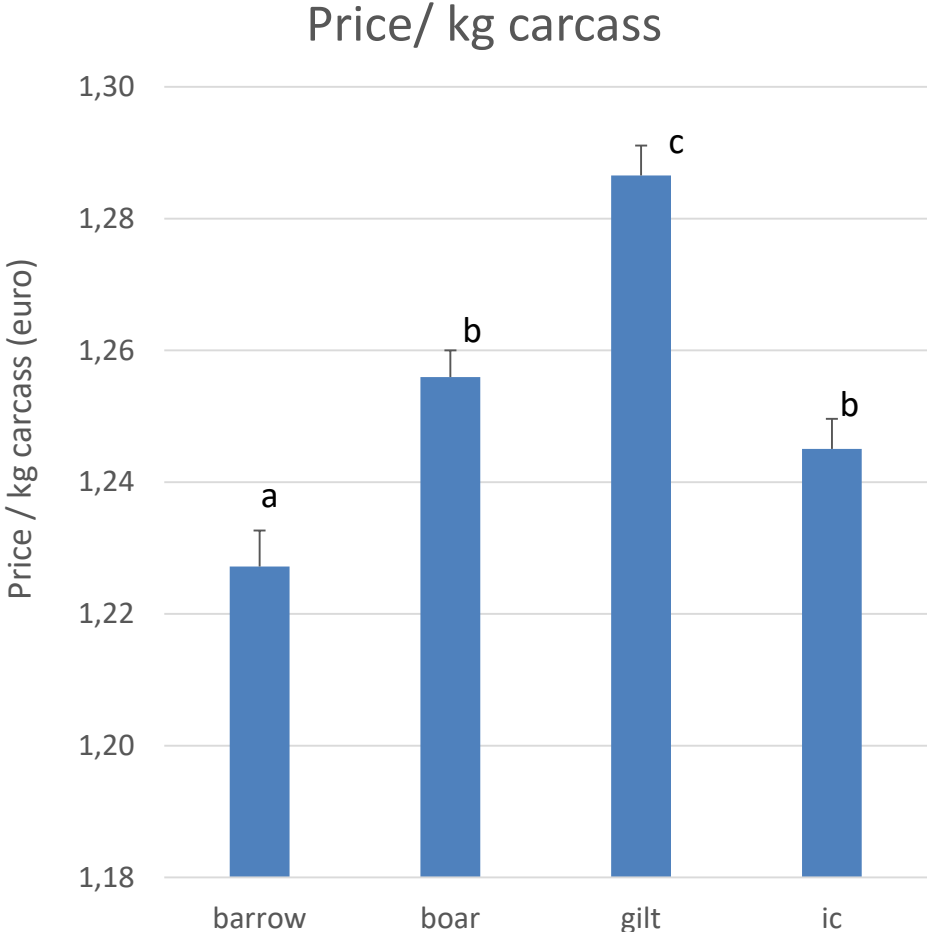


Sex: P<0.001

# Results

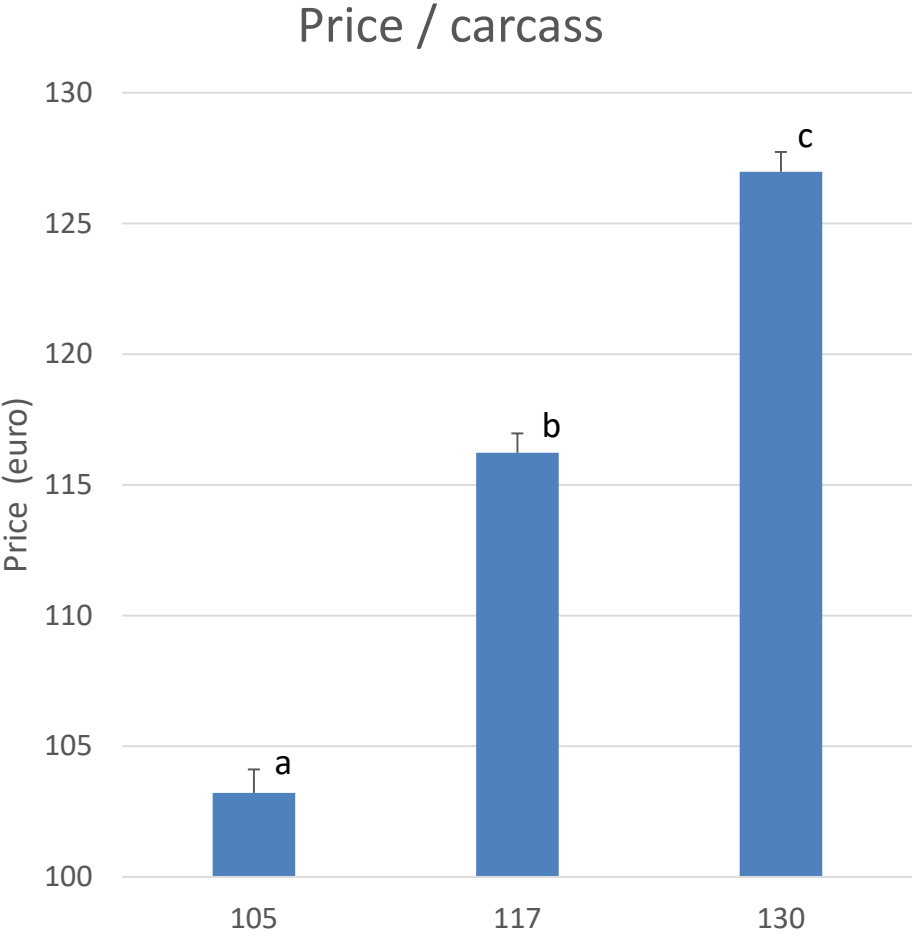


Slaughter weight: P=0.001

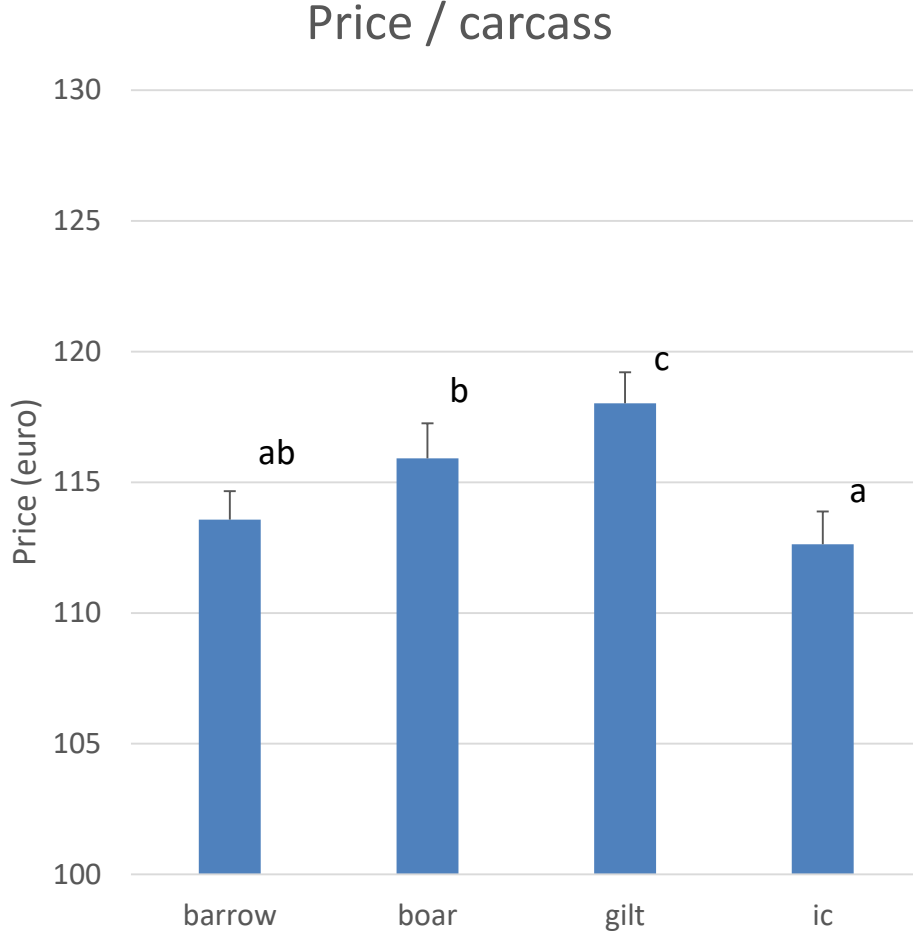


Sex: P<0.001

# Results



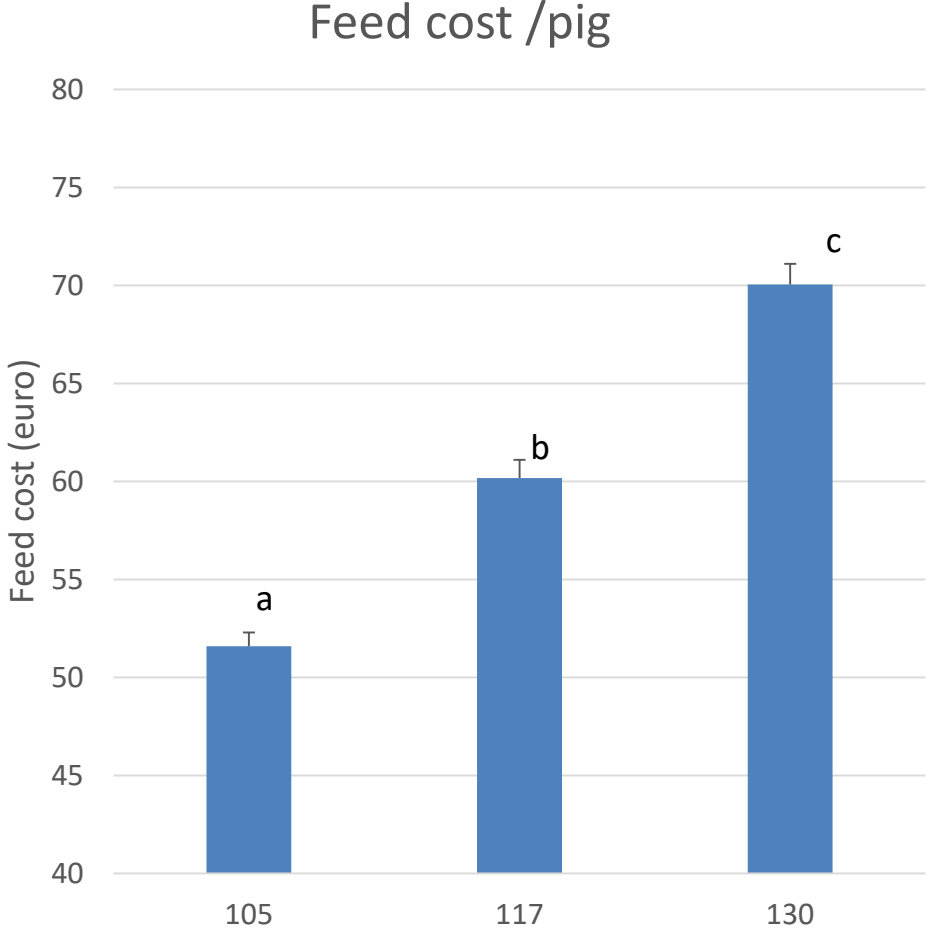
Slaughter weight:  $P < 0.001$



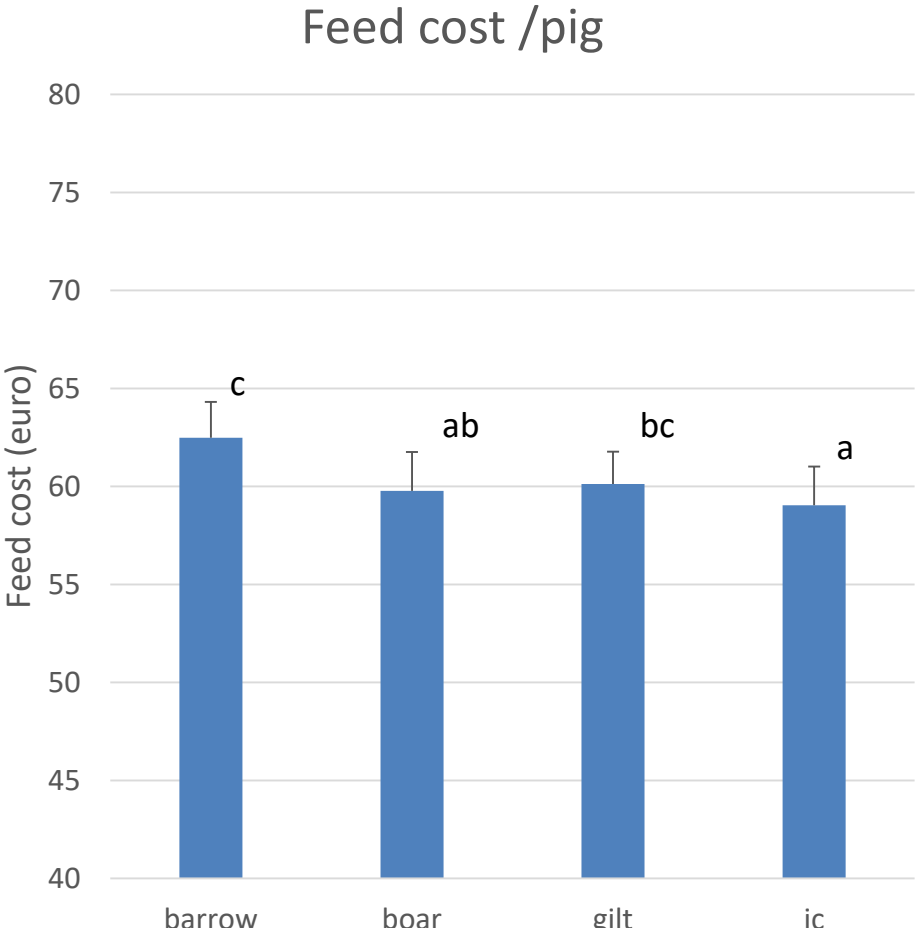
Sex:  $P < 0.001$



# Results



Slaughter weight:  $P < 0.001$

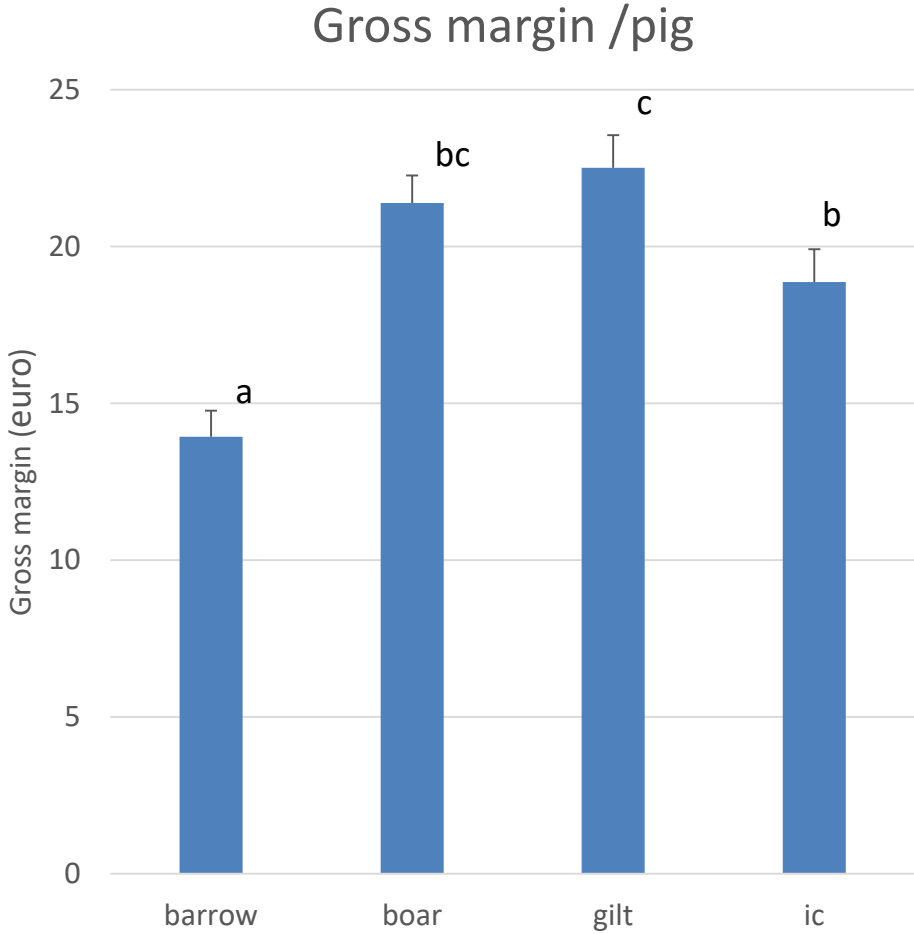


Sex:  $P < 0.001$

# Results

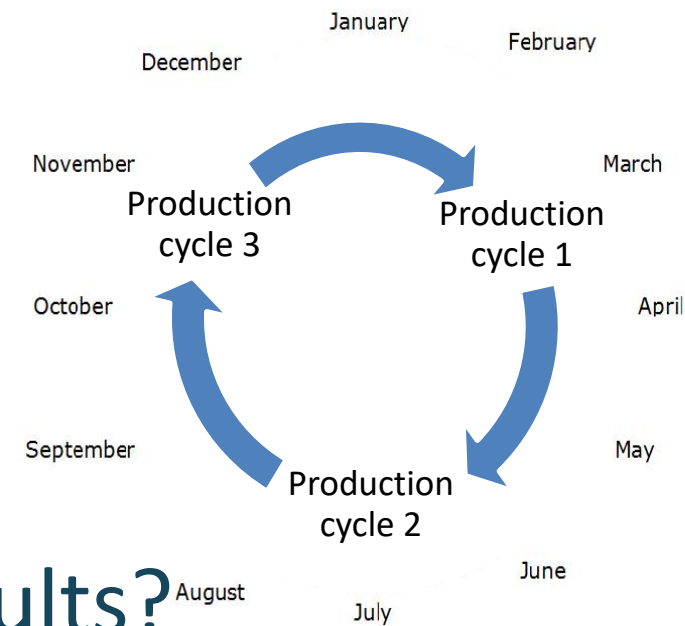


Slaughter weight: P<0.001



Sex: P<0.001

# Results



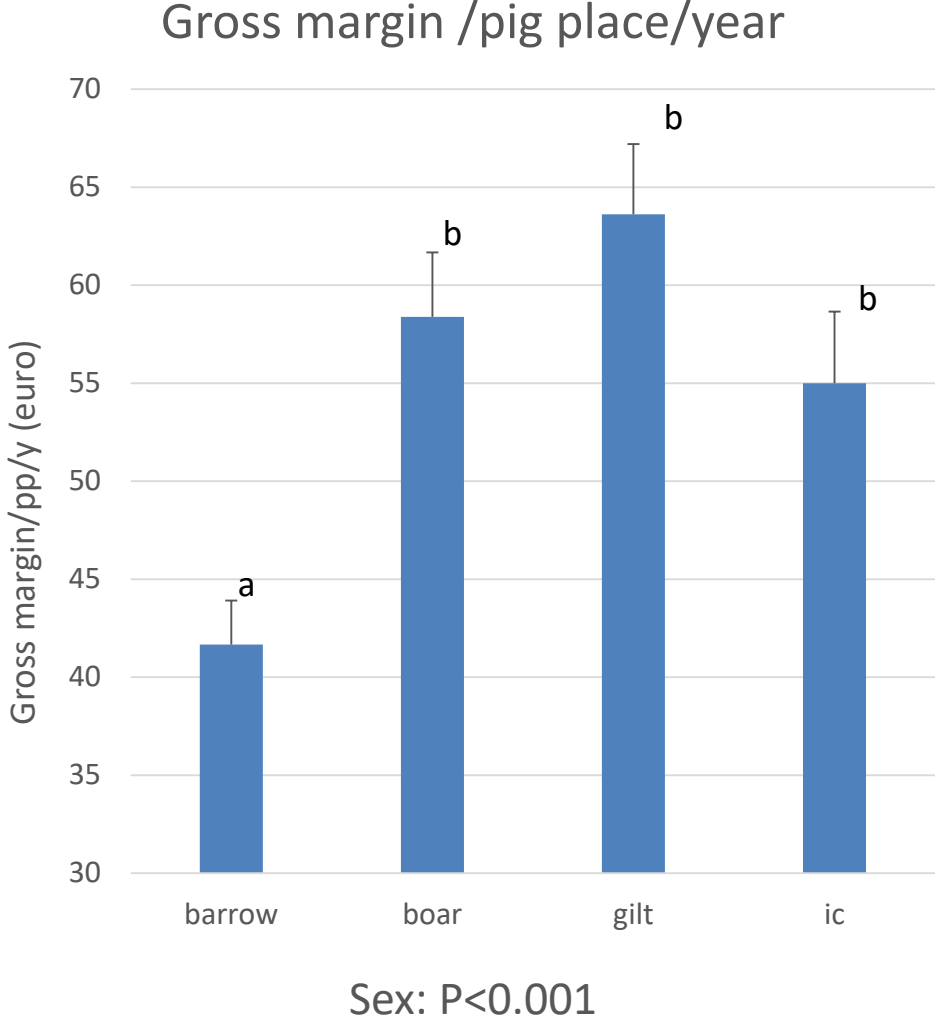
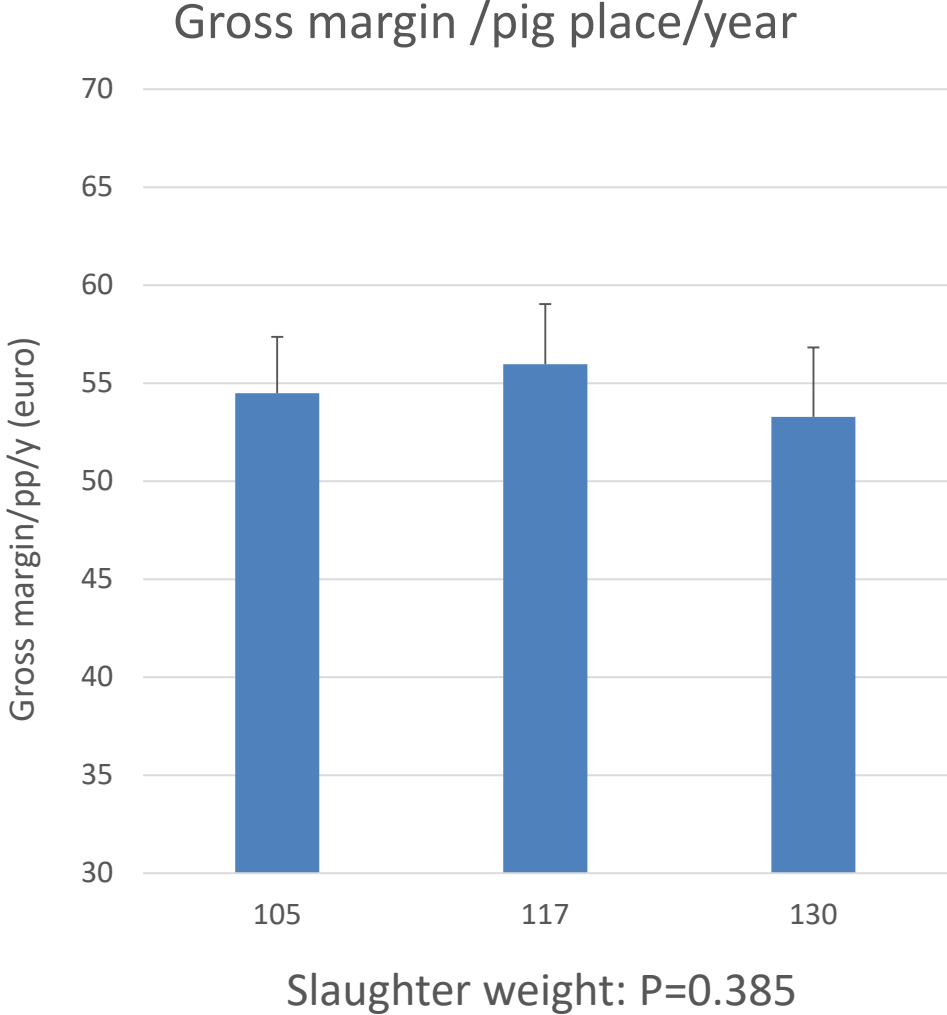
Gross margin/pig place/year: different results?

Duration of a production cycle = fattening duration + 5d waiting period

Production cycle per year =  $365 \text{ days} / \text{duration production cycle}$

Gross margin/pig place/year = gross margin/pig x production cycles/year

# Results



# Discussion and conclusion

Gross margin /pig place/year:

- no effect of slaughter weight
- barrows less gain compared to other sexes
- Careful interpretation is needed:
  - pigs were slaughtered per pen at target slaughter weight
  - in practice only 1 or 2 slaughter dates per production cycle

# Thank you

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