



Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Haustierrassen e.V. (GEH )

[www.g-e-h.de](http://www.g-e-h.de)

# Modelling Project on Biological Diversity: Health Management and Disease Protection for endangered Species of Farm Animals (GeSGeN)

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium für  
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft  
und Verbraucherschutz

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages

Funded by Ministry of Agriculture in Bonn/Germany

Antje Feldmann, SAVE 2016 Metlika



# Background

- EU provided exemptions from the culling of animals, which are kept for the conservation of rare breeds for the three great animal plagues
- *Foot and Mouth Disease (Article 15 in 2003/85/EC)*
- *Avian Influenza (Article 13 in 2005/94/EC)*
- *Swine Fever (Article 5 in 2001/89/EC)*
- These regulations have been implemented in national law in each European country

# German Advisory board for Animal genetic Resources (National Working Group)

- Conservation of animal genetic resources is a national task
- In case of an epidemic (and their accompanying measures) rare and valuable stocks can be lost for ever
- Statements for preventive measures and in case of an epidemic outbreak
- No taskforce for rare breeds has been established till now



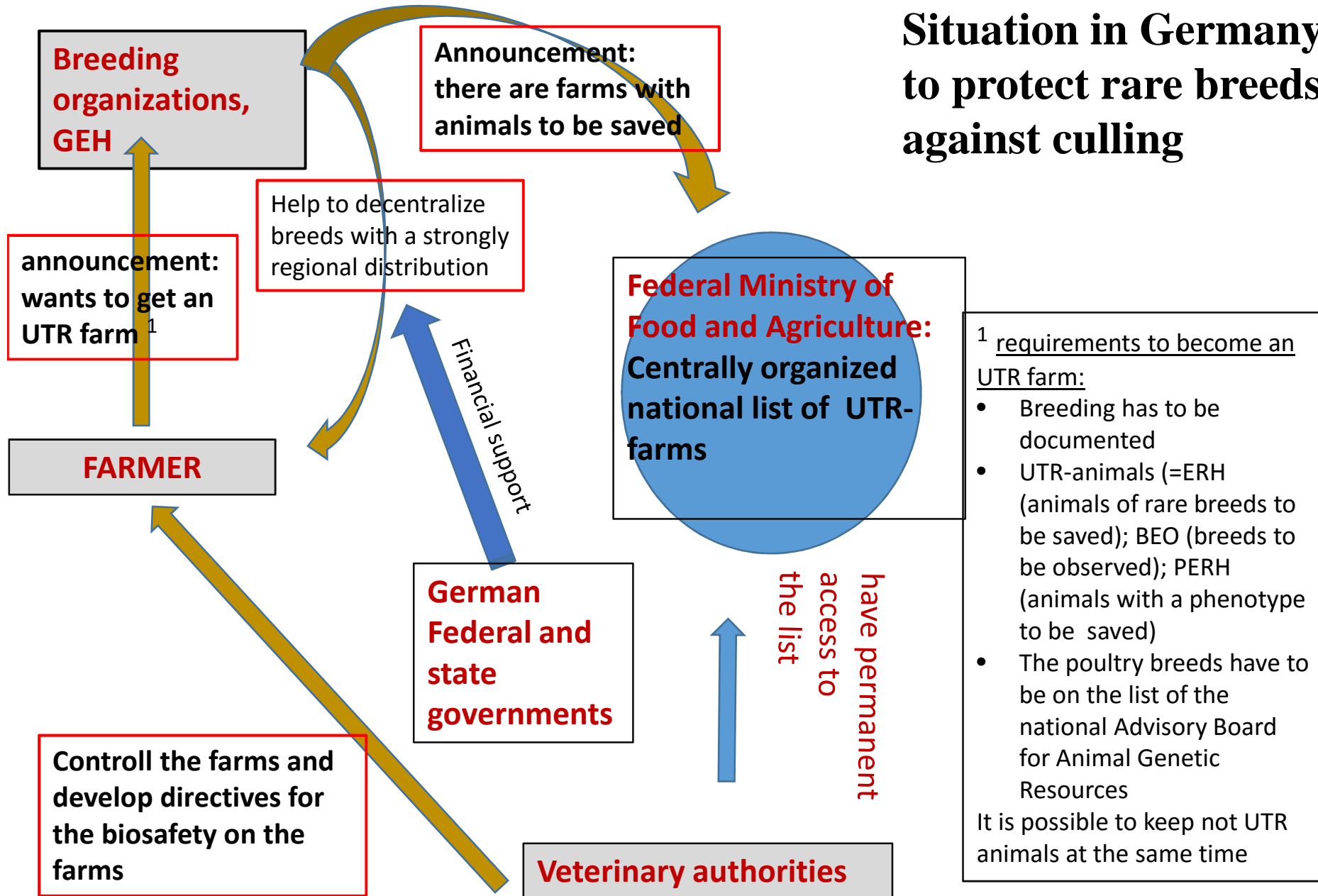
# German Advisory board for Animal genetic Resources

- Breeds of category „vulnerable“ and „rare“ are defined as UTR -Breeds (Unplaceable Animal genetic Resource)
  - Special animal health condition measures are necessary
  - A current UTR-register is present in veterinary authorities, but there are no breeders known or accepted till today

# Epizootic legislation....

- ...allows in regulations for food a. mouth disease, swine fever and avian influenza *under certain circumstances* exemptions from culling for farms with rare breeds:
  - - Farm keeps UTR-Breeds (Unplaceable Animal genetic Resource)
    - farm is accepted as a UTR-Farm and known by veterinary authorities
    - high demands on biosafety; safe quarantine is necessary
    - exemptions have to be permitted in advance of an epidemic plague

# Situation in Germany to protect rare breeds against culling



# Modelling project Health Management and Disease Protection

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Three parts in the project:

- 1) Questionnaire and farm consultancy
- 2) Information
- 3) UTR-Farms



# Modelling project health management and disease protection

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- **1. Questionnaire and farm consultancy**

- *Aim:*

*Identification of suitable (modelling) farms*

- Questionnaire sent to about 1000 GEH-Members / Breeder about status quo in health management, hygiene, keeping and breeding
- On farm consultation
- Contact (written) to european vet. authorities and „epidemic commissioner“ of the EU





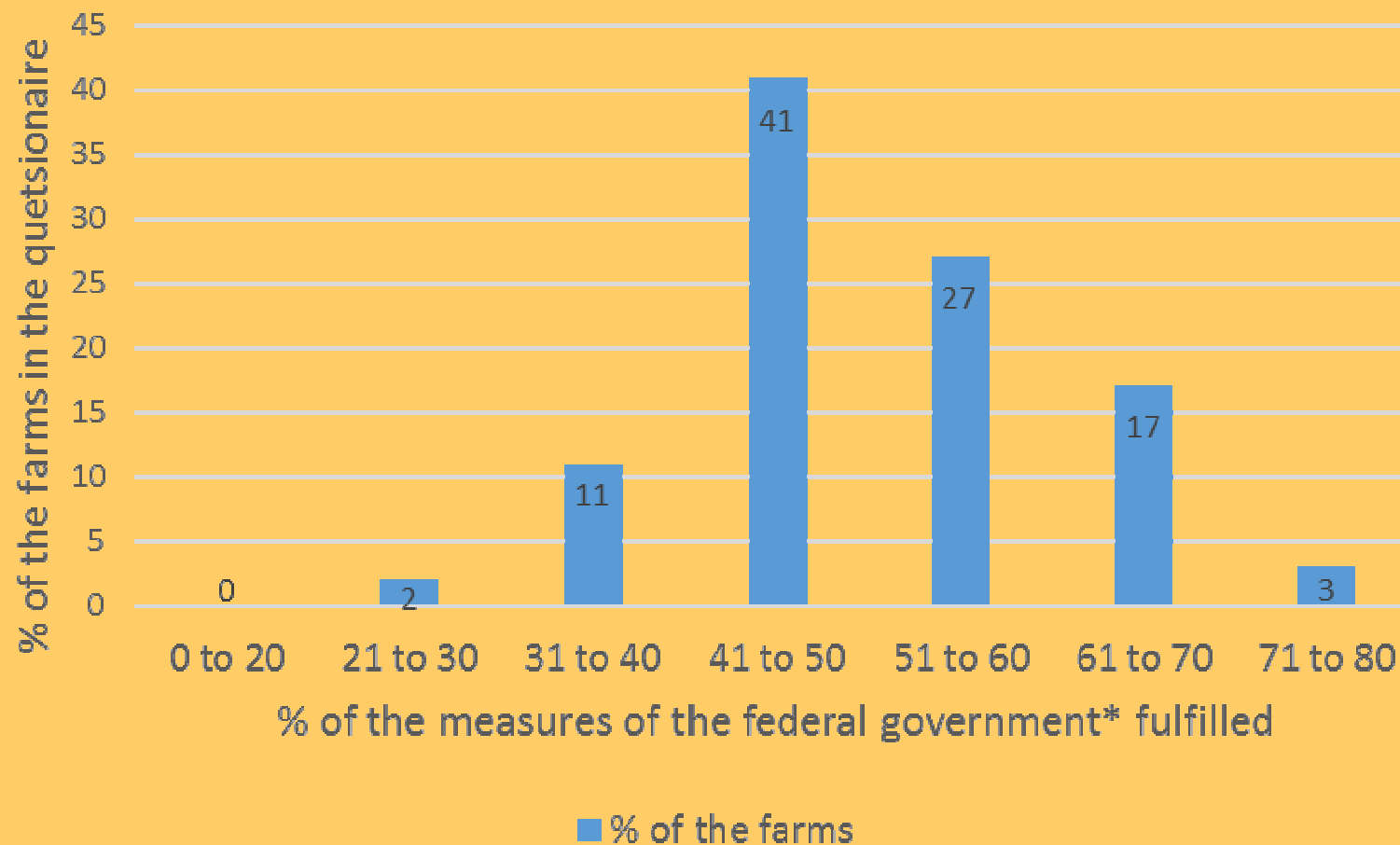
# Questionnaire results

- 83% (n = 287) of the returned questionnaires state to keep ruminants



# Questionnaire results

Status quo of the implementation of precautionary hygienic measures on the farms in %



\*BMEL 2014: Bekanntmachung von Empfehlungen für hygienische Anforderungen an das Halten von Wiederkäuern (Announcement for hygienic measures keeping ruminants, Federal German Government )

# Status quo ruminant farms



- common deficiencies: disinfection, vaccinations, foreign vehicles on farm
- positiv: veterinary care, treatment endoparasites, storage of roughage, rodent control
- biggest problem for possible protection status: needs in construction of the stables (possibility to close it consequently for a longer period (4-6 weeks)(expensive)

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- **2 . Information**

- general information flyer (in german and english); to GEH-members, Arche-breeders, multiplier, ministries and associations in agricultural and veterinary field
- flyer „Healthy feeding and husbandry“, (preventive health measures and hygiene) for 8 animal species
- articles in trade journals (also SAVE newsletter); speeches on professional events
- furthermore: discussion in regional expert and breeder groups



# Modelling project health management and disease protection

- **3. UTR-Farms**

- Research about **given exemptions** (zoos, institutes) also in foreign countries (EU)
- Selection of **suitable farms** (Ark-farms and Ark-breeders) which can probable provide a safe quarantine, several farm-visits are useful
- Contact to the competent **public veterinarian** (info, conversation, farm-visit)
- **Accompanying dialogue** with authorities and agencies, f.e. ministers, advisory board genetic resources etc.





# Preventive measures

- Typical requirements
  - Farm is surrounded by a fence
  - Closable stable
  - Desinfection cleaning is possible
  - Cadaver storage
- In Germany no nationwide regulation for preventive measures and for different species is available, the veterinarians argue mostly as they know and think about it! This makes it very hard for the farmers!



# Example regulations for free range pigs

## Three categories

- All farms, < 3 sows or < 20 fattenig pigs
- 4 – 150 sows; mixed farms 4-100 sows and 21-700 fattening pigs;
- > 150 sows
  - Mixed farm >100 sows and > fattening pigs



# Selected measures of regulations for free range pigs

- Double fence (outer and inner fence)
- Assured access to the area
- External persons only with protective clothing
- Cadaver storage (closable, opportunity for cleaning + disinfection, approachable from outside by lorry)
- Feed- and litterstock protect against boars





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## ✓ Present Resumee and wishes

- slowly but surely we keep on going
- there is a lot of interest of farmers, hobbybreeders, veterinairs, governments to have UTR-Farms
- there is a lot to do in the next two years on national and international level
- hopefully there is more clearness about the way of doing in case of an outbreak of a disease
- many farms which are able to fullfill the criteria and get the status of a modelling-farm
- implementation in all european countries

**No diseases at all and - Thank you very much for your interest**

# References

BMEL (2014): Bekanntmachung von Empfehlungen für hygienische Anforderungen an das Halten von Wiederkäuern. Online available

[http://tieraerztekammersachsen.de/dokumente/bekanntmachung\\_empfehlungen\\_rinder\\_07\\_07\\_14.pdf](http://tieraerztekammersachsen.de/dokumente/bekanntmachung_empfehlungen_rinder_07_07_14.pdf), accessed on 04.09.2015.