Pig Watch
Report 2023

4th edition

alianima

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1. About Alianima

Alianima is a non-profit organization that seeks to understand the main bottlenecks faced by the animal production chain, through a cooperative and continuous relationship with food industry leaders. We develop partnerships and provide free consultation and technical support for companies committed to improving the living conditions of animals, in order to promote sustainability and good animal welfare practices.

Our team has a technical team specialized in this area, which bases all actions and materials on technical-scientific data. Our goal is to foster an industry that is not only attentive to but actively addressing animal welfare concerns, while also cultivating consumer awareness regarding the origins of their food, thus enabling them to make more critical and conscious choices.

Learn more at alianima.org/en.

2. About Animal Watch

In recent years, technological advances in information access have aligned with growing concerns about health, climate crisis, and animal abuse. These factors have driven the search for more knowledge about the origin of food, as well as the ethical principles practiced by the food industry.

The public announcement of animal welfare commitments by over 180 companies in the food and hospitality sectors in Brazil has reverberated throughout the entire supply chain. This impact is particularly pronounced given the specified deadlines to complete their implementation, which serve as catalysts for change.

It is in this context that Animal Watch emerged, a platform created by Alianima to give visibility to the public commitments to animal welfare announced by companies operating in the country, currently for laying hens and pigs.

In addition to facilitating the monitoring of commitments by civil society, the platform also provides information and news about our work and the reality of the food production chain. It highlights the role of the industry in promoting significant changes in the treatment of animals, besides encouraging a more critical and conscious consumption.

2.1 About Pig Watch

Pig Watch is an annual report produced by Alianima to monitor the transition of companies with public commitments to ban gestation crates in the Brazilian pork industry.

The publication of results promotes transparency between the food industry and the final consumer, in addition to helping identify difficulties faced behind the scenes of the sector. This enables us to pinpoint the main challenges undermining a successful transition within the stipulated time for each committed company, and provide technical support based on our expertise in animal welfare.

This report is not only intended for the sustainability departments of companies and industries in the sector, but is also addressed to conscious consumers concerned both with the origin of their food and the welfare of pigs in factory farming.

Since its first edition, in 2020, Pig Watch relied on the participation of the majority of the contacted companies and obtained great interest from the press. Upon analyzing the results from the responding corporations, we observed significant progress in the housing of sows in group pens during gestation. We reinforce the importance of the industry being diligent and transparent throughout this transition process.

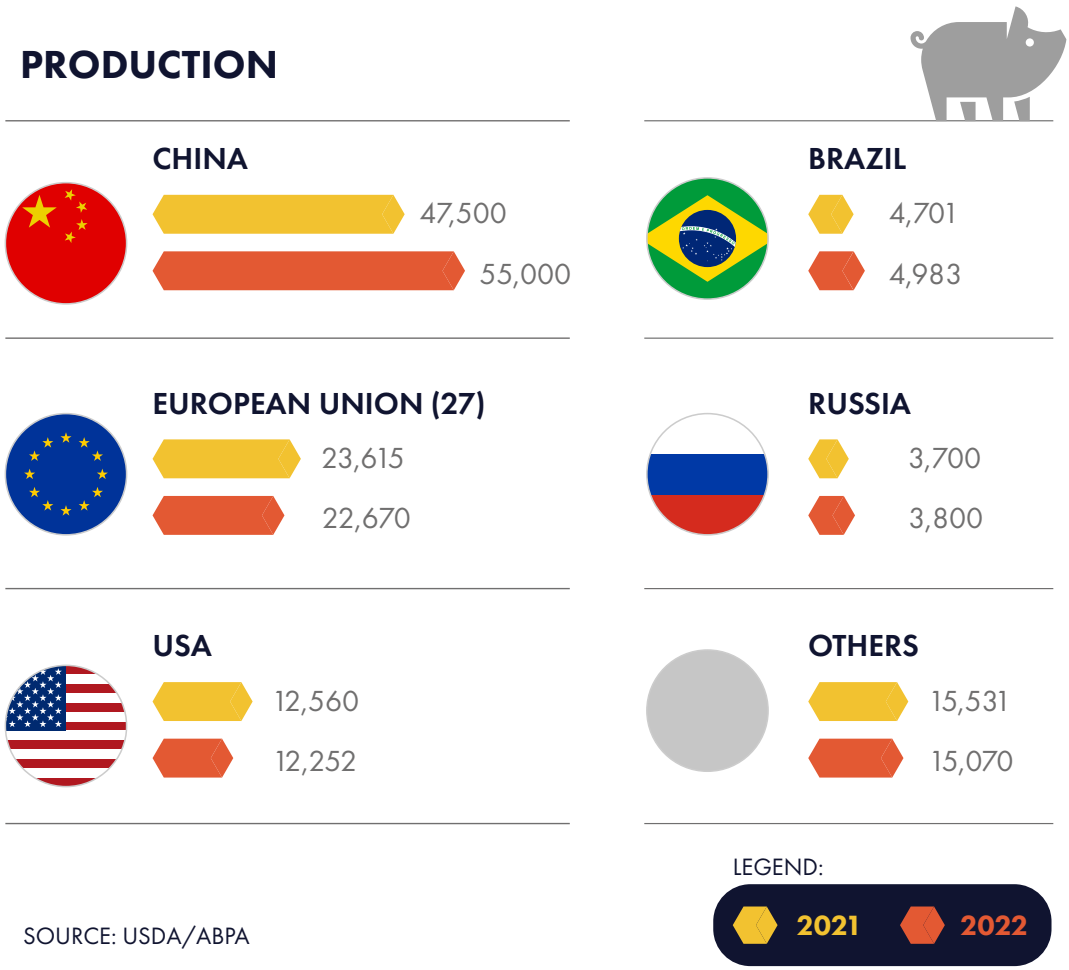
This fourth edition focuses on the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials in the production. This is due to the growing threat posed by superbugs and antimicrobial resistance, a global issue that concerns health professionals, researchers, and health authorities, as it puts the health and welfare of the world's population and animals at risk. Therefore, we seek to update last year's scenario through a comparative analysis of previous data, offering a precise insight into the evolution of Brazilian pig farming in the context of animal welfare and One Health.

3. Introduction

3.1 Overview of Brazilian pig farming

Brazil has great notoriety in the global pig industry, occupying the 4th place in the ranking of largest pork producers and exporters in the world. Last year, the country produced 4.9 million tons of pork (Graph 1), an increase of 6% compared to 2021. Approximately one-quarter of this total was exported to over 80 countries (Graph 2).

GRAPH 1
WORLD PORK PRODUCTION IN 2022 (THOUSAND TONS)



SOURCE: USDA/ABPA

GRAPH 2

WORLD PORK EXPORTS IN 2022 (THOUSAND TONS)

EXPORTS

EUROPE UNION (27)

4,990

4,150

USA

3,187

2,873

CANADA

1,482

1,430

BRAZIL

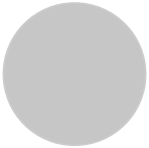
1,137

1,120

MEXICO

319

300



OTHERS

432

383

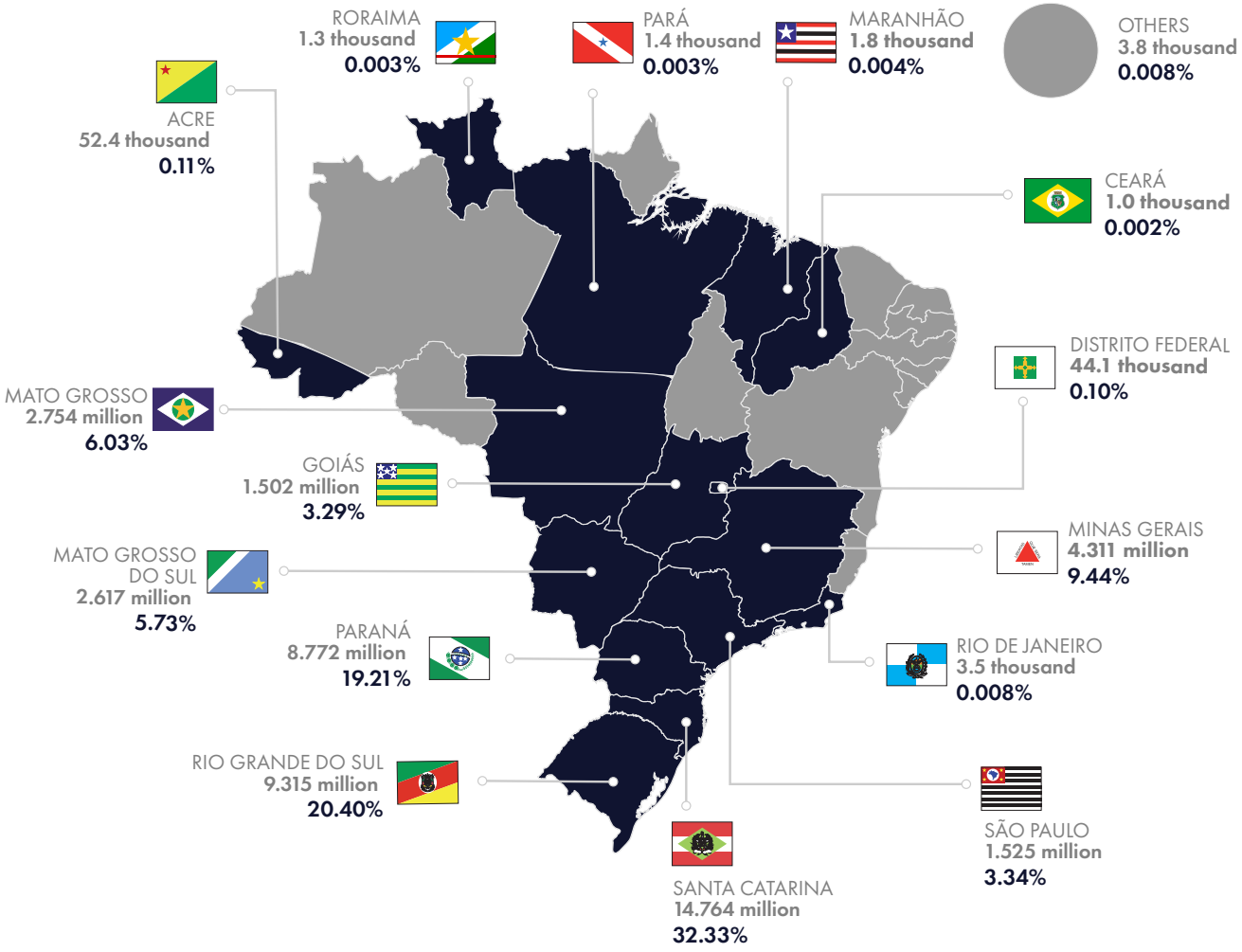
SOURCE: USDA/ABPA

LEGEND: 2021 2022

Regarding the domestic market, pork consumption reached approximately 18 kg per capita in 2022, an increase of 7.8% compared to the previous year, according to data provided by the Brazilian Association of Animal Protein (ABPA). The main federative units producing pork in Brazil (Map 1) and their share in exports (Map 2) are:

MAP 1

PIG SLAUGHTER BY FEDERATIVE UNIT IN 2022 (NUMBER OF ANIMALS)

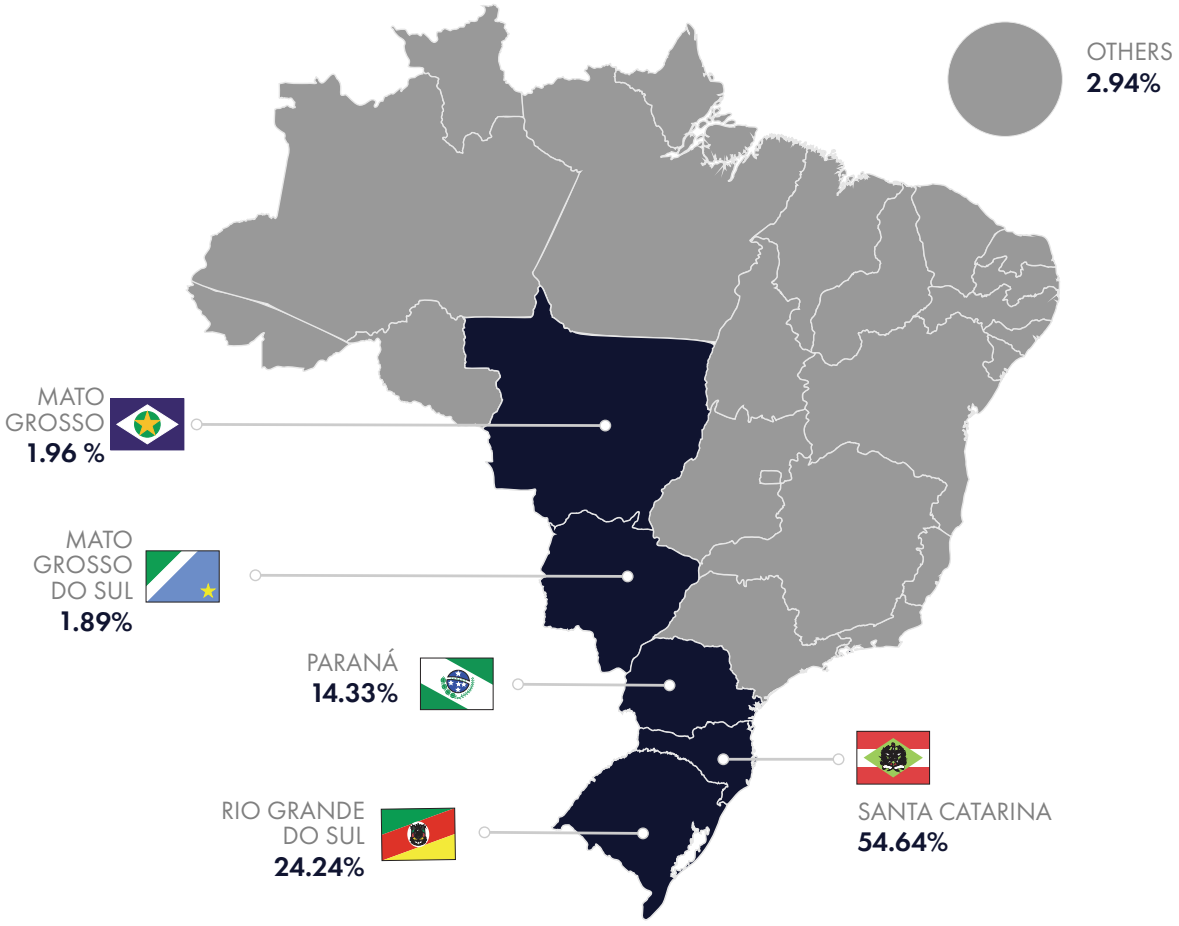


*SLAUGHTER WITH FEDERAL INSPECTION SERVICE (S.I.F.)

SOURCE: MAPA

MAP 2

PORK EXPORTS BY FEDERATIVE UNIT IN 2022



SOURCE: SECEX

The Brazilian pork industry consists mostly of integrated producers, followed by processing and exporting companies. The adoption of better animal welfare practices in factory farming is crucial, not only to ensure animals' quality of life, but also for Brazil to remain competitive on the global stage.

It is important to note that the use of gestation crates for pigs has already been banned in several countries, such as Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and in some states of the USA. Furthermore, this practice has been restricted in the European Union since 2013, being allowed only up to 28 days after insemination. Adaptation to animal welfare standards is, therefore, also a reflection of the requirements imposed by the main world buyers as trade barriers.

A major and positive change for pig farming in the country occurred with the publication of the first national regulation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), on December 16, 2020. The Normative Instruction No. 113 (NI 113/2020), in effect since 2021, establishes good handling and animal welfare practices in commercial pig farms.

THE MAIN GUIDELINES OF THE NORMATIVE TEXT DEFINE THAT:

- Gestation crates must be banned by January 2045;
- In all and any surgical castration, analgesia and anesthesia must be used from January 2030;
- Tail docking should be avoided; however, it remains tolerated when only the final third of the tail is mutilated, and performed in a way that minimizes any pain and further complications for the animal;
- Ear notching is prohibited from January 2030;
- Teeth clipping of piglets is prohibited, and grinding can be carried out only when necessary;
- Piglets must be weaned at an average age of 24 days or more starting in January 2045;
- The use of electric prods and aggressive handling of pigs is prohibited;
- Pigs must have access to environmental enrichment.

Despite being considered an advance in terms of animal welfare, NI 113 stipulates excessively long deadlines for implementation. Given that major pork-producing corporations and cooperatives have committed to phasing out gestation crates between 2025 and 2029, the permissiveness of the regulation with an additional 20 years can be seen as a delay. Therefore, it is essential for companies to uphold their commitments, rather than adjusting their deadlines according to the regulation. This ensures that the effort is not just a matter of compliance with the norm but a genuine commitment to improve animal welfare.

4. Methodology

As there are companies from different sectors, two different questionnaires were prepared: one for suppliers, that is, companies directly involved in the production and processing of pork, and another for customers, such as restaurants and retailers, that purchase pork from these suppliers.

All companies operating in Brazil that have publicly announced their commitment to abolishing gestation crates by the first half of 2023 were contacted by email to participate in the Pig Watch.

Carrefour Brasil Group published a pig welfare policy in 2020 that covers only fresh meat (unprocessed) from their own brand (*Sabor & Qualidade*), indicating a partial commitment. For this reason, they had not been invited to participate in the previous editions of Pig Watch. However, due to their representation in the sector (the largest retailer in the country) and the progress reported in a transparent dialogue, the company was then invited to participate in this year's edition.

Below is the list of these companies in alphabetical order and divided by sector, as previously characterized:

SUPPLIERS

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda	**Aurora Coop**	**BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)**
Frimesa Cooperativa Central	**JBS Brasil (Seara)**	**Pamplona Alimentos S.A.**
	Pif Paf Alimentos S.A.	

CUSTOMERS

Arcos Dorados McDonald's	B. Lem Padaria Portuguesa	Brazil Fast Food Corporation - (Bob's)	(Outback Steakhouse and Aussie Grill)
Burger King	Casa do Pão de Queijo*	Ciao Pizzeria Napoletana	Grupo Dia*
Dídio Pizza	Forno de Minas	(Atacadão, Carrefour, Sam's Club, Nacional, Super BomPreço and TodoDia - partial commitment)*	
Grupo Madero	(Pão de Açúcar, Extra and Compre Bem)	Grupo Trigo (antes TrendFoods - Gendai and China in Box)	(Griletto, Montana Grill, Jin Jin and Croasonho)
Hippo Supermercados	Hotel Unique*	Marfrig Global Foods S.A.	Monster Dog*
St. Marché	Subway	UnidaSul	

*Companies contacted for the first time to participate in the Pig Watch.

The questionnaire aimed at suppliers included the following assessment and monitoring items:

- **Proportion of sows already housed in group pens during gestation;**
- **Housing period of sows in individual pens between the end of farrowing and the beginning of gestation;**
- **Implementation of better practices for piglet handling, including the end of surgical castration without anesthesia, teeth grinding, tail docking, and ear notching;**
- **Use of antimicrobials for non-therapeutic purposes, such as growth promoters, metaphylaxis and prophylaxis;**
- **Provide customers with information about the quantity of products purchased from crate-free farms;**
- **Difficulties encountered by companies to proceed with the end of gestation crates, improve piglet handling and reduce the use of antibiotics.**

And the questionnaire aimed at customers addressed the following points:

- **Percentage of pork annually bought from suppliers that do not house sows in individual pens during gestation;**

- **Willingness of companies to require other pig welfare practices and the end of the use of antimicrobials for non-therapeutic use from their suppliers;**

- **Availability, on the part of their suppliers, of information about the quantity of products purchased only from crate-free farms;**

- **Difficulties encountered by companies to proceed with the transition to pork free from gestation crates.**

The questionnaires were sent in September 2023 and the companies had one month to submit their data, until October 2023. Companies that did not respond to the questionnaire were listed as “non-respondent”.

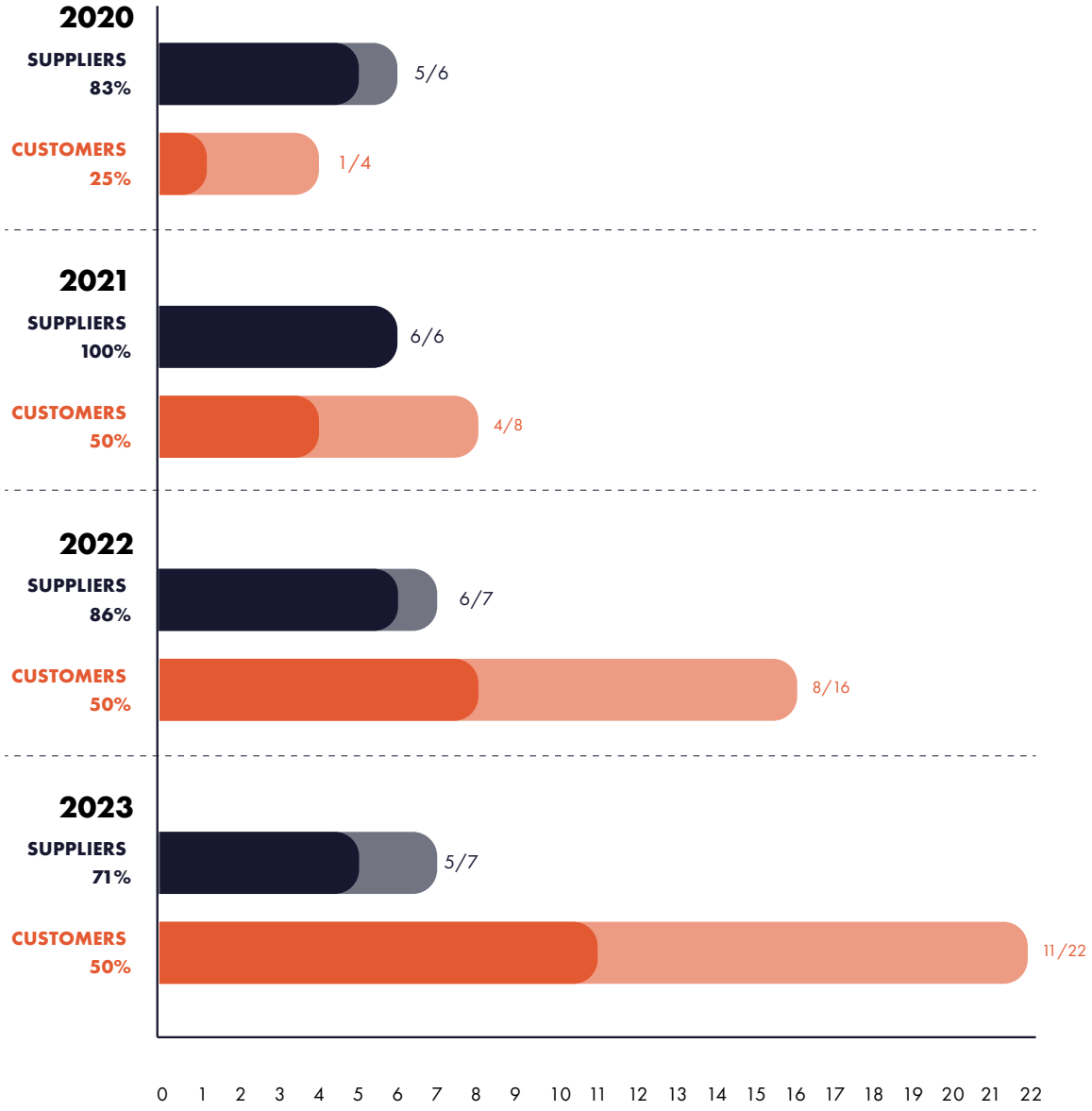
All contacted companies were aware of the transparency clause envisaged by the Pig Watch regarding the addressed topics, thereby giving their consent for the disclosure of results on the Animal Watch platform.

5. Results

A total of 29 companies were approached this year, including 7 suppliers and 22 customers — an increase of 26.1% compared to the previous edition, due to more pig welfare commitments in the customer group. As shown in Graph 3, responses were obtained from 16 (5 suppliers and 11 customers) of the 29 companies, that is, a 55.2% response rate.

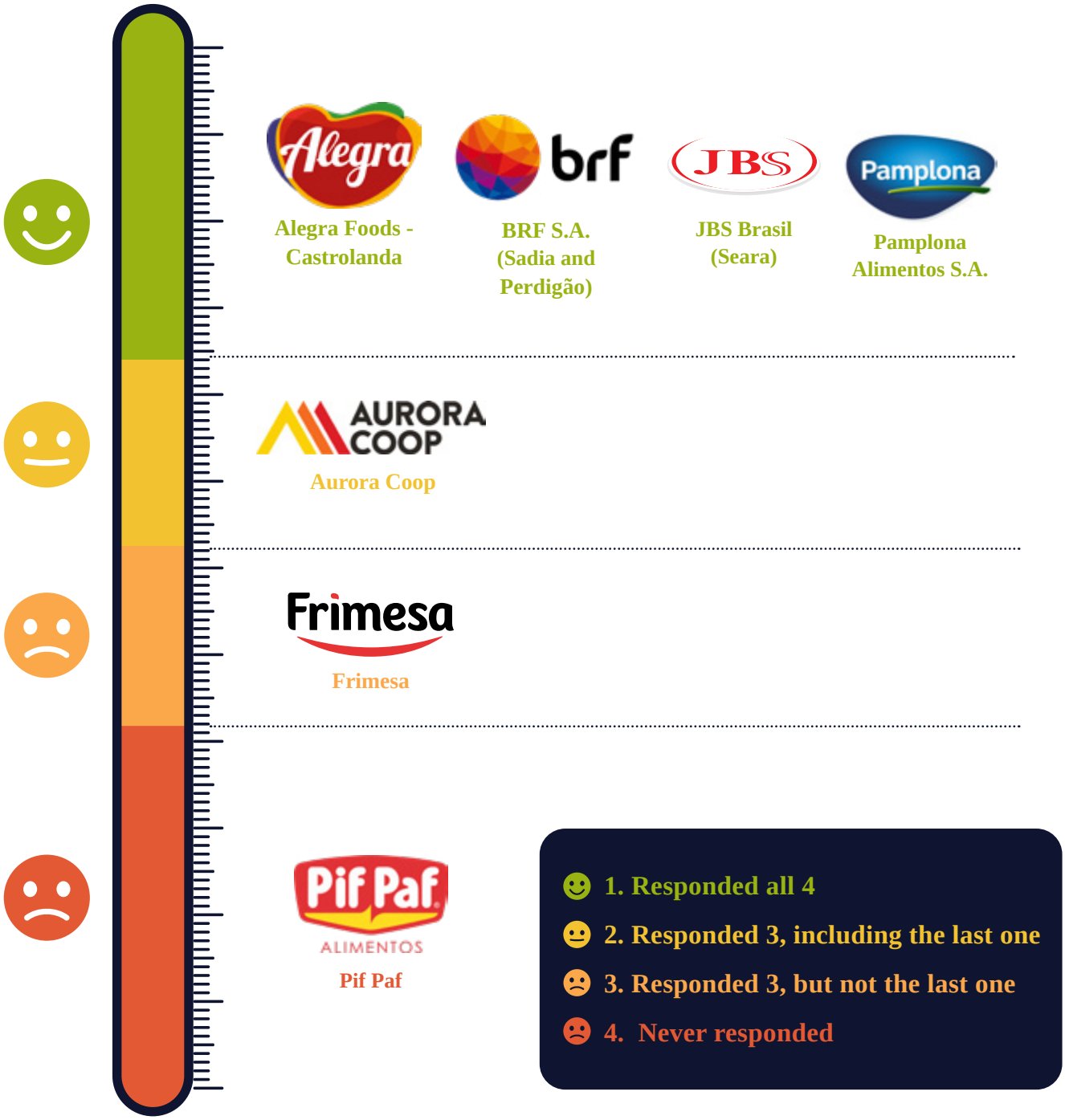
GRAPH 3

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES BY SECTOR AND YEAR

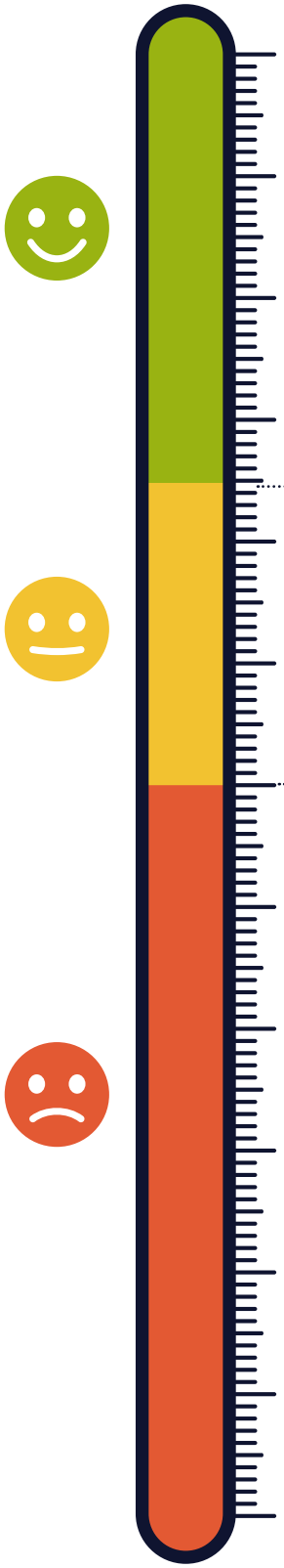


More specifically, it is possible to analyze the responsiveness of each company to the editions of the Pig Watch and, consequently, its degree of transparency in the following ranking:

TRANSPARENCY RANKING
SUPPLIERS



TRANSPARENCY RANKING
CUSTOMERS



B. Lem Padaria Portuguesa

(Bob's)

(Atacadão, Carrefour, Sam's Club, Nacional, Super BomPreço and TodoDia)

Dídio Pizza

Forno de Minas

(Pão de Açúcar, Extra and Compre Bem)

Grupo Dia

Hippo Supermercados

Hotel Unique

Marfrig

Arcos Dorados

(McDonald's)

(Outback Steakhouse and Aussie Grill)

Burger King

Casa do Pão de Queijo

Ciao Pizzeria Napoletana

Grupo Madero

Grupo Trigo (Gendai and China in Box)

(Griletto, Montana Grill, Jin Jin and Croasonho)

Monster Dog

St. Marché

Subway

UnidaSul

1. Responded all
2. Responded 3, including the last one
3. Never responded

5.1 Gestation housing

For customer companies to be able to report the progress of the transition to group gestation, it is essential that their suppliers provide information on the share of pork originating from crate-free farms that is specifically directed to each company.

Last year, three customer companies reported that they were unable to obtain this information from their suppliers, hindering their ability to effectively respond to Pig Watch or any consumer inquiries. As a result, this question was reiterated to the companies.

SUPPLIERS: Does your company provide specific information on the amount of pork that comes from crate-free farms to each of your requesting customers?

CUSTOMERS: Do your company's suppliers provide information on how much of their pork products come from crate-free farms, if requested?

Supplier companies maintained their affirmative response, while customers varied considerably in their response. On one hand, **Bob's and GPA** had reported being unable to obtain the information until last year, but in this edition, they responded that they were informed. On the other hand, **B.LEM, Forno de Minas and Marfrig** gave the opposite answer, stating that this year they could not obtain information from suppliers, whereas last year they had responded affirmatively.

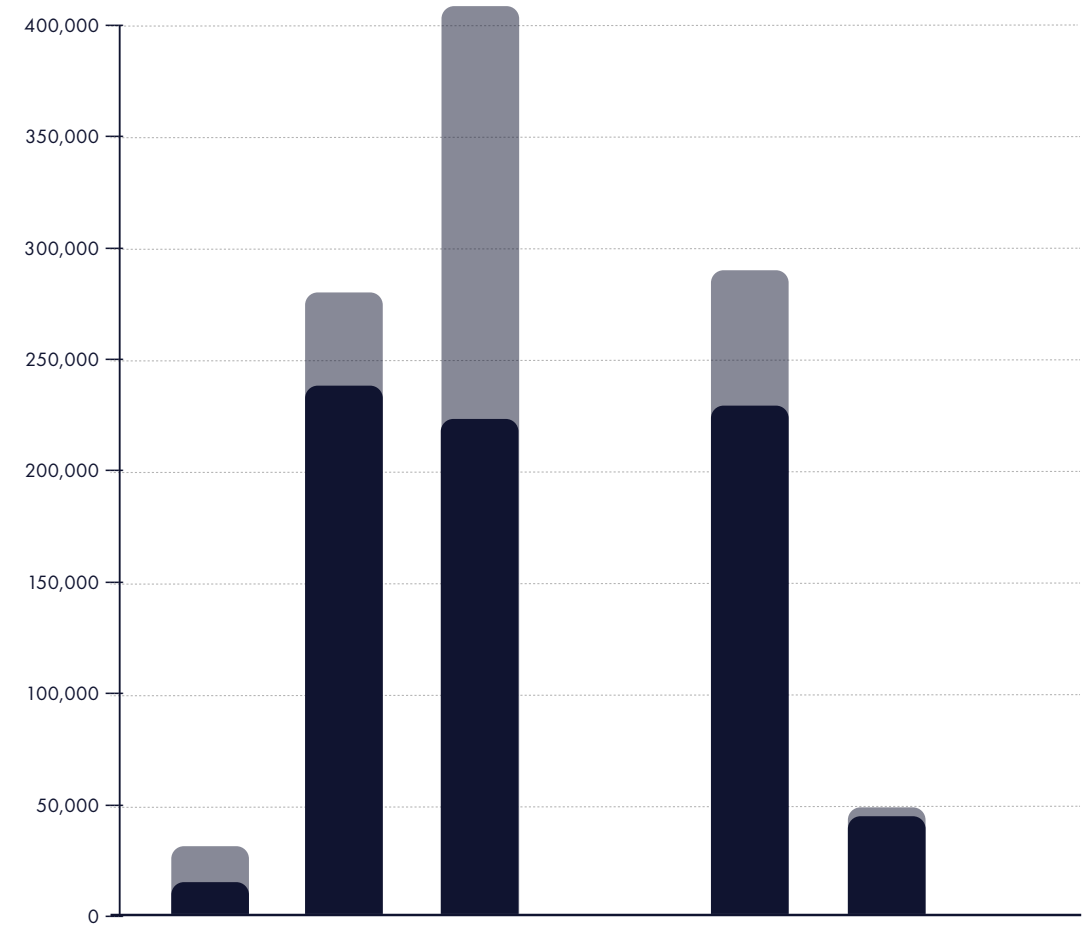
Although they still constitute a minority within the customers group, it is essential that these companies acquire this information, as they are committed to no longer using pork from systems that house sows in individual pens during gestation.

5.1.1 Suppliers

Pig Watch's main question is about the proportion of sows housed in groups during gestation in relation to the total number of sows housed by each company. Graph 4 shows this distribution, for a better understanding of the herd size of each supplier.

GRAPH 4

PROPORTION OF SOWS HOUSED IN COLLECTIVE PENS OUT OF THE TOTAL PER COMPANY



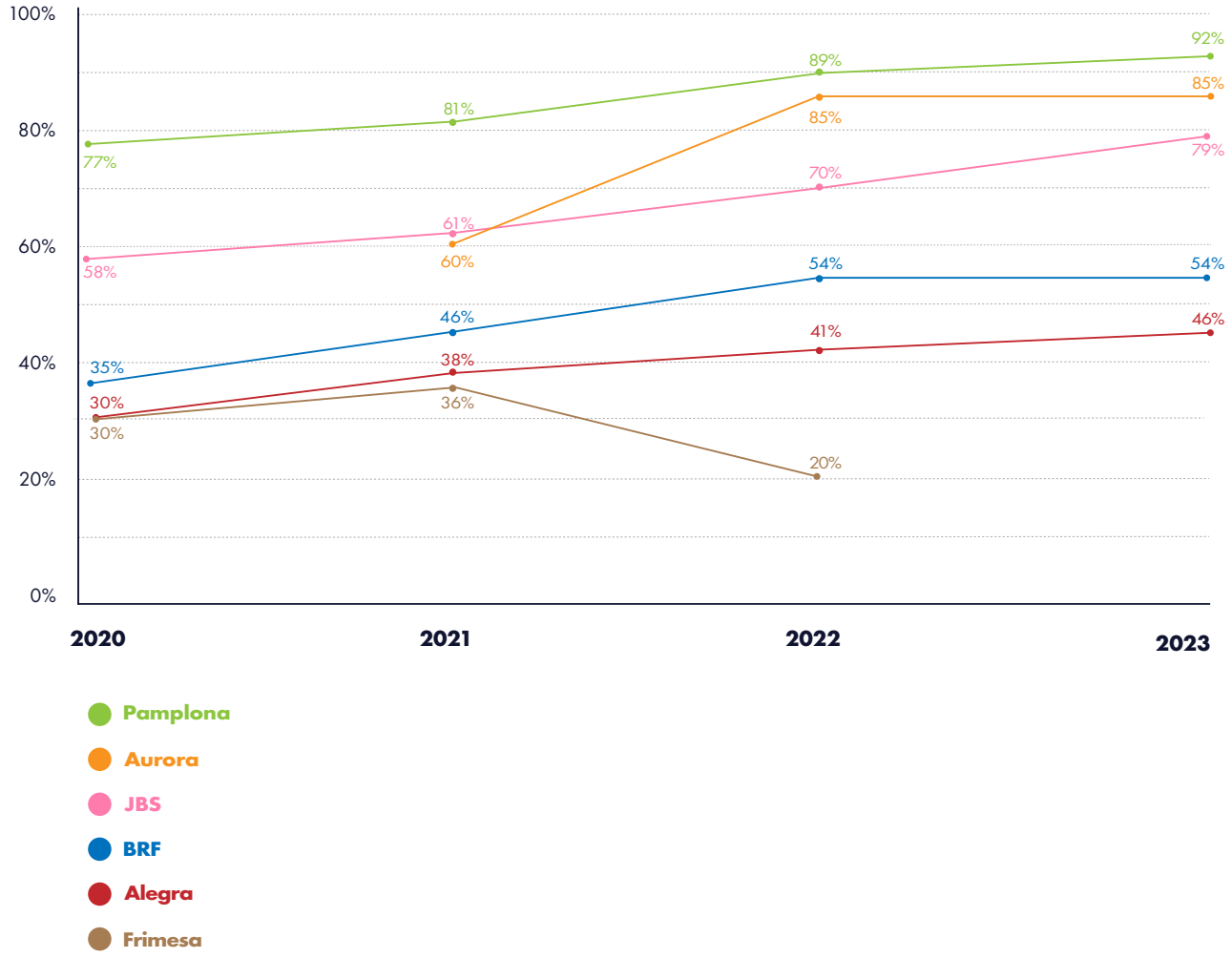
COMPANY	ALEGRA	AURORA	BRF	FRIMESA*	JBS	PAMPLONA	PIF PAF*
DEADLINE	2029	2026	2026	2026	2025	2026	2029
TOTAL	30,535	280,000	409,000		290,000	48,016	
IN PENS	**14,030**	**238,000**	**223,000**		**229,000**	**44,175**	

*NON-RESPONDENT

Through Graph 5 it is possible to analyze the temporal evolution of each company since the first edition of the Pig Watch in 2020.

GRAPH 5

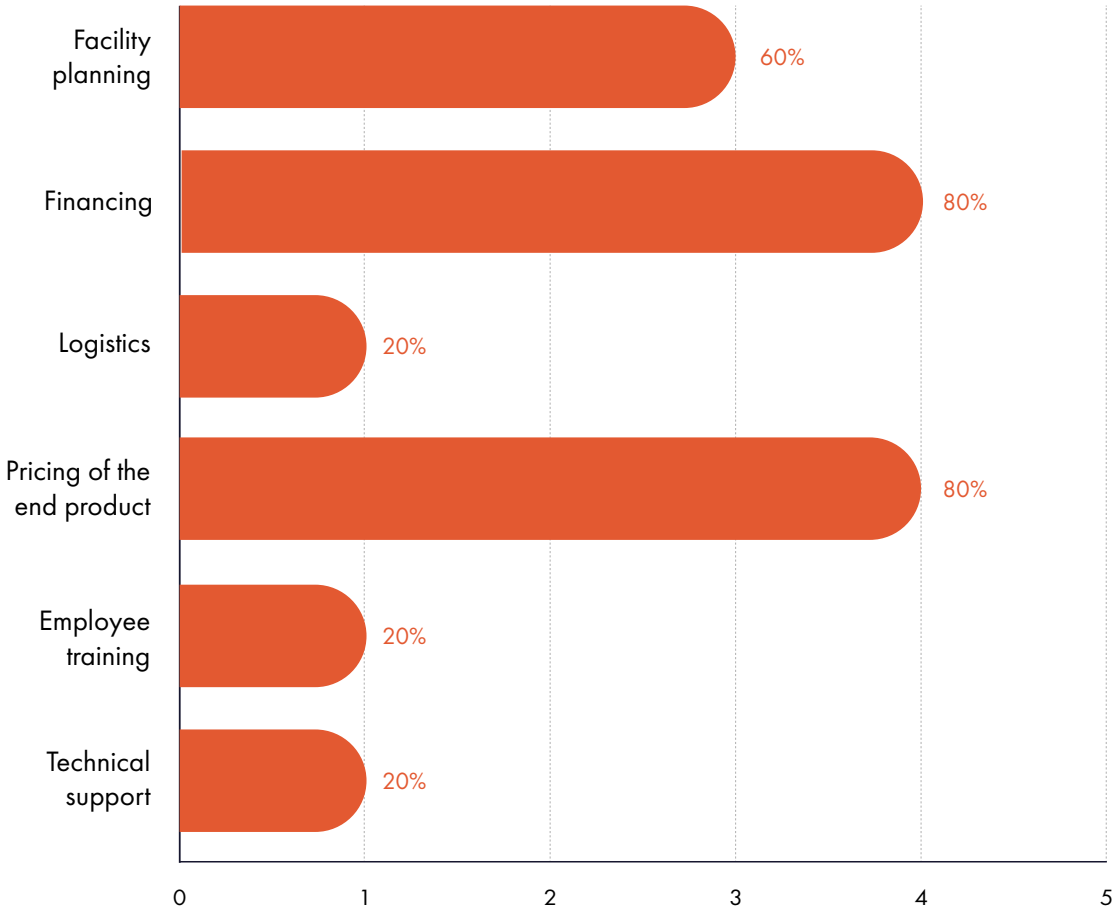
PERCENTAGE OF SOWS HOUSED IN GROUP PENS ACCORDING TO COMPANY AND YEAR



While **Aurora and BRF** remained stagnant, the other supplier companies made progress in transitioning to group gestation, with **JBS (Seara)** standing out with a 9 percentage points increase compared to the previous year.

All companies, except **Pamplona**, reported facing some difficulty in continuing the transition to group housing:

Has the company encountered DIFFICULTIES in continuing the transition to group housing?



BRF S.A.
(Sadia and Perdigão)

"Few lines of credit, high interest rates, insufficient acceptance by producers and high implementation costs."

JBS Brasil
(Seara)

"Producers with older properties have limited physical conditions for infrastructure adaptation."

What is the HOUSING PERIOD for sows in individual pens at the beginning of the gestation practiced by the company?

Company	Up to 7 days ("before embryo implantation" system)	Up to 28 days	Up to 35 days	Up to 42 days	Intention to reduce to 7 days
Alegra	•		•	•	✗
Aurora			•	•	✗
BRF	•	•			✓
JBS (Seara)		•	•		✗
Pamplona	•		•		✓

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

"We have been facing handling difficulties and productive losses."

Aurora Coop

"We will follow the requirements of NI 113/2020."

Has the company found ADVANTAGES AND/OR DISADVANTAGES with the "before embryo implantation" system?

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

Advantages: No

Disadvantages: Productive losses

Aurora Coop

Advantages: It allows socialization and expression of natural behavior, reducing stress levels and improving welfare

Disadvantages: Reduction in farrowing rate, and increase in production costs due to investments

BRF S.A.
(Sadia and Perdigão)

Advantages: Animal interaction, reduction of stereotypies and animal stress levels

Disadvantages: Higher cost, electronic feeding machines with high installation and maintenance costs and low efficiency. Difficulty in identifying sick sows and those returning to reproduction period, difficulty in maintaining adequate body score, late reproductive losses, and increased mortality.

JBS Brasil (Seara)

Advantages: It allows natural behavior manifestation, such as defining clean areas (for eating, drinking water) and dirty areas (for excretion). It also allows sow's social interaction and reduction of urogenital system problems (females in group gestation drink more water, urinate more, and avoid urinary infections). Less occurrence of stereotypies (bar biting, swallowing air, salivation, and excessive vocalization). Employees have a more positive perception of farms with collective housing. These are facilities with less crate load, the environment seems cleaner, and the level of female vocalization is lower.

Disadvantages: It requires more accurate classification of sows for group formation (weight, size, parity order), as fights and disputes are greater in a collective environment. To avoid major damage correct classification is necessary, which allows for more balanced disputes. There is a need for a larger area for the installation of collective housing. Some farms do not have space for expansion, requiring a reduction in the inventory of sows, harming the economic sustainability of the activity. It requires greater care and monitoring to identify sows that are not eating and proactively identify abortions in the group. When a sow is identified with a drop in body score or with compromised health, a "hospital" area is necessary for her separation to facilitate recovery. There is also a greater chance of prolonged disputes with sows introduced into already hierarchized groups. It is necessary to introduce more than one sow at the same time or monitor the first few hours afterward to ensure the end of disputes, thus avoiding mortality.

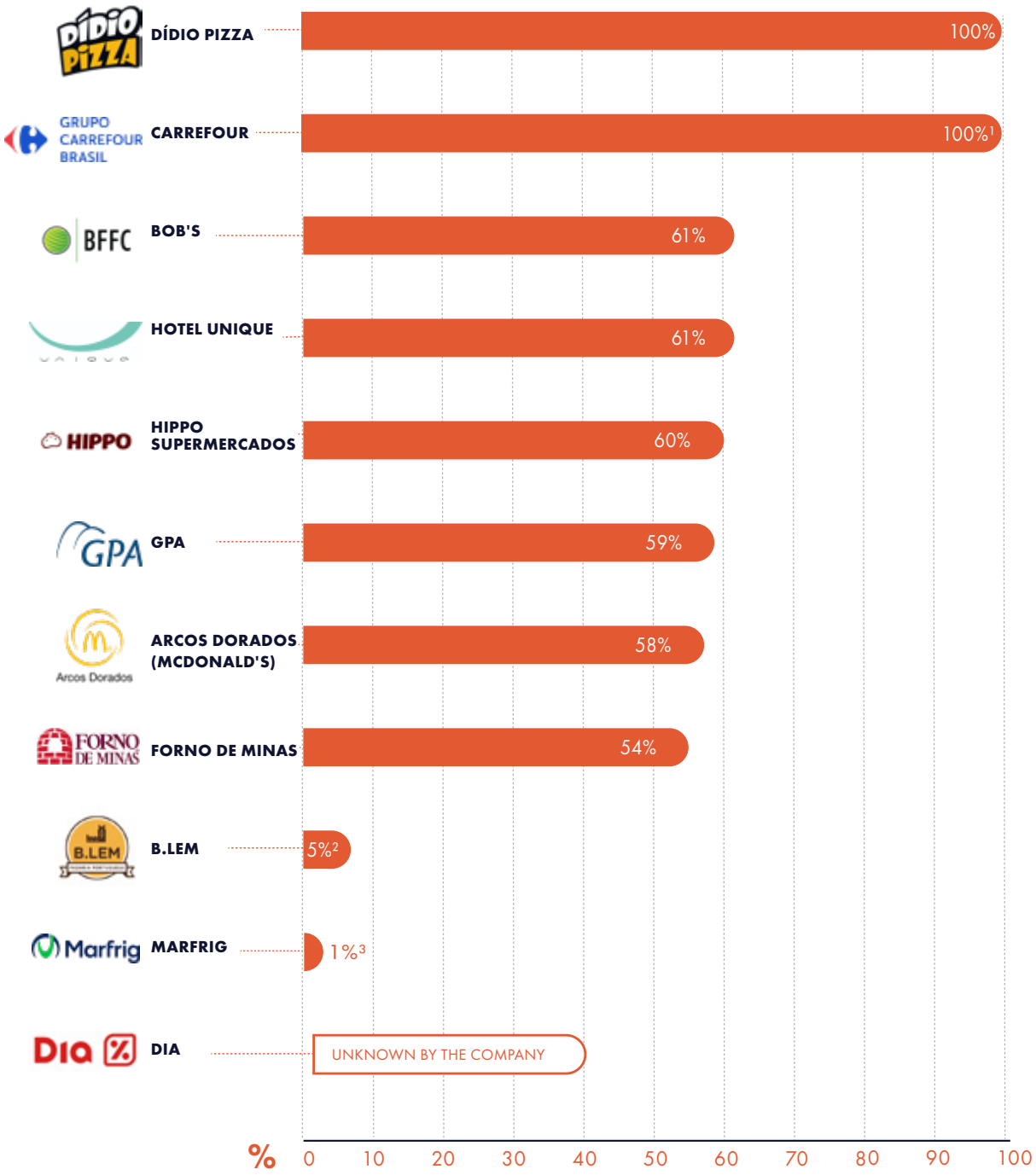
Pamplona Alimentos S.A.

Advantages: No

Disadvantages: No

5.1.2 Customers

What PERCENTAGE of pork in your supply chain comes from gestation crate-free systems?



1. *In natura* meat from their own brand
2. Estimation due to lack of supplier data
3. Data from only 15% of the company's suppliers

PERCENTAGE OF PORK FROM SUPPLIERS HOUSING SOWS IN GROUP PENS BY COMPANY AND YEAR

Company	Deadline	2022	2023
Arcos Dorados (Mcdonald's)	**No deadline**	Unknown by the company	58%
B.LEM	**2026**	79%	5%[1]
Bob's	**2025**	Unknown by the company	61%
Bloomin' Brands	**2029**	**Never responded**	
Burger King	**2025**	**Never responded**	
Carrefour	**2022**	Did not participate	100% [2]
Casa do Pão de Queijo	**2026**	Did not participate	Non-respondent
Ciao Pizzeria Napoletana	**2025**	**Never responded**	
Dídio Pizza	**2026**	100%	100%
Forno de Minas	**2029**	20%	54%
GPA	**2028**	Unknown by the company	59%
Dia	**2028**	Did not participate	Unknown by the company
Grupo Madero	**2027**	**Never responded**	
Grupo Trigo	**2025**	**Never responded**	
Halipar	**2025**	**Never responded**	
Hippo Supermercados	**2026**	60%	60%
Hotel Unique	**2026**	Did not participate	61%
Marfrig	**2026**	0,1% [3]	1% [4]
Monster Dog	**2026**	Did not participate	Non-respondent
St. Marché	**2028**	Did not participate	Non-respondent
Subway	**2025**	**Never responded**	
UnidaSul	**2026**	**Never responded**	

1. Estimation due to lack of supplier data
2. *In natura* meat from their own brand
3. Data from only 84.48% of the company's suppliers, from 2020
4. Data from only 15% of the company's suppliers

As highlights, it is worth mentioning **Dídio Pizza**, which kept **100%** of its pork supply chain **free from gestation crates** for the second consecutive year, and Carrefour Group, participating for the first time in the Pig Watch, already working exclusively with *in natura* meat from systems that house sows in collective pens in their own brand.

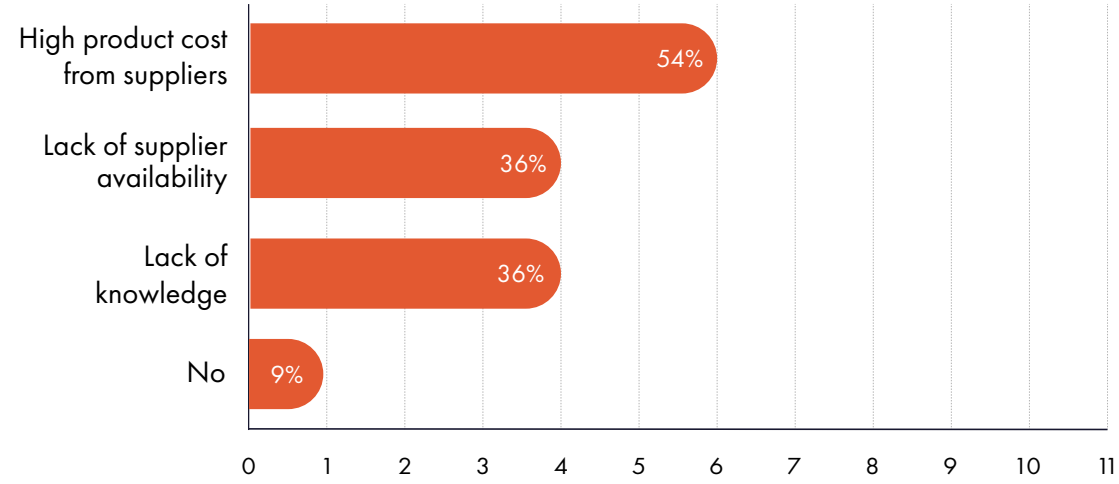
It is also noteworthy that **Bob's and GPA**, unlike last year, have now obtained information about their status from their suppliers.

Arcos Dorados, Forno de Minas, B.LEM and Marfrig, who claimed to be unable to obtain information from all their suppliers, only considered the known portion. Although it was a step forward for Arcos Dorados, the company has not yet reestablished the deadline to complete the transition (initially set for 2022, but it has not been updated or publicly justified). To the Pig Watch it was reported that they work with two suppliers, only one of which shared information about gestation housing. Nevertheless, both have already made a public commitment to achieve 100% of their production free from individual pens by 2026.

Despite not having information on 100% of its supply chain, **Forno de Minas** made significant progress with an increase of 34 percentage points, while **B.LEM** showed an abrupt drop, probably due to a lack of data from its suppliers, as it reports purchasing from distributors or wholesalers.

All companies, except **Dídio Pizza**, reported facing some difficulty in supplying pork from gestation crates-free systems:

Has the company encountered DIFFICULTIES in obtaining more supply of products from gestation crate-free systems?



B. Lem Padaria Portuguesa

"We buy from distributors/wholesalers who often do not have this information. "

Forno de Minas

"Suppliers do not always send specific information about the products."

(Pão de Açúcar, Extra and Compre Bem)

"We carried out third parties animal welfare audits in sampled farms from our suppliers, which demonstrated different levels of maturity on the subject, with some facing difficulties in compliance."

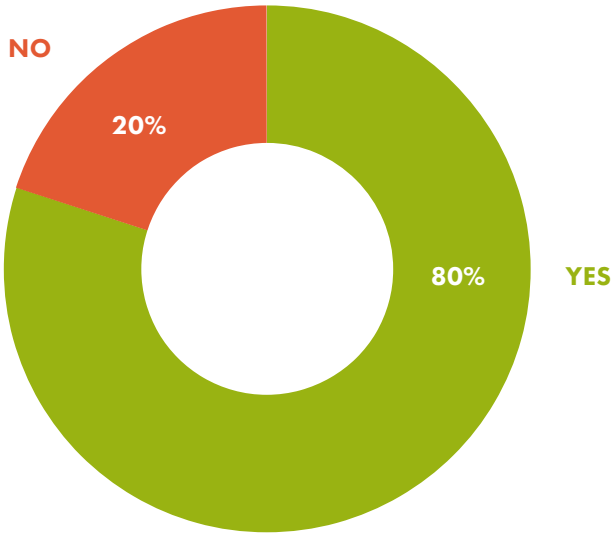
Marfrig

"The main impasse is legislation. As the adaptation period is long, many still do not meet the criteria. There is also difficulty in getting feedback from the responsible individuals at each supplier. "

5.2 Piglet Handling

5.2.1 Suppliers

Has the company already banned the surgical CASTRATION of male piglets without anesthesia?

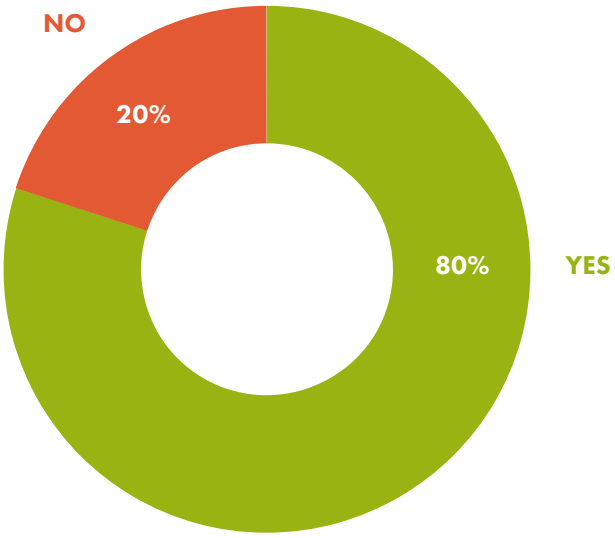


Considering that NI 113/2020 establishes the obligation, starting in 2030, for pain control when performing surgical castration, companies were asked whether they have already banned this procedure. The respondents demonstrated consistency regarding what was reported in 2022. **Alegra** is the only one that **has not yet eliminated it** but has reduced its completion deadline to 2025 (the one reported in the last edition was 2030).

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

"For finishing farms, it is still complex to implement immunocastration, because it requires much greater control due to different ages at the finishing stage and several batches at the same time."

Has the company banned TEETH GRINDING?

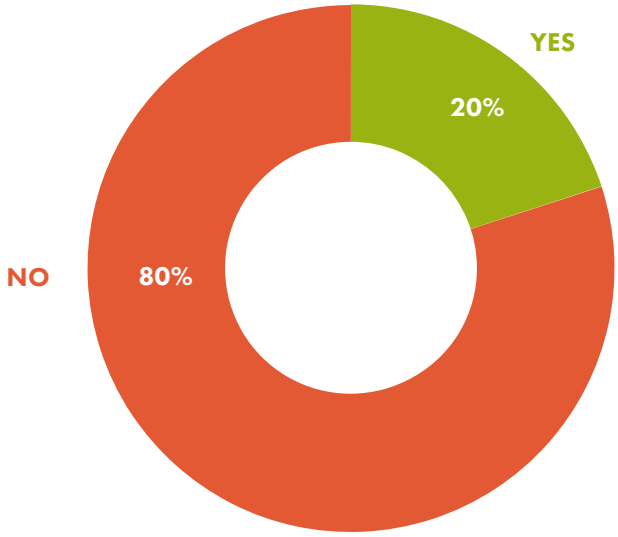


In the 2022 edition, only **BRF, JBS (Seara) and Pamplona** had reported the end of teeth grinding. This year, **Alegra** also claimed to have banned the practice. **Aurora** does not intend to ban it, but rather to follow NI 113/2020 recommendations.

Aurora Coop

"We recommend this procedure only in cases of extreme necessity, such as the occurrence of injuries to the sows' mammary system and the piglets' faces, which compromise their welfare. We only grind the final third of the tooth, always with guidance from the veterinary team."

Has the company banned EAR NOTCHING?

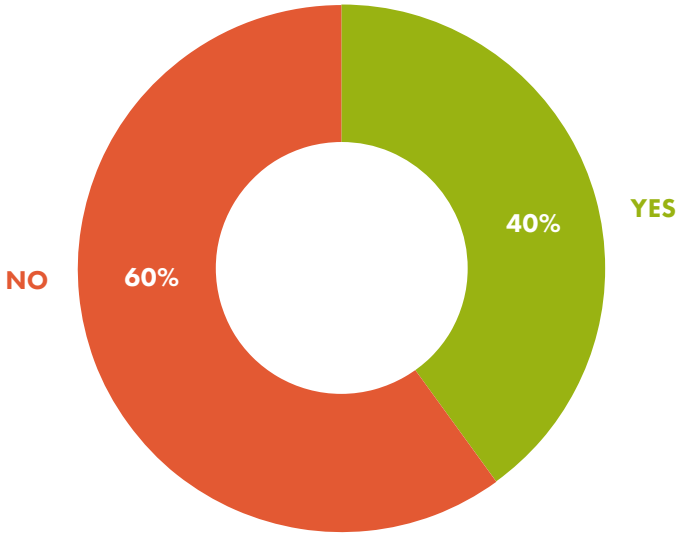


Considering that NI 113/2020 prohibits ear notching from 2030 onwards, companies demonstrated consistency with the responses from the previous year, with changes only in the established deadlines. **JBS (Seara)** advanced to 2027 and **Alegra**, to the end of 2023, while **Pamplona** maintains its deadline of 2026, and **Aurora**, the one of 2030. **BRF** reported having banned ear notching as a means of animal identification.

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

"It is very difficult to identify the animals with a tattoo, as it disappears over time upon finishing and arrival at the slaughterhouse."

Does the company intend to ban TAIL DOCKING?



Regarding tail docking, only **BRF and Alegra** stated they intend to ban the procedure, and both reported facing difficulties with tail biting. **JBS (Seara),** which had responded in the 2022 edition that it intended to eliminate tail docking (with no deadline for completion), responded differently this year. **Aurora and Pamplona** claimed to follow the NI 113/2020 recommendations, so that tail docking is carried out only in the final third of the tail and up to the third day of the piglets' life.

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

"We are studying alternatives to make tail docking no longer necessary, but we have not been successful so far."

Aurora Coop

"By 2025, the use of analgesics for the procedure and environmental enrichment will be implemented in 100% of the pens."

BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)

"Improvements in housing conditions and handling are being implemented, in addition to providing environmental enrichment and animal welfare training for producers."

5.2.2 Customers

Does the company require OTHER PIG WELFARE PRACTICES from its suppliers?

Company	End of surgical castration without anesthesia	End of teeth grinding	End of ear notching	End of tail docking	Deadline
Arcos Dorados (McDonald's)	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
B.LEM	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Bob's	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Carrefour[1]	✓	✗	✓	✗	2025/2022
Dia	✓	✓	✗	✓	2028
Dídio Pizza	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Forno de Minas	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
GPA	✓	✓	✓	✓	2028
Hippo	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Hotel Unique	✗	✗	✗	✗	n/a
Marfrig	✓	✓	✓	✗	2026

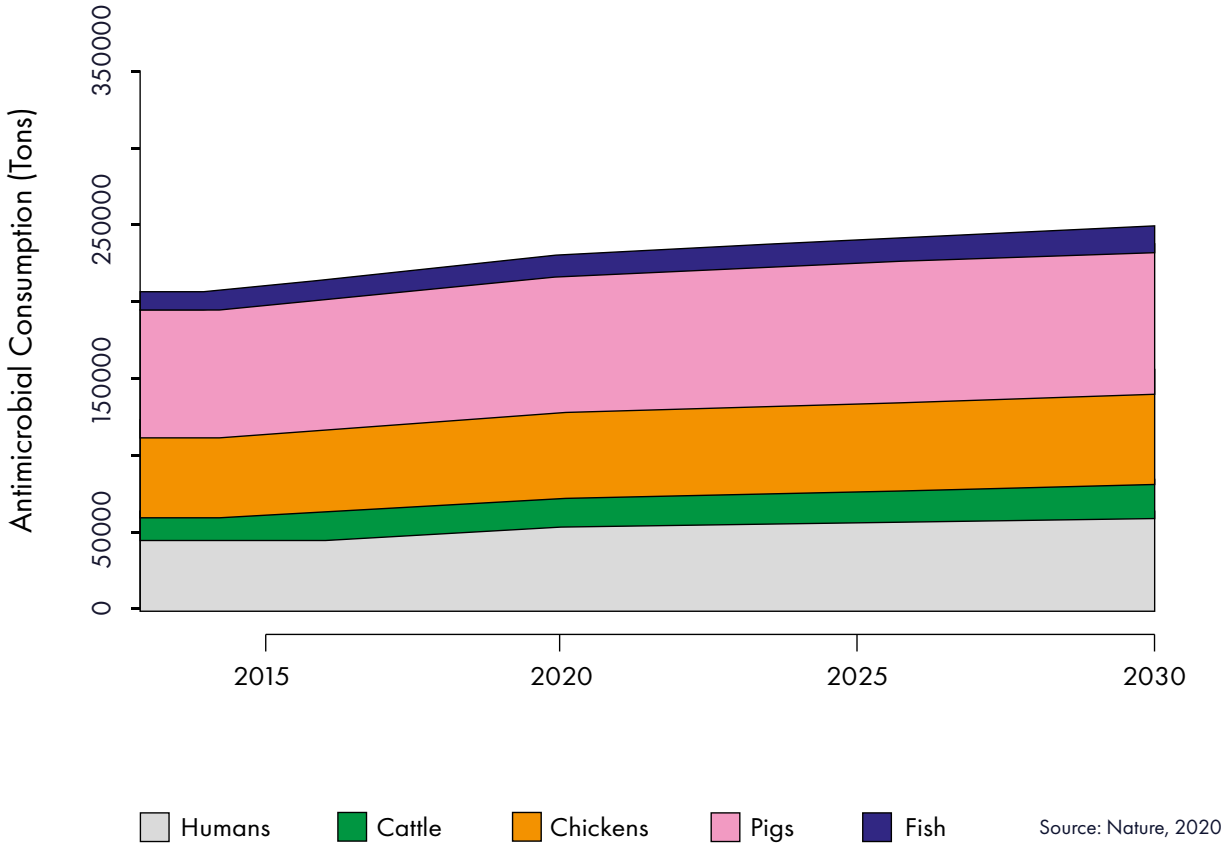
1. Only for *in natura* meat from their own brand

Among the companies that also participated in the previous edition, there is consistency regarding what was answered this year, with changes only in the deadline established by **Marfrig**, which was brought forward from 2028 to 2026. In addition to these points, **GPA** also requires from its suppliers the elimination of beta-agonists (such as ractopamine) for exclusive brands, and the provision of environmental enrichment at different stages of production, as mandated by NI 113/2020. **Marfrig** states that it will also require the latter measure.

5.3 Use of antimicrobials

Pig farming is the sector that most uses antimicrobial drugs — antibiotics and chemotherapeutic drugs, mainly in intensive confinement systems. These systems consist of more enclosed environments with a high density of animals, conditions that facilitate disease transmission and tend to promote lower immunity due to stress (Graph 6).

GRAPH 6
GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN 2020



Although it is a natural adaptation phenomenon of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other parasites), the development of antimicrobial resistance has been occurring under greater selective pressure due to the indiscriminate use of these drugs.

There are different ways to use antimicrobials in pig farming:

Growth Promoter

This is the most controversial, since low and constant doses of these drugs are administered through feed, creating an ideal situation for the **selection of pathogens resistant to antimicrobials**. Increased productivity and animal growth are sought by increasing the absorption efficiency of nutrients from the feed. **Its use should be avoided as much as possible,** and the use of different classes of these drugs for this purpose was prohibited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Prophylactic

Adopted in cases of imminent risk of disease occurrence/outbreaks, for preventive purposes. Most of the time, it also involves the administration of antimicrobials through feed or water, but in much higher doses than growth promoters. Even so, maintaining this use in the medium and long terms **favors the selection of resistant microorganisms and should be avoided.**

Metaphylactic

It involves treating a group of animals after clinical signs appear in some individuals and when there is a risk of spread to others. Provides consequences similar to the prophylactic use.

Therapeutic

It refers to the treatment of already established and diagnosed diseases, which would be the **most correct use** of these medications, preferably administered individually, orally or by injection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) points to the phenomenon of bacterial resistance as one of the threats to the survival of the human species in this century. In 2019 alone, around **1.2 million people died** worldwide from diseases caused by superbugs, and the trend is for a progressive increase if the way in which antimicrobials are used is not changed.

The European Union has prohibited the use of these drugs as growth promoters since 2006 and began to restrict their prophylactic application at the beginning of 2022.

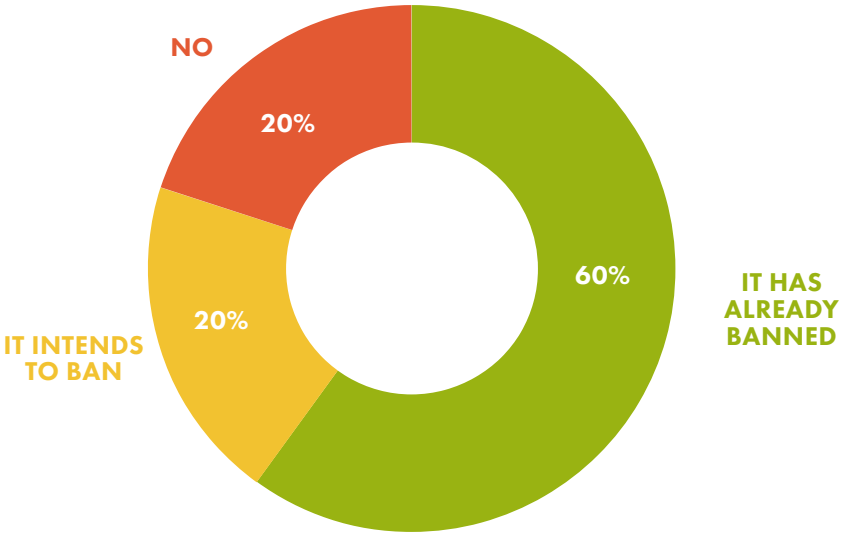
In 2015, the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) launched the **Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance** to ensure the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases with guaranteed quality, safe and effective drugs.

Recognizing the significance of the matter, Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock launched the **National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Antimicrobial Resistance in Agriculture (PAN-BR AGRO)** in 2018. The first phase of this program was carried out until 2022, aiming at harmonization with international recommendations and requirements. This year, the second phase has begun, intending to strengthen institutional relationships with the main public and private stakeholders involved, always considering the concept of One Health.

Know more about this topic with the booklet "Superbugs and antimicrobial resistance: a microscopic problem of global proportions"

5.3.1 Suppliers

Does the company intend to ban or has already banned the use of antimicrobials as GROWTH PROMOTERS?



IT HAS ALREADY BANNED

BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)

JBS Brasil (Seara)

Pamplona Alimentos S.A.

IT INTENDS TO BAN

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

No deadline

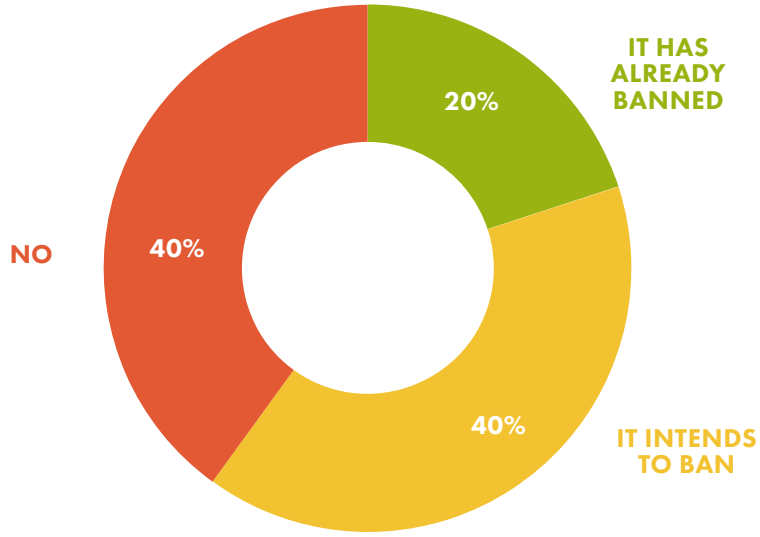
IT DOES NOT INTEND TO BAN

Aurora Coop

Reasons: Lack of viable alternatives, increase in production costs, and production losses

The companies demonstrated consistency in relation to what was answered in the previous year, with no changes. The majority (60%) states that they have already stopped using them as growth promoters. **Alegra** has not yet set a deadline, despite intending to ban it, and **Aurora** reported the same reasons for not eliminating antimicrobials for this purpose.

Does the company intend to ban or has already banned the PRO-PHYLACTIC USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS?



IT HAS ALREADY BANNED

JBS Brasil (Seara)

IT INTENDS TO BAN

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

No deadline
Difficulties: Increase in respiratory diseases, which worsens zootechnical performance and increases production costs

BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)

Deadline: 2025
Difficulties: Despite no longer administering it through feed, there has been an increase in health challenges, especially in 2023. Lack of viable alternatives such as vaccines

IT DOES NOT INTEND TO BAN

Aurora Coop

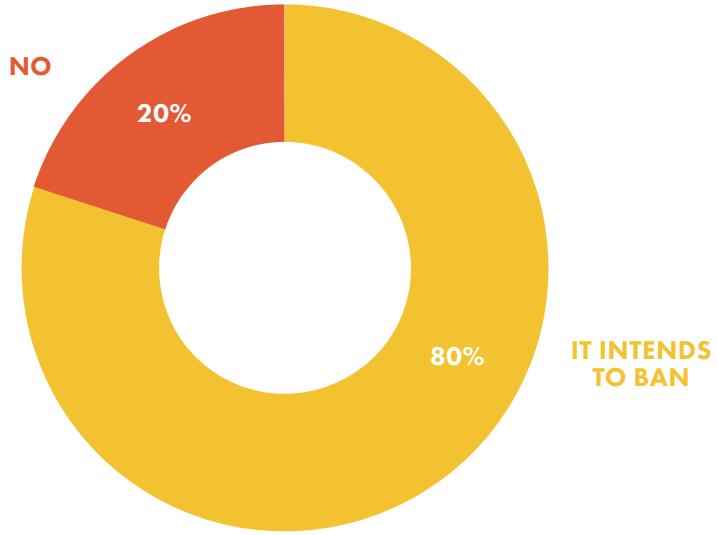
Reasons: Increase in production costs and production losses

Pamplona Alimentos S.A.

Reasons: Lack of viable alternatives, negative previous experience or unsuccessful attempt

One evolution observed was the ban on prophylactic use by **JBS (Seara)**, which until last year did not even intend to take this step due to the risk of production losses. On the other hand, **BRF**, **which had already banned it,** had to resume the use of antimicrobials for prevention. The other companies maintained their positions, with **Alegra** previously showing resistance to banning and now reporting difficulties in the process. **Pamplona** had reported sanitary insecurity in the previous year, and in this edition cited a lack of viable alternatives.

Does the company intend to ban or has already banned the METAPHYLACTIC use of antimicrobials?



IT INTENDS TO BAN

Alegra Foods - Castrolanda

No deadline
Difficulties: High rate of respiratory diseases, which worsen zootechnical performance and increase production costs

BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)

Deadline: 2027
Difficulties: Despite no longer administering it through feed, there has been an increase in sanitary challenges, especially in 2023. Lack of viable alternatives such as vaccines. Challenge in controlling and eliminating pathogens when there are already sick animals with clinical signs

IT INTENDS TO BAN

JBS Brasil (Seara) — No deadline

Pamplona Alimentos S.A. — No deadline

IT DOES NOT INTEND TO BAN

Aurora Coop — Reasons: Increase in production costs and production losses

For the first time, we asked specifically about metaphylactic use, as despite being more justifiable than prophylactic use, it still promotes antimicrobial resistance. The only inconsistency was reported by **Pamplona**, which stated that they intended to ban this method while not planning to end the prophylactic method. Besides that, it was positive to see that most respondents (80%) already plan to improve this point.

Does the company recommend the USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL ALTERNATIVES?

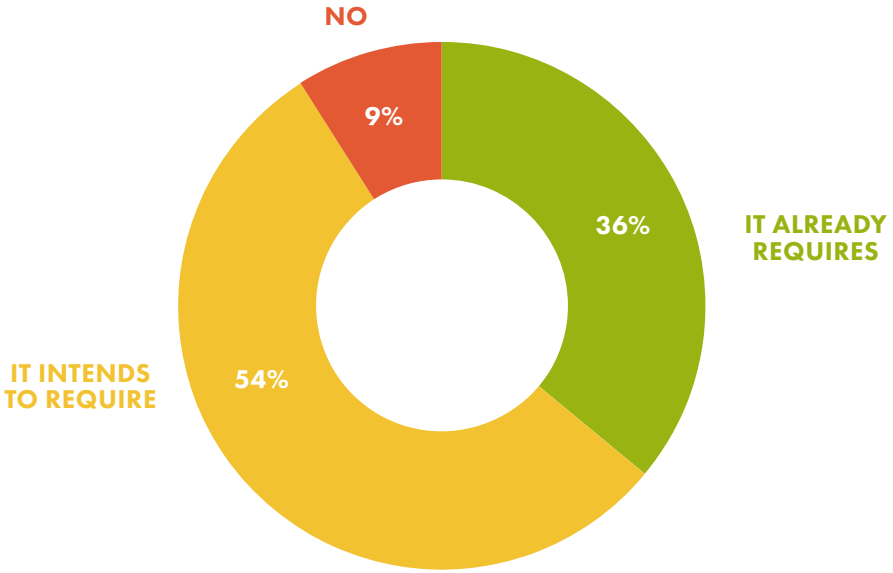
Alegra Foods - Castrolanda	- Eubiotics[1] (essential oils and acidifiers) - Nutraceuticals - Minerals
Aurora Coop	- Eubiotics - Nutraceuticals (vitamin complexes) - Minerals
BRF S.A. (Sadia and Perdigão)	- Eubiotics (exogenous enzymes) - Nutraceuticals (synthetic amino acids) - Minerals
JBS Brasil (Seara)	- Eubiotics - Nutraceuticals - Minerals
Pamplona Alimentos S.A.	- Eubiotics (plant extracts) - Nutraceuticals - Minerals

1. Eubiotics: organic acids, probiotics, prebiotics, enzymes and/or essential oils

All respondents declared that they already use alternatives to antimicrobials. Acquiring experience with these products is essential to drive the reduction in antimicrobial use as growth promoters, prophylaxis and metaphylaxis.

5.3.2 Customers

Does the company already require or intend to require its suppliers to END THE NON-THERAPEUTIC USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS?



IT ALREADY REQUIRES

Arcos Dorados (McDonald's)

Since 2021, it declared its intention to require it. In 2022, a deadline for implementation by 2026 was established, and this year it stated that it already requires it.

GRUPO CARREFOUR BRASIL (Atacadão, Carrefour, Sam's Club, Nacional, Super BomPreço and TodoDia)

It already demands it for its own brand.

Dídio Pizza

In 2022, it responded that it did not intend to require it, but this year it stated that it already does.

Marfrig

Since 2021, it declared the intention to require it, this year it stated that it already requires it.

IT INTENDS TO REQUIRE IT

B. Lem Padaria Portuguesa

In 2022, it responded that it did not intend to require it, but this year it does.
No deadline

(Bob's)

In 2022, it responded that it did not intend to require it, but this year it does.
Deadline: 2025

Grupo Dia

It intends to require it.
Deadline: 2028

Forno de Minas

In 2022, it responded that it did not intend to require it, but this year it does.
Deadline: 2029

(Pão de Açúcar, Extra e Compre Bem)

Since 2021, it declared the intention to require it, and in 2022, a deadline for implementation by 2028 was established, with the response remaining consistent this year.

Hippo Supermercados

In 2022, it responded that it did not intend to require it, but this year it does.
Deadline: 2026

NO

Hotel Unique

It does not intend to require it.

According to the responses, there has been an evolution mainly on the part of **Arcos Dorados, Dídio Pizza and Marfrig**, which began to demand an end to the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials from their suppliers. Also worthy of attention are the advancements of **B.LEM, Bob's, Forno de Minas and Hippo Supermercados**, which, unlike the previous edition, have now responded that they aim to address this topic with suppliers. **Hotel Unique** was the only responding company that did not intend to require it.

Despite not being directly linked to pig farming, it is very important that customer companies take a position regarding this practice, which intensely affects One Health.

In this edition, it was possible to verify an improvement in the scenario among this group of participants in the Pig Watch, hopefully communicating to suppliers how attentive the entire production chain is to this topic.

6. Conclusions

In this fourth edition of the Pig Watch we celebrate the increase in companies committed to banning gestation crates, among other initiatives to promote animal welfare in pig farming. This increase was essentially in the customer group, which, although not directly involved in the treatment of pigs, manifests an ethical and sustainable position essential to its consumers, suppliers, government institutions and civil society.

It is also worth highlighting the consequent increase in companies participating in the Pig Watch, despite a drop in responsiveness from the supplier group. This report is not the only way, but it is an excellent opportunity for companies to demonstrate transparency and seriousness in their published animal welfare policies.

Another point of conclusion is the need for customers to reinforce with their respective suppliers the requirement for information about the products purchased, since customers also have public commitments, and need clarity about their supply chain.

Regarding the transition to the end of gestation crates, there is notable progress among suppliers, even though there are difficulties in the sector. A worrying point is the challenges reported by these companies in the "before embryo implantation" system. Apart from investment in the farm structure, handling adversities must be mitigated to avoid production losses. The less time sows are housed in individual pens, the better for their welfare, and NI 113/2020 has also prompted the sector to resign to keeping them in such crates for up to 35 days. As for customers, the elucidation and progress in the transition are positive, but there is a deficit in the technical mastery of the topic, including other aspects of animal welfare and One Health. Few customers are currently paying attention and demanding improvements in piglet handling, while suppliers have made significant progress, both at the request of animal organizations and as a result of NI 113/2020.

Finally, the topic of antimicrobials was emphasized in this edition due to the global concern about antimicrobial resistance. On the suppliers' part, it was positive to note that the majority do not use these drugs as growth promoters, and that some already intend to ban prophylactic and even metaphylactic use. Alternatives, which have already been used, need to be tested to effectively replace antimicrobials. On the customers' part, it was equally positive to observe that the majority intends to demand from their suppliers the end of the non-therapeutic use of these drugs, given that they also have responsibility for the quality and safety of food in the context of One Health. We hope that Pig Watch's inquiry has at least raised awareness among companies that had not yet paid attention to this topic.

Finally, Alianima would like to thank the companies for their participation, which reflects partnership and transparency, as well as their commitment to promoting the welfare of pigs.

7. Contact

BE PART OF THIS GREAT MOVEMENT FOR THE ANIMALS!

If your company wants to know more about our work or clarify specific questions related to animal welfare, please contact us through the channels below.

Access:

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Audiovisual resources reference:

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