

# Global meat production, drivers and challenges

Global Forum *agri benchmark* Beef and Sheep Conference 2013

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# The project behind



# *agri benchmark* – understanding agriculture worldwide



- Our core competence:  
**Production systems and their economics**
- An expert network which started in 2002 >>> more than just data
- Global, non-profit, independent >>> credibility
- Standardised methods >>> global comparability
- Reflecting framework conditions and drivers >>> comprehensiveness

# Why global farm-level benchmarking?

- We are all directly or indirectly linked via markets and product flows
- Decision making is done by millions of producers every day
- It needs an approach in close cooperation with producers
- On global scale there is a lack of comparable farm data
- Collecting and comparing this data and information assists in

## Understanding agriculture worldwide

- Know **where** you are
- Learn **why** you are where you are
- Conclude **what** can be changed to develop



# agri benchmark – at a glance

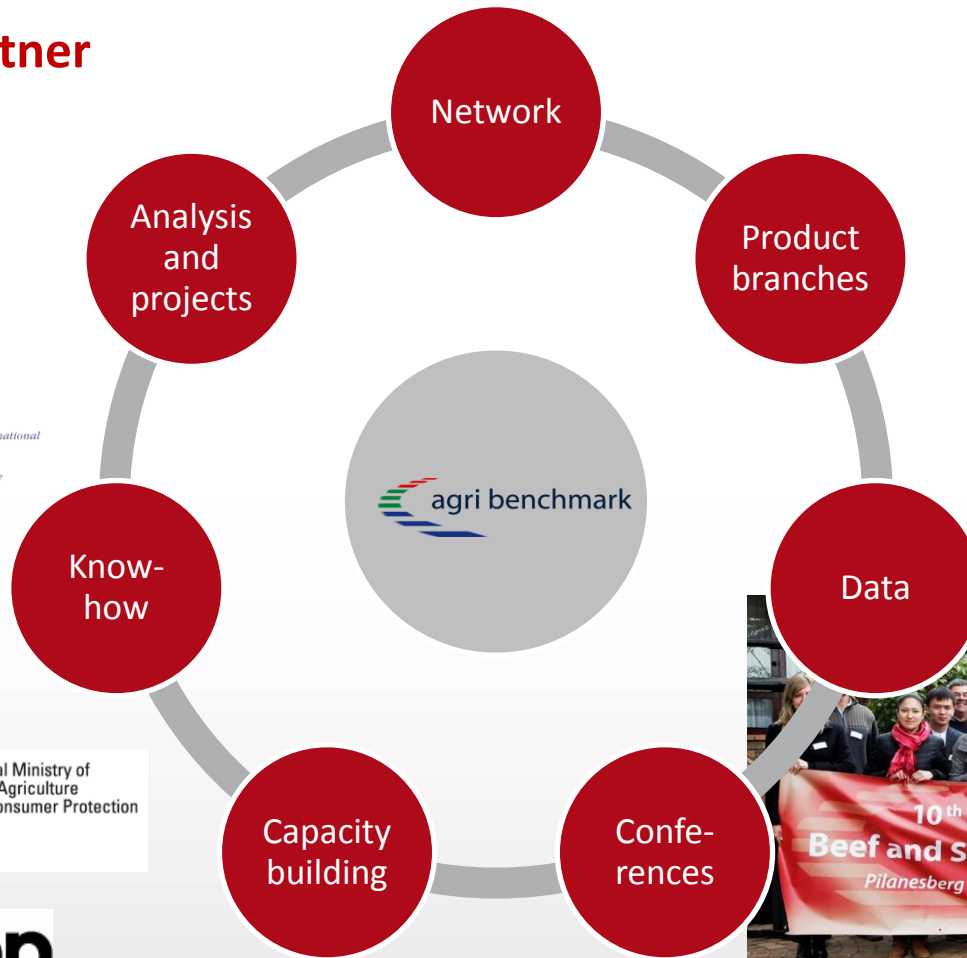
## Main supporting partner



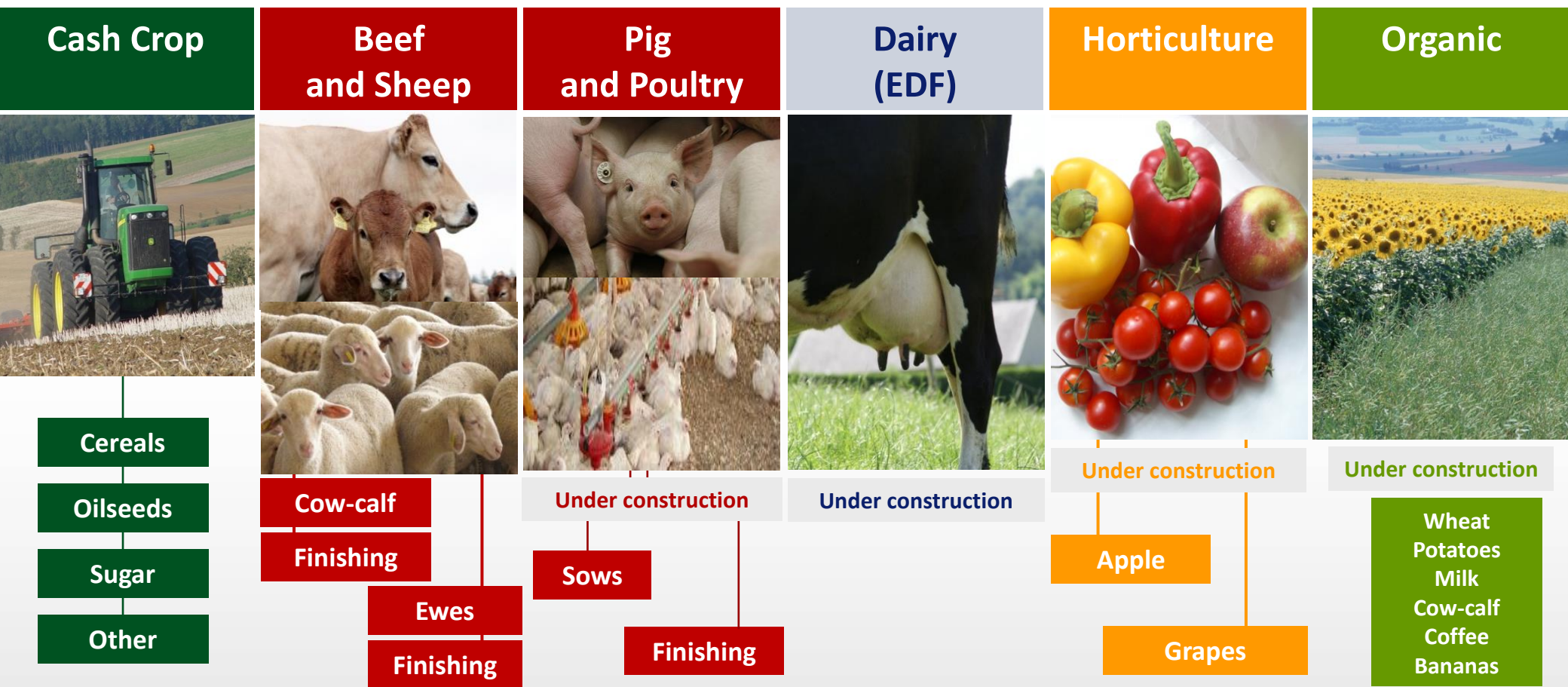
## Clients



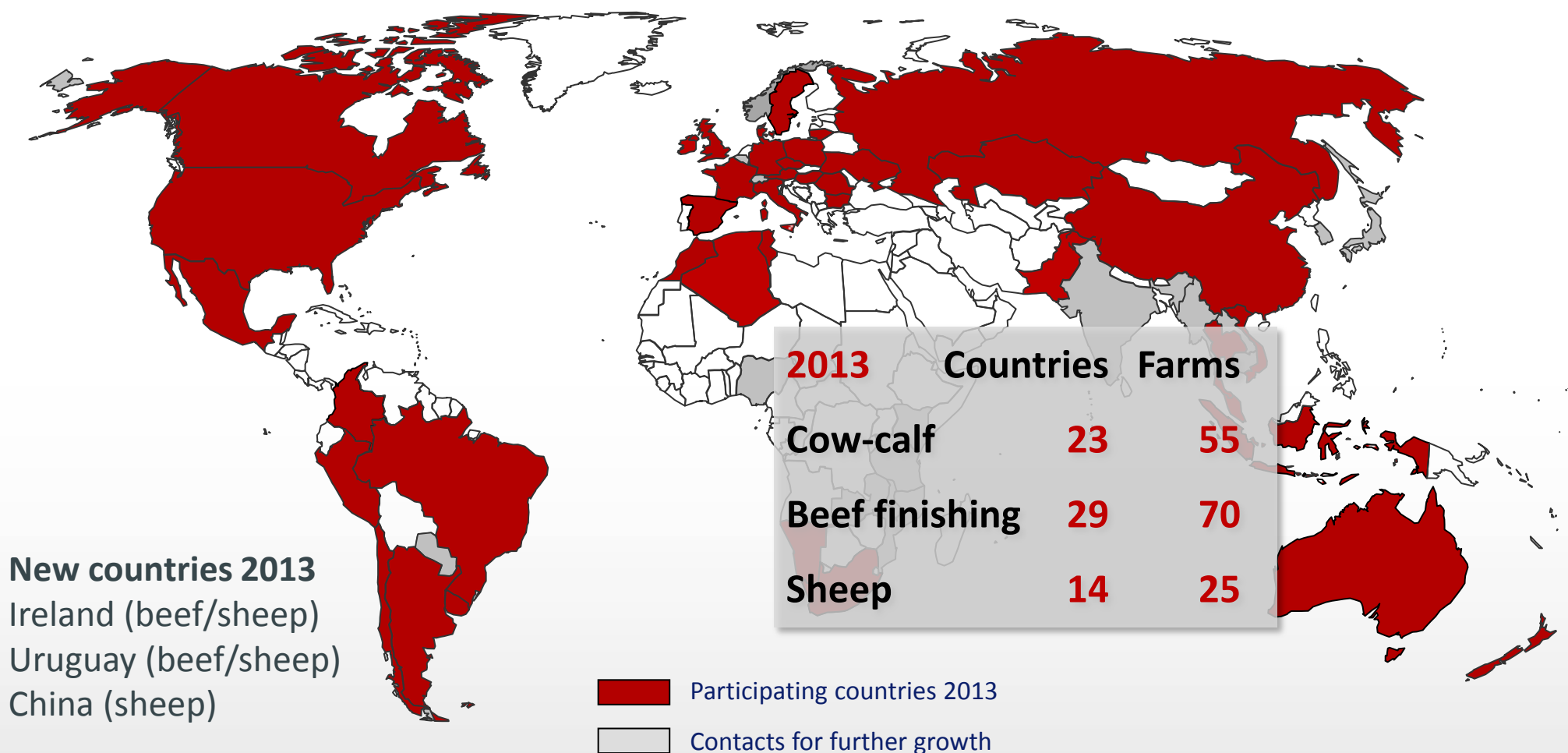
## Coordination



# Branches in the *agri benchmark* Network



# Countries in the *agri benchmark* Network





# Research partners of the Beef and Sheep Network



Meat Board of Namibia



National Agricultural Marketing Council  
Strategic positioning of South African Agriculture in dynamic global markets



SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE AGRICULTURA Y ALIMENTACIÓN  
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE PRODUCCIONES Y MERCADOS AGRARIOS



# Typical farms – the principle

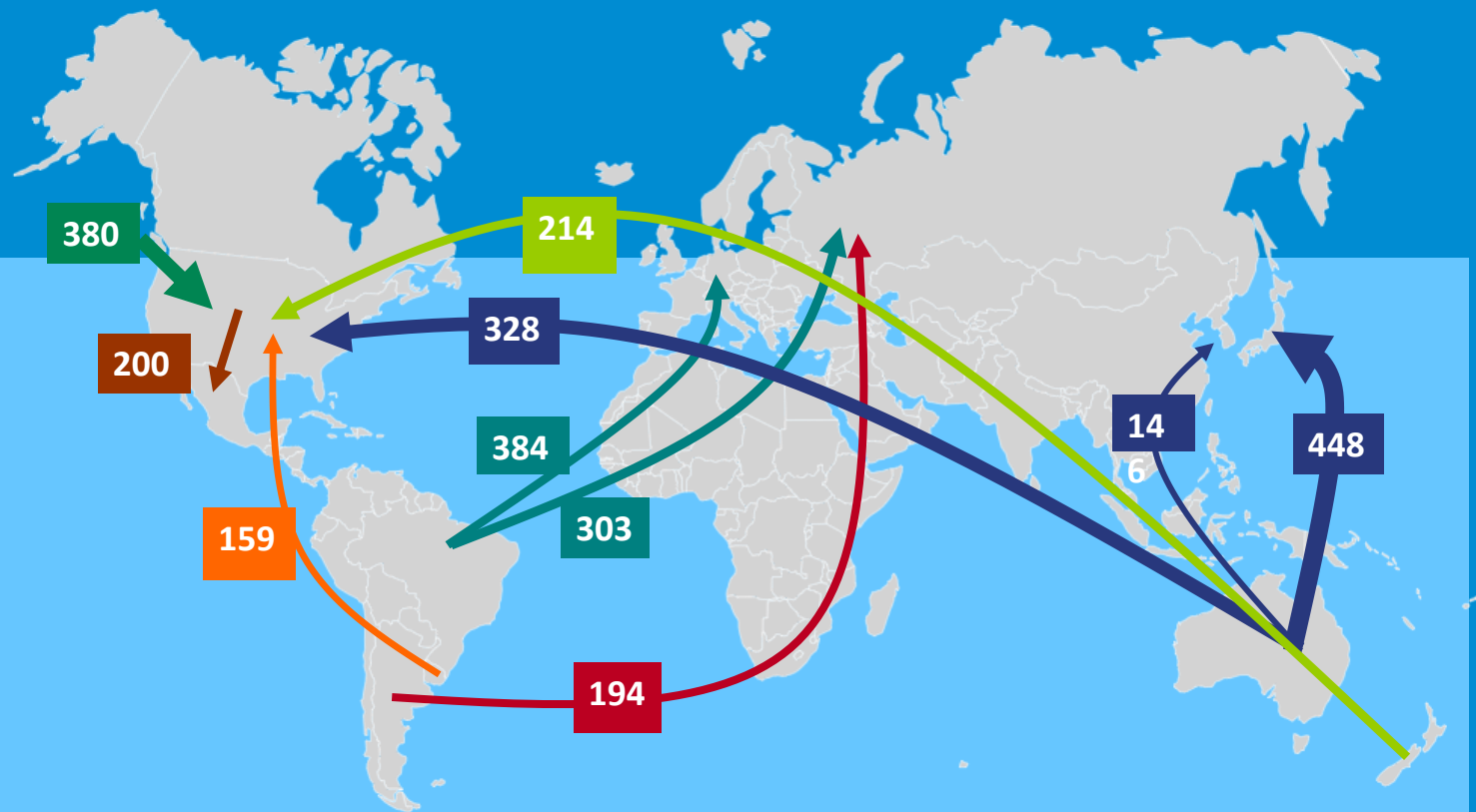
Imagine you have a guest from a foreign country who is interested to see how **sheep** farming is done in your country.

You would want to show your guest a farm that is

- ... located in an **important** sheep producing **region**,
- ... using the **common technology** for sheep production,
- ... running the **prevailing** production **system**,
- ... having a not too small and not too big **size**,
- ... using the prevailing combination of **labour**, **land** and **capital**.

**In other words, you want to show your guest a typical farm!**

# Global figures



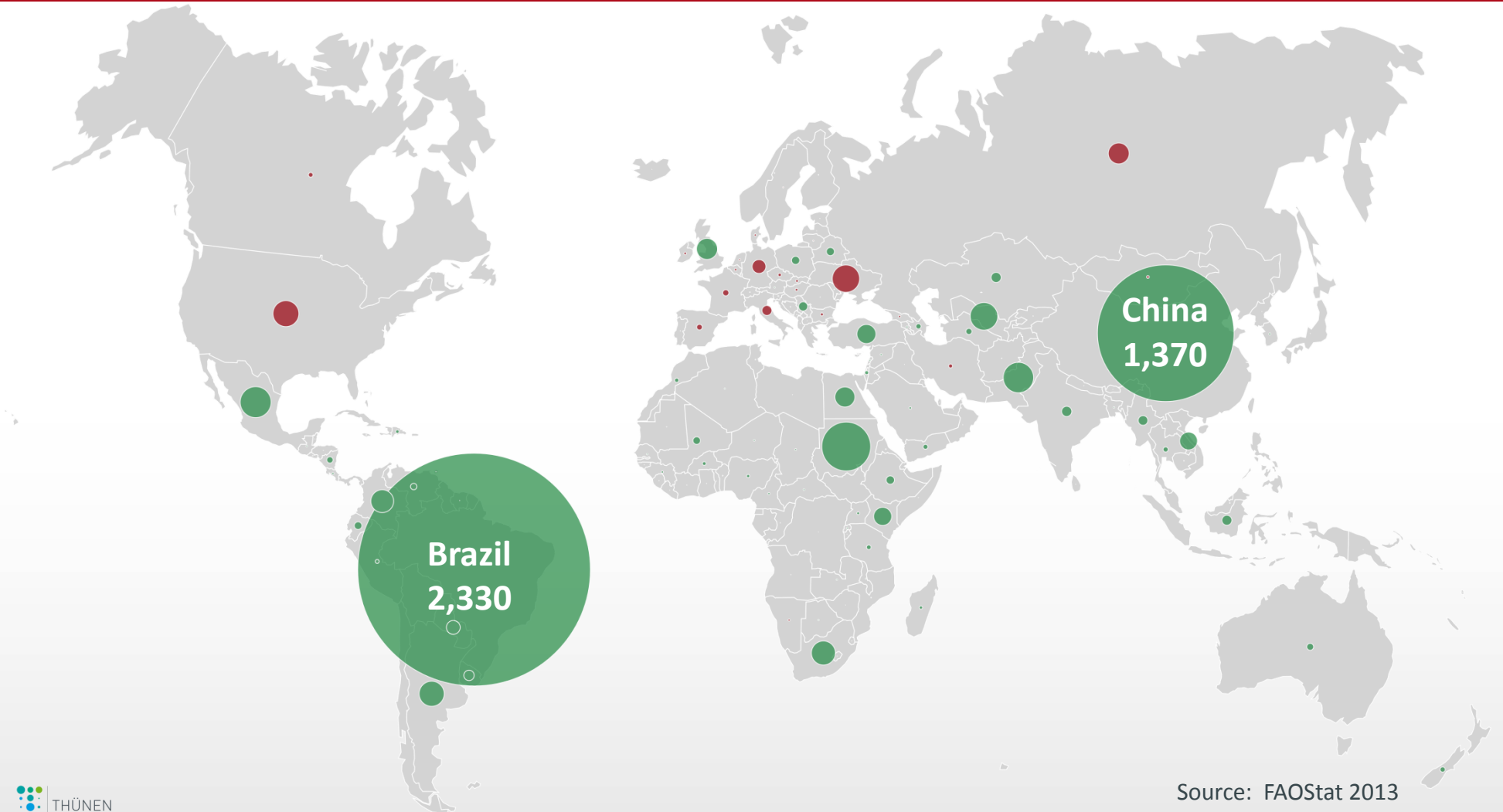
# The world's top beef producers 2011 ('000 tons)





# Brazil and China were the ,growth promoters' for beef

Average 2009-2011 vs. 2000-2002 ('000 tons)

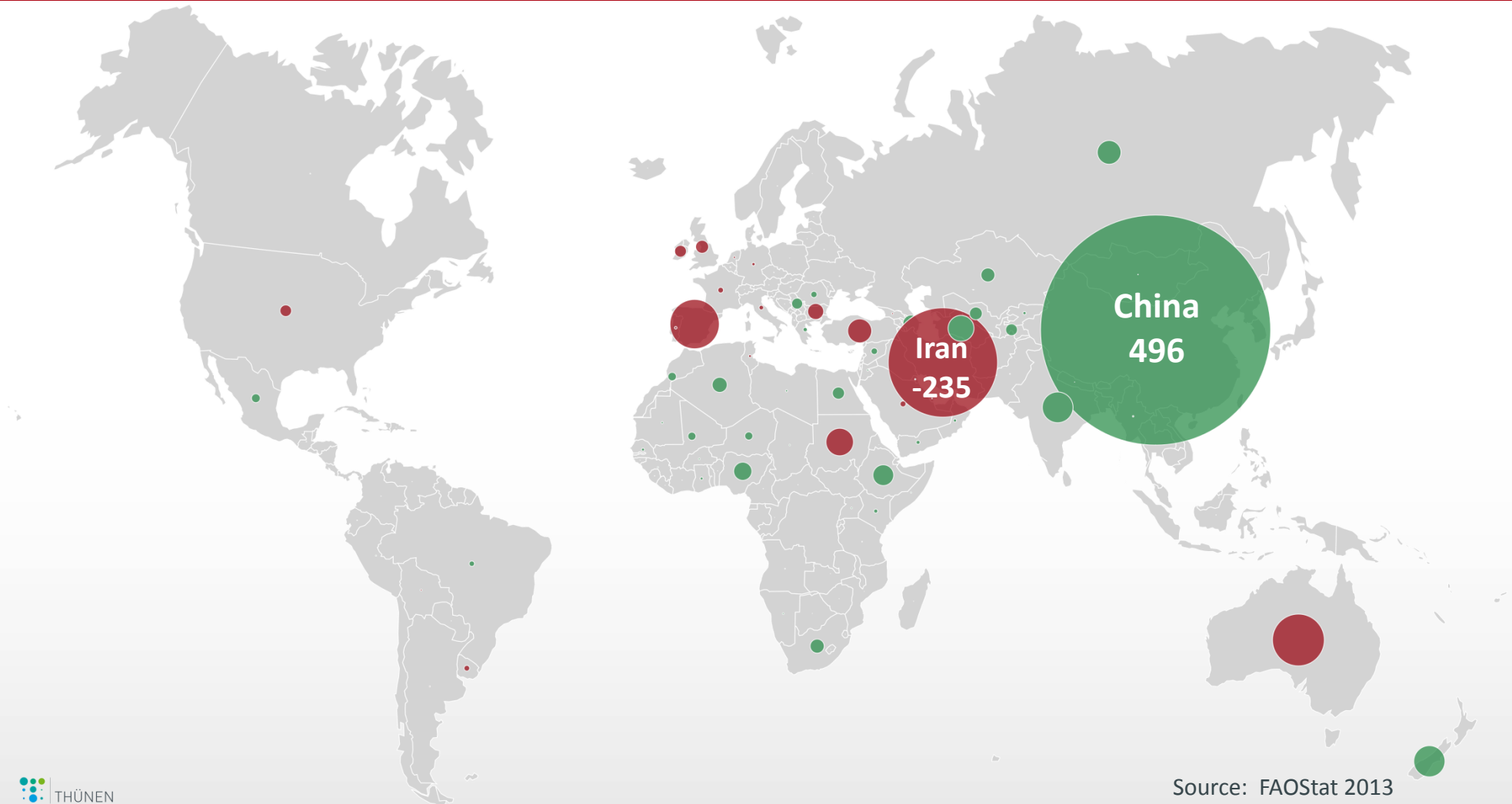


# China dominates sheep production 2011 ('000 tons)



# Sheep production developments diverse

Average 2009-2011 vs. 2000-2002 ('000 tons)



# China dominates (!) pig production 2011 ('000 tons)



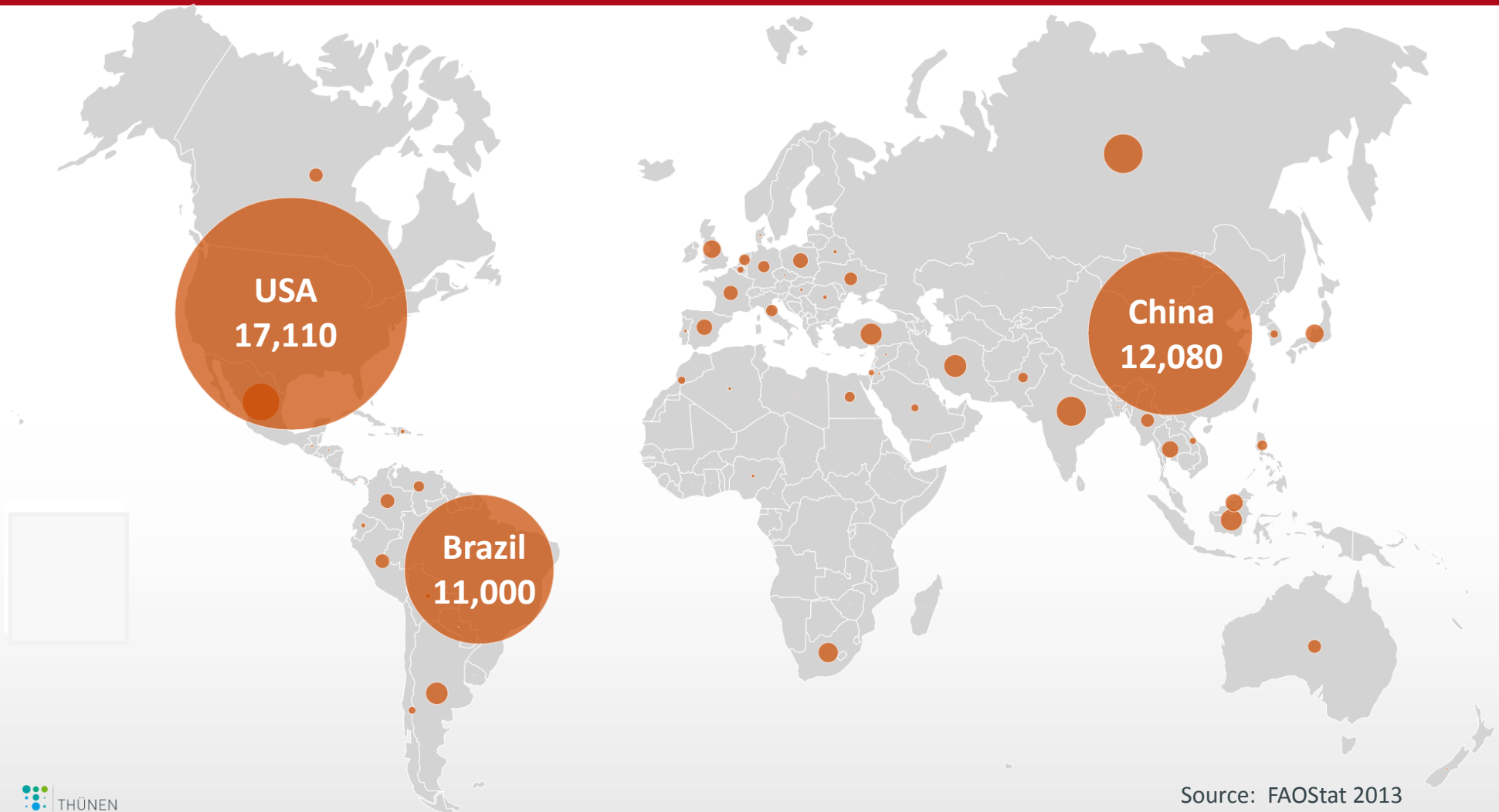


# China, USA and Vietnam with biggest growth in pig

Average 2009-2011 vs. 2000-2002 ('000 tons)

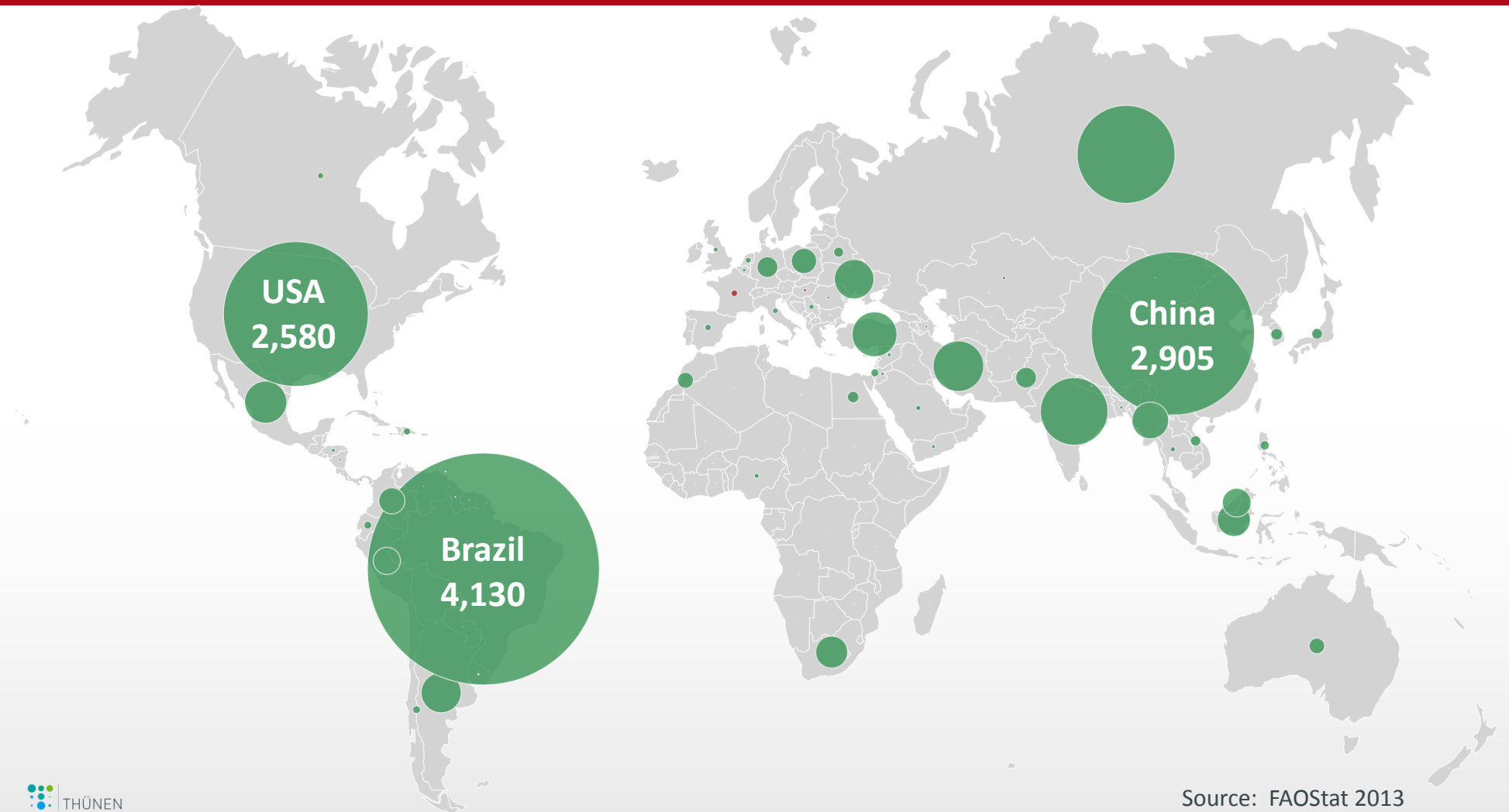


## USA, China, Brazil lead chicken production 2011 ... ('000 tons)



# .. and they also lead chicken expansion

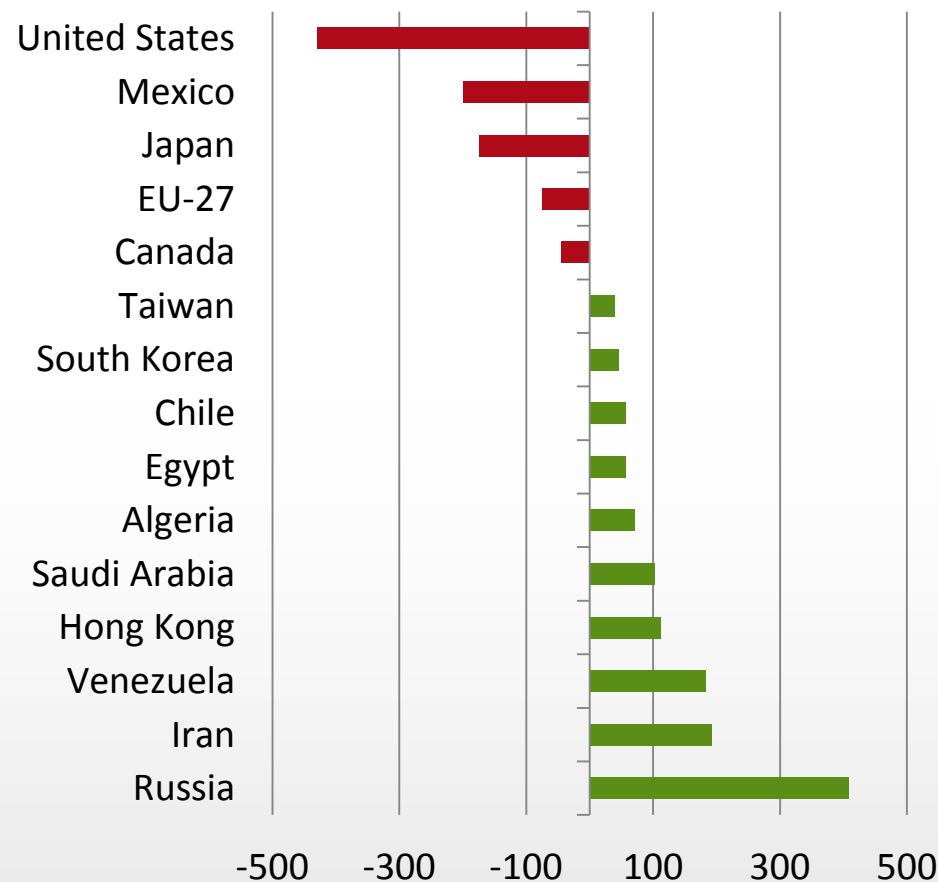
Average 2009-2011 vs. 2000-2002 ('000 tons)



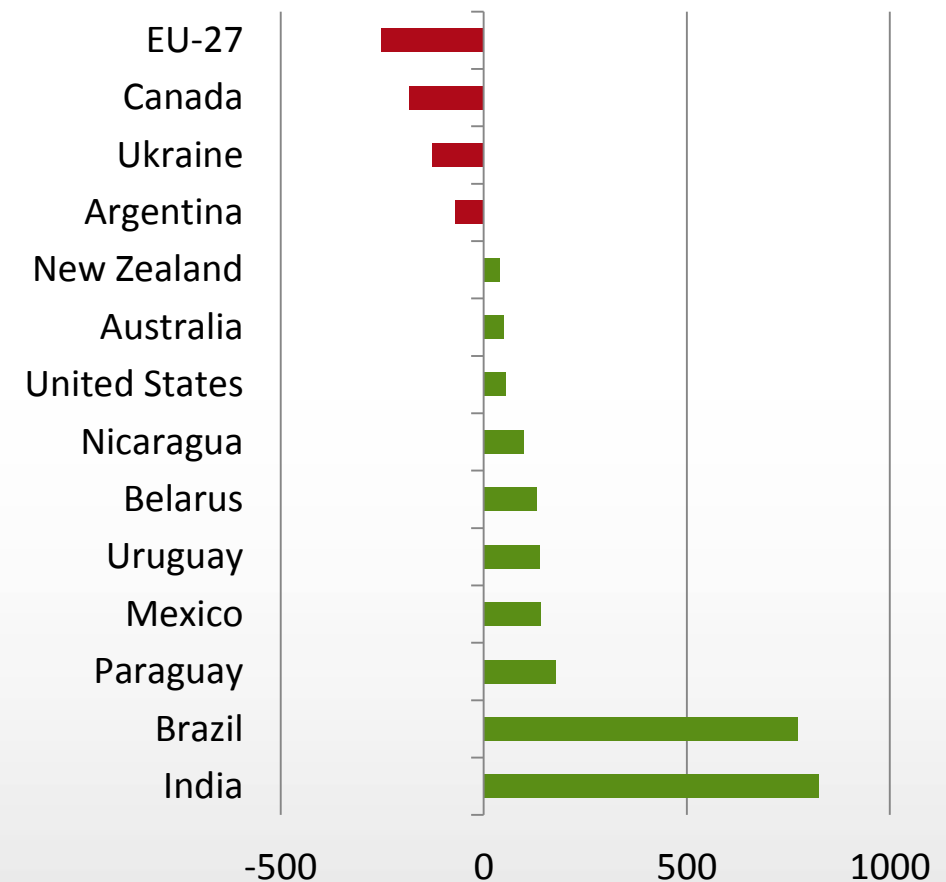
# Winners and losers in beef trade

## Average 2010-2012 vs. average 2000-2002

### Beef imports ('000 tons)



### Beef exports ('000 tons) Source: FPD/FAS/USDA

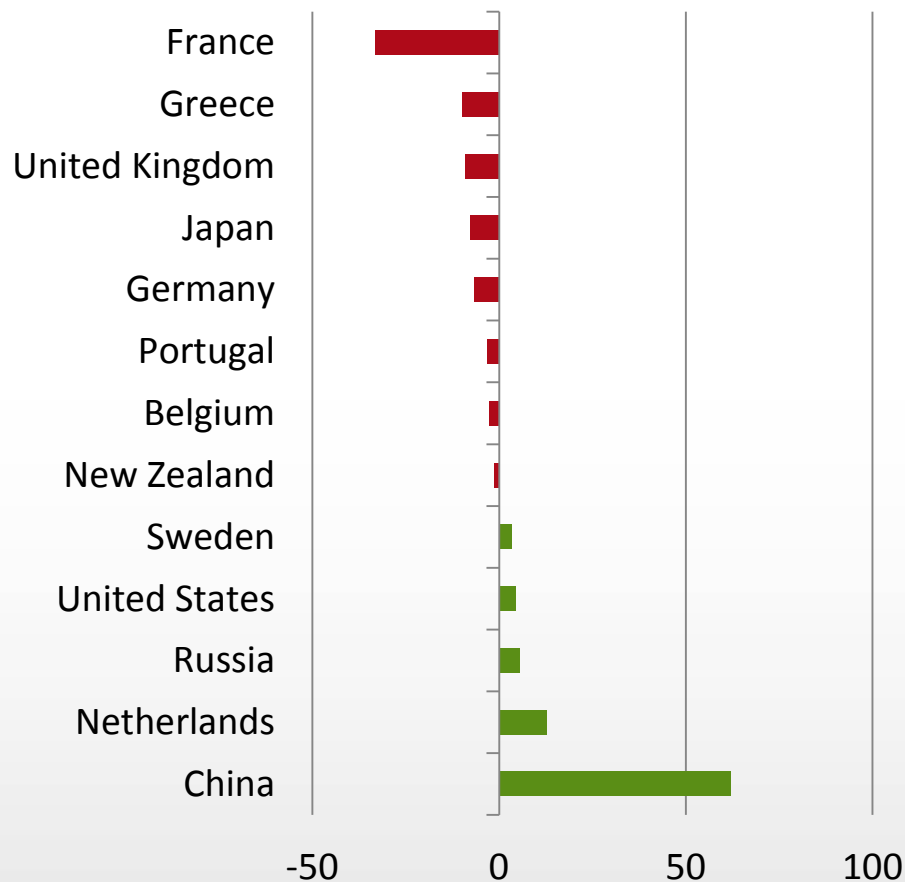




# Winners and losers in sheep trade

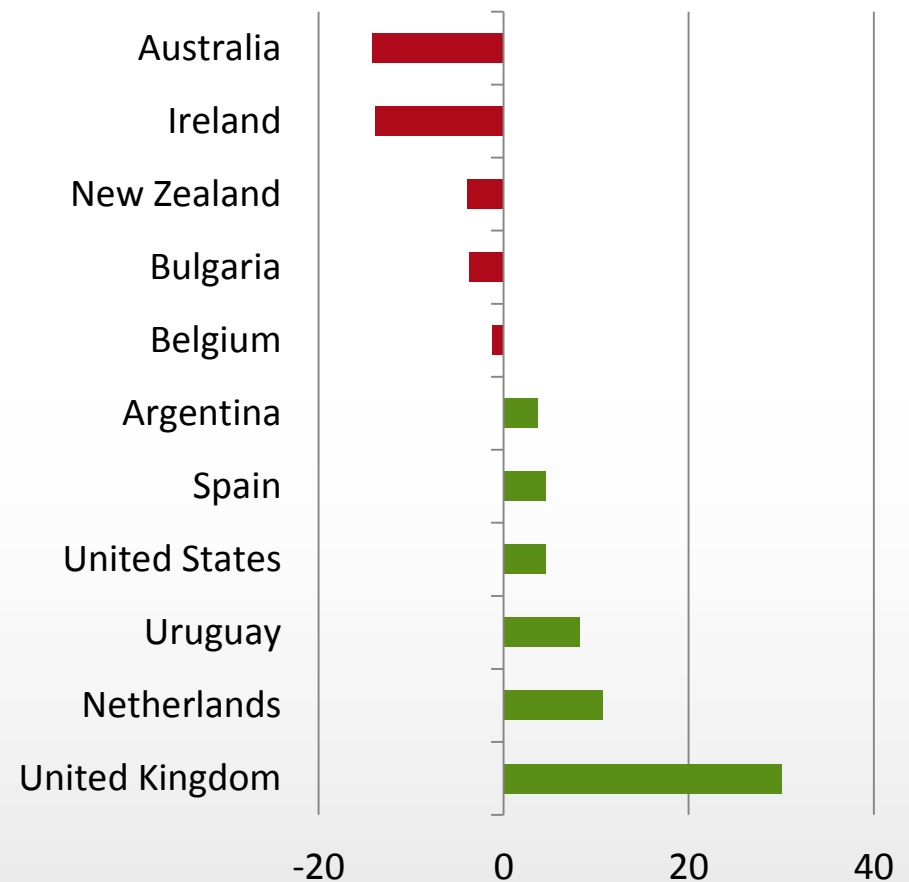
## Average 2010-2012 vs. average 2000-2002

### Sheep **imports** ('000 tons)



### Sheep **exports** ('000 tons)

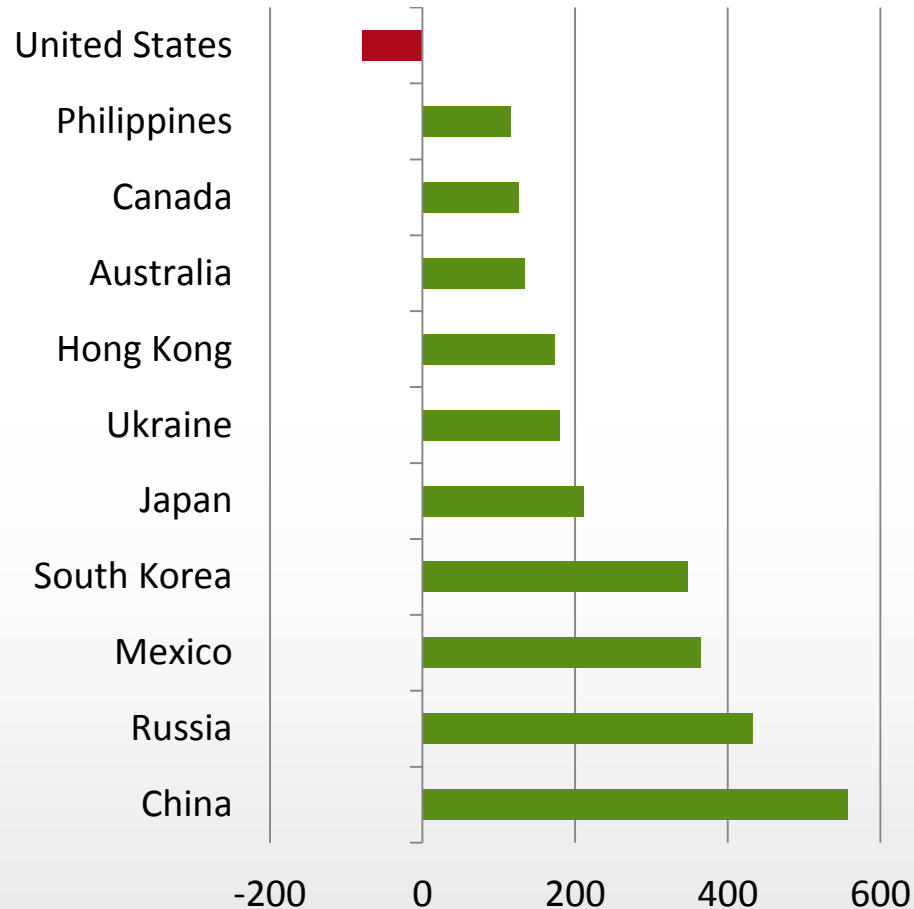
Source:: GTIS



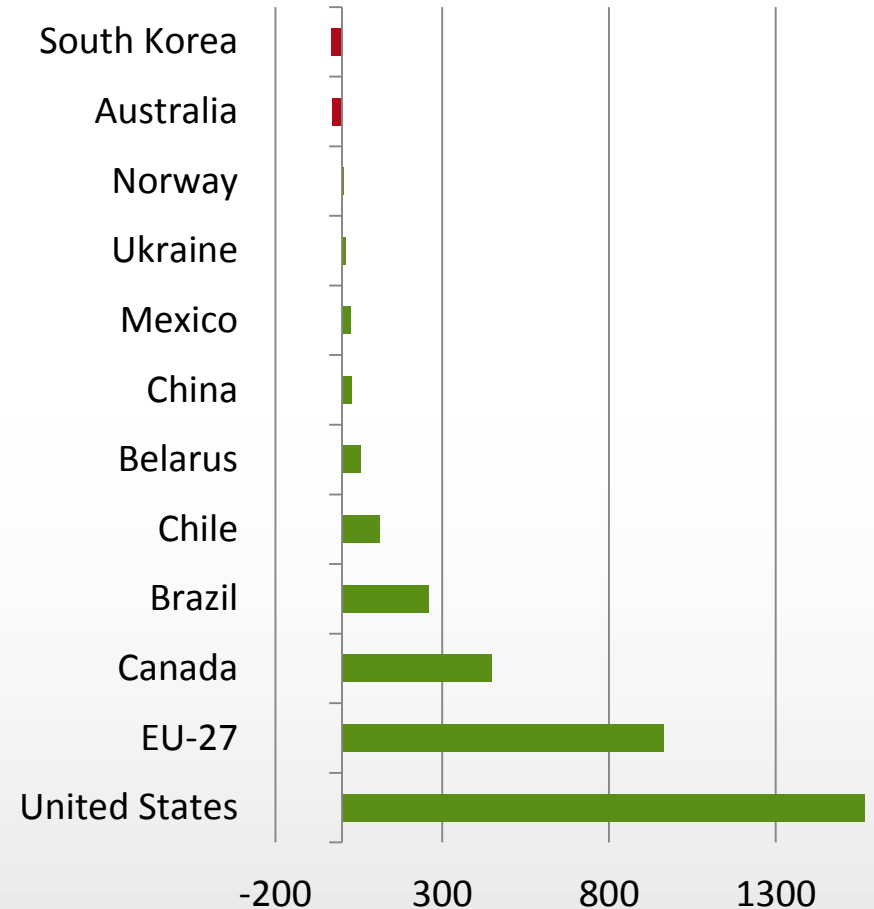
# Winners and losers in pig trade

## Average 2010-2012 vs. average 2000-2002

### Pig imports ('000 tons)



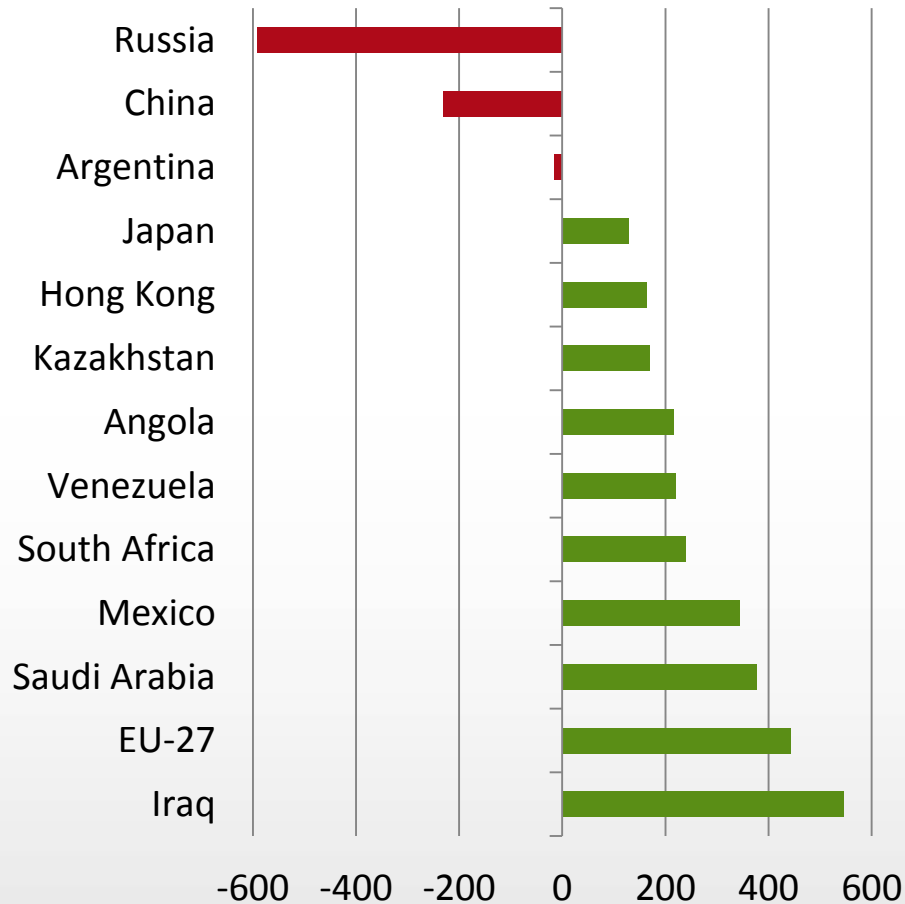
### Pig exports ('000 tons) Source: FPD/FAS/USDA



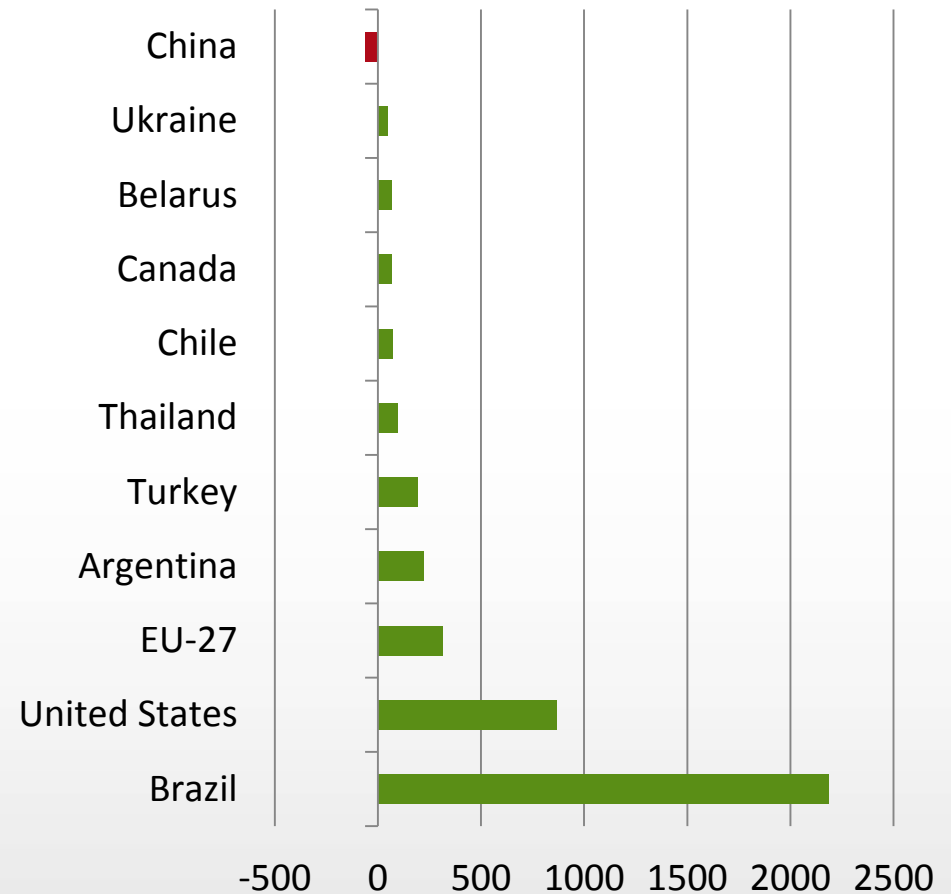
# Winners and losers in chicken trade

## Average 2010-2012 vs. average 2000-2002

### Chicken **imports** ('000 tons)



### Chicken **exports** ('000 tons) Source: FPD/FAS/USDA



# Drivers





# Fundamentals basically unchanged

## ... meets supply ...

Natural conditions, natural disasters,  
climate change

Framework conditions: policy, economic,  
technology

Production, productivity

## Growing demand ...

Population growth

Income growth

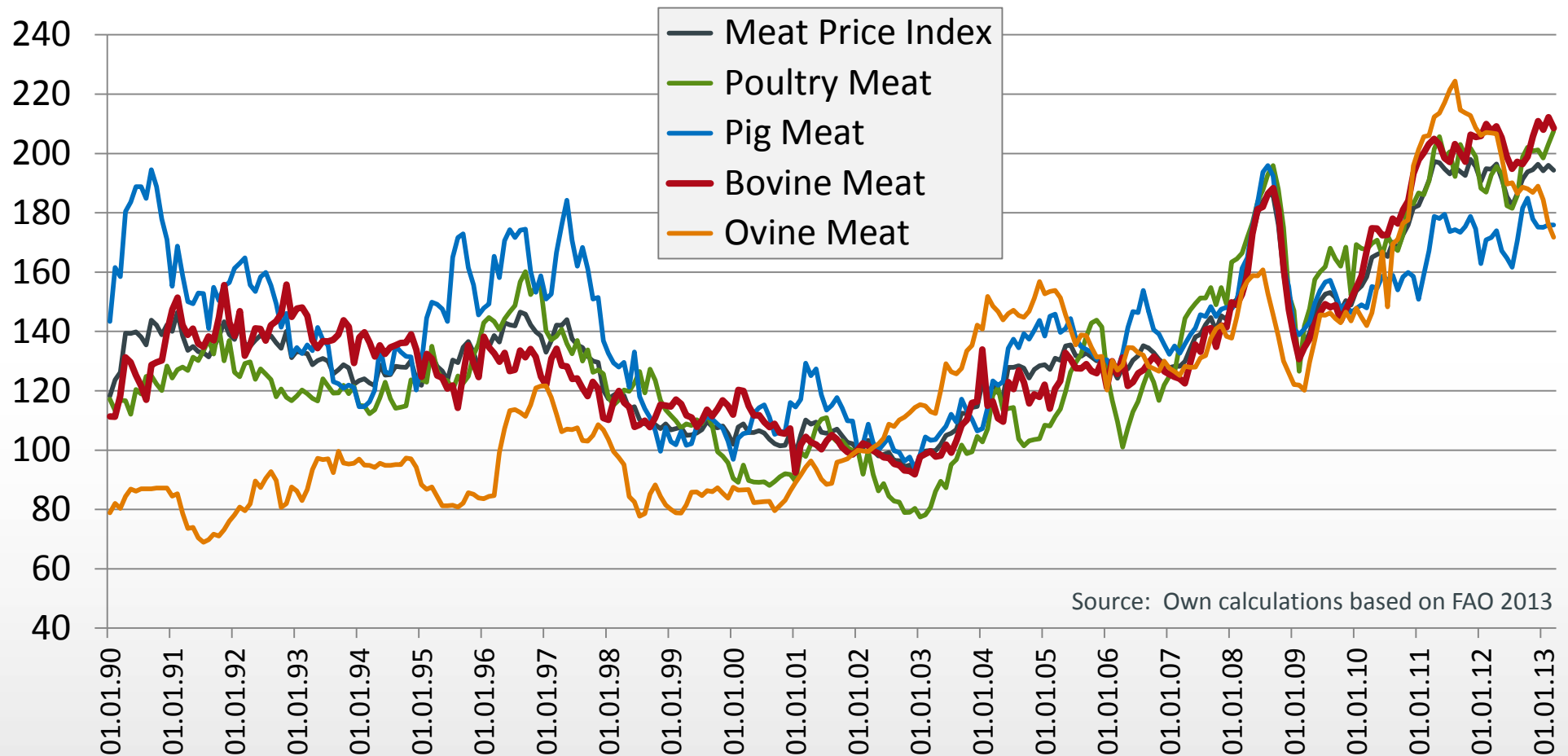
Changing eating habits

## ... and results in price developments

basically pointing upwards

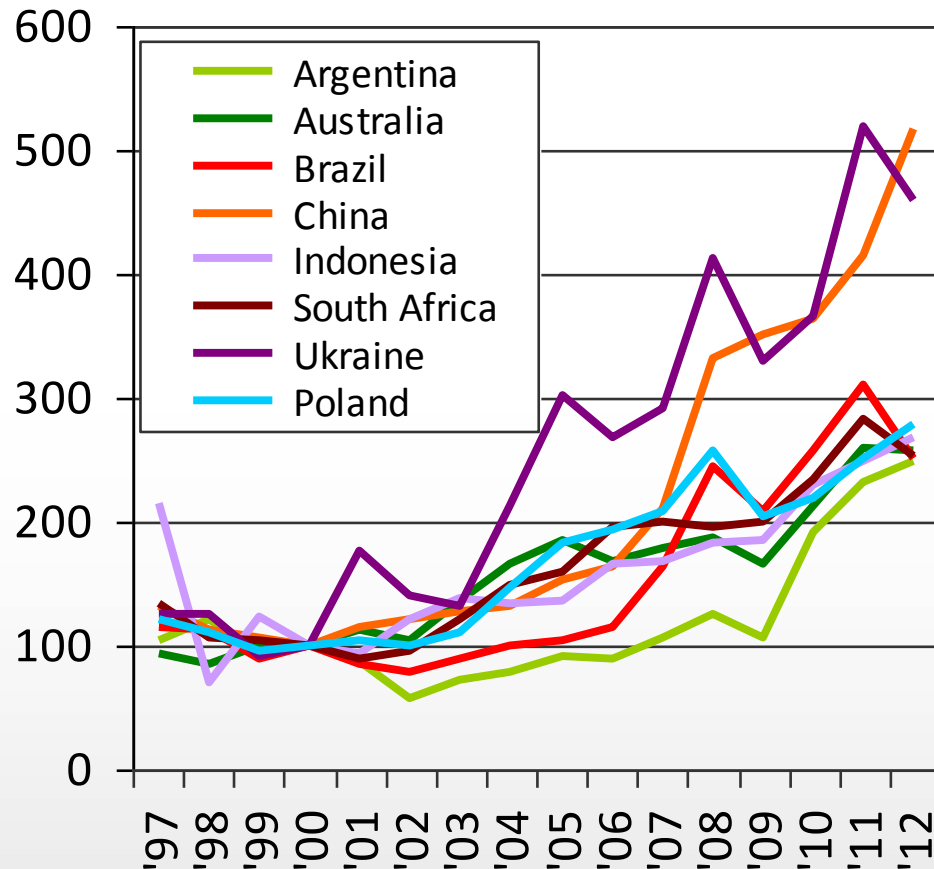
Source: [www.globalmeatnews.com](http://www.globalmeatnews.com)

# After years of decline meat prices point upwards (Index 2002 = 100)

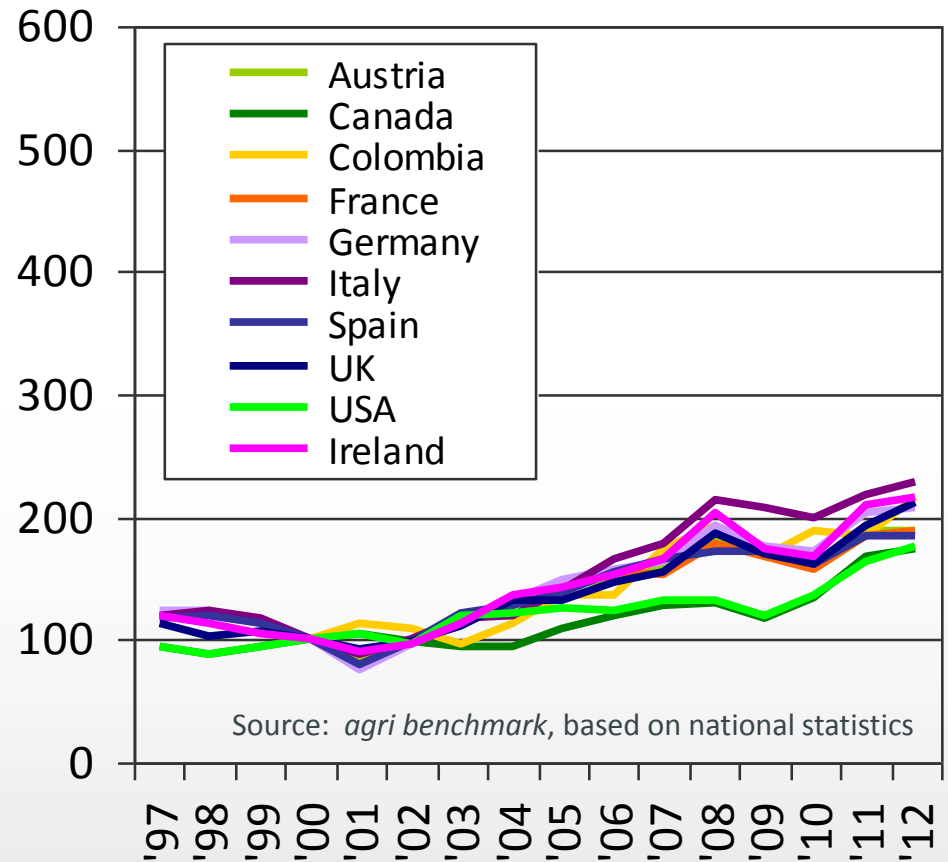


# Beef prices upwards 1997-2012 (Index 2000 = 100) ...

## Index well above 200 in 2012 (USD)



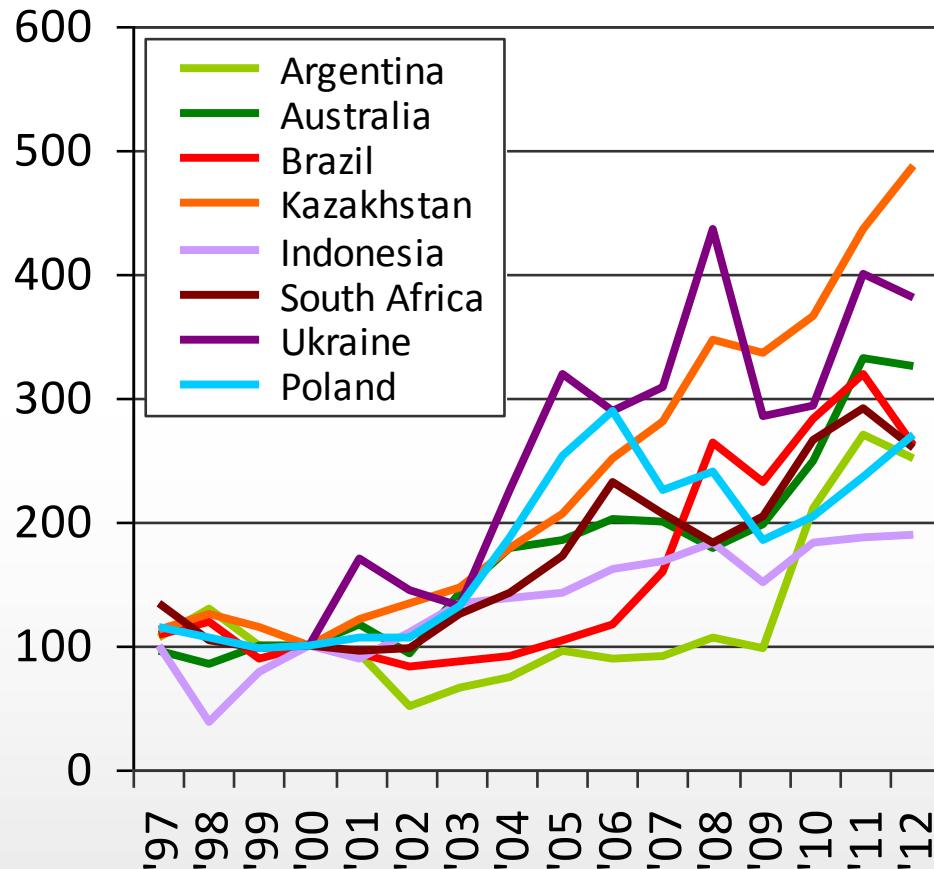
## Index around/less than 200 in 2012 (USD)



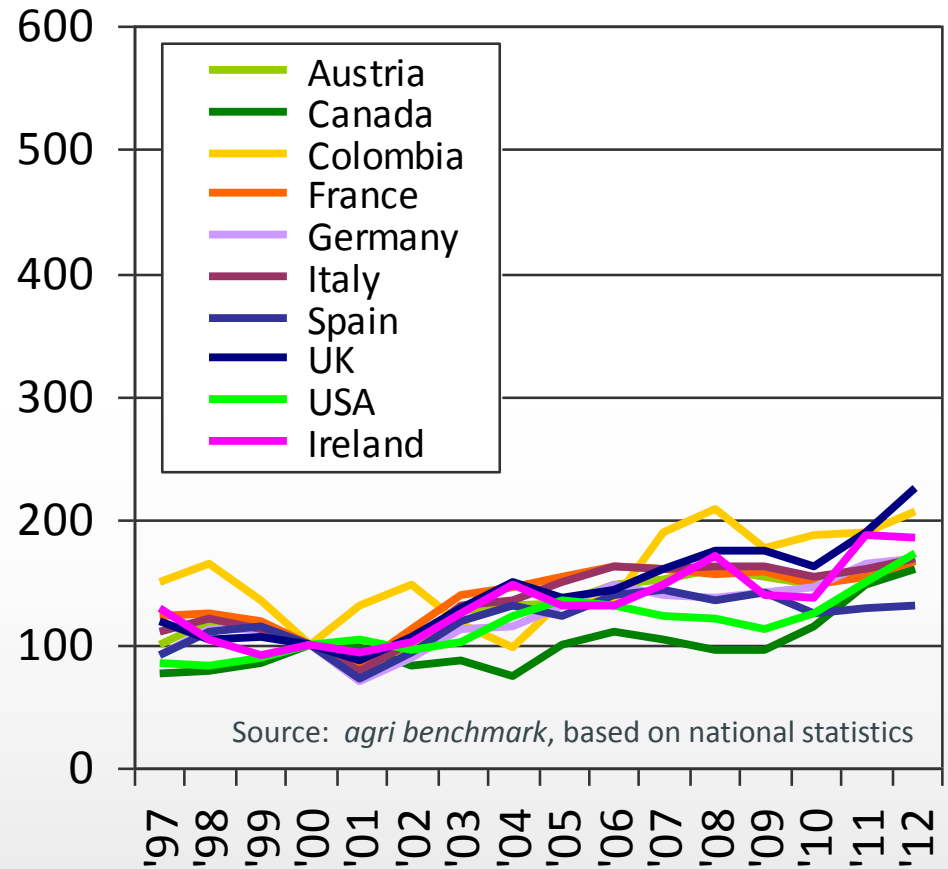
Source: agri benchmark, based on national statistics

# ... and livestock prices too (Index 2000 = 100)

Index well above/around 200 in 2012 (USD)



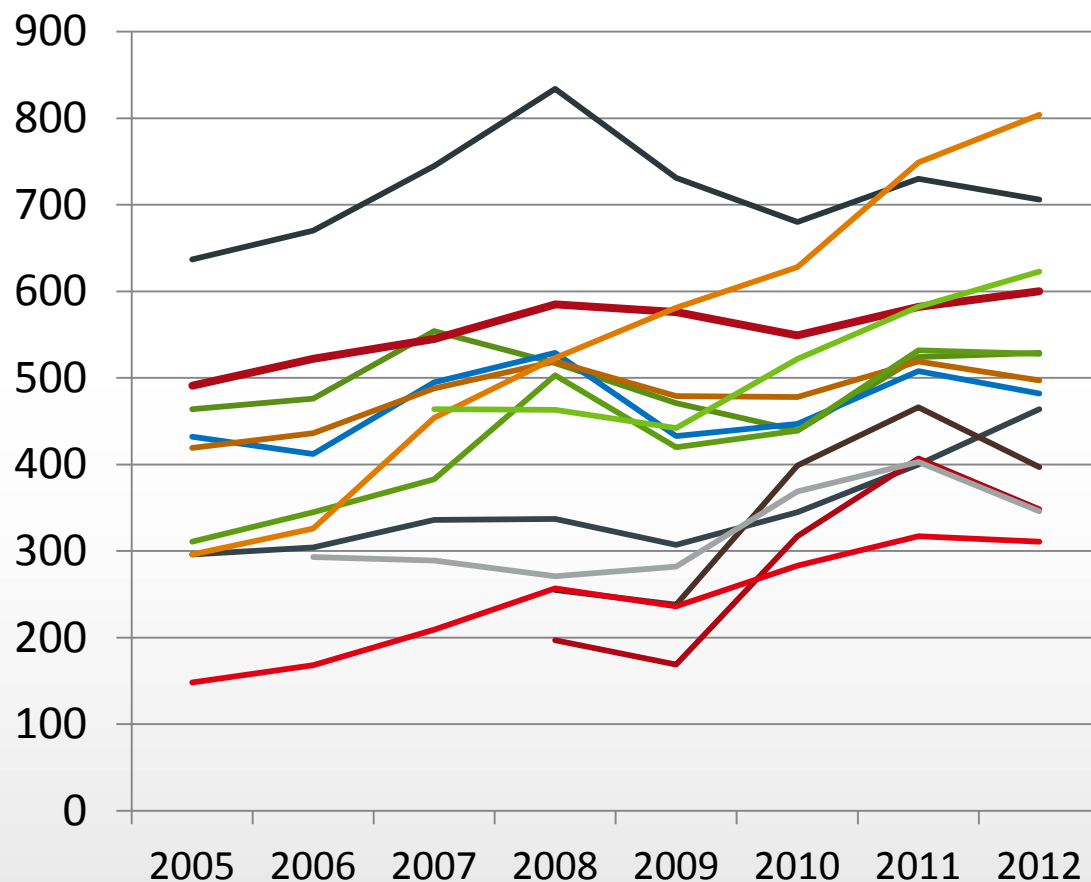
Index around/less than 200 in 2012 (USD)



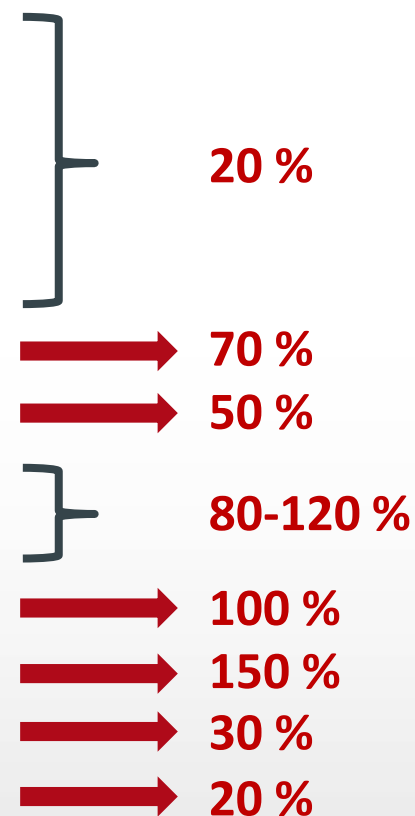
Source: agri benchmark, based on national statistics

# Cost developments 2005-2012 (USD and %)

USD per 100 kg carcass weight

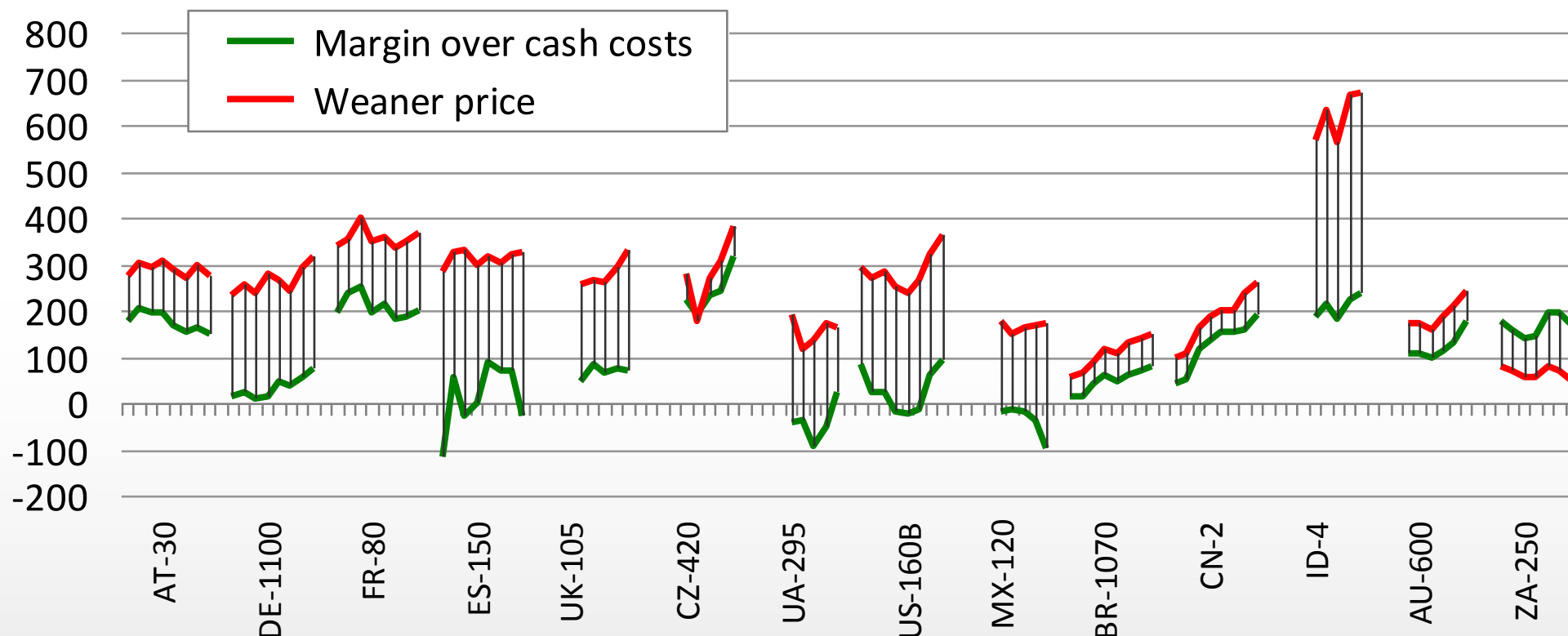


Increases in percent







# Cow-calf: margins mainly driven by weaner prices

USD per 100 kg live weight



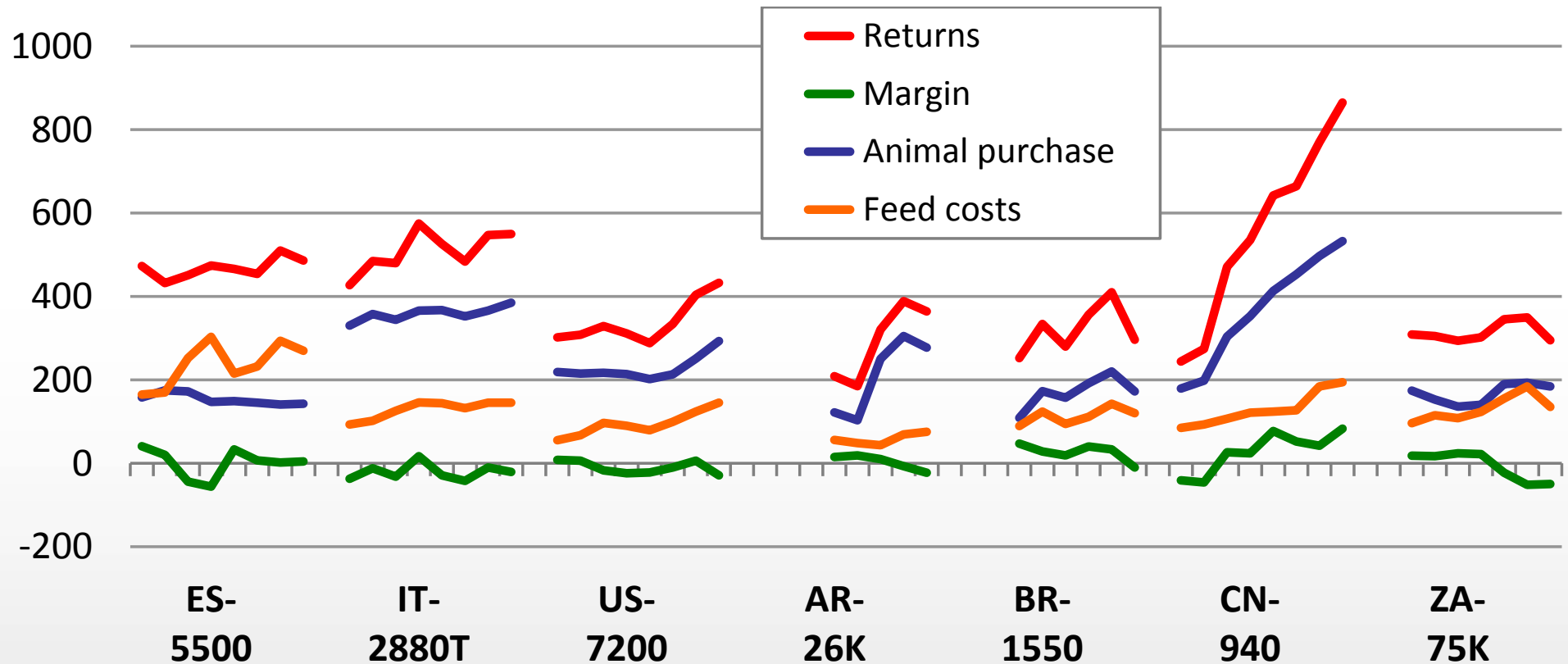


# 4 beef production systems

	Feed % in dry matter	Management/ Housing	Extent of purchase feed
 <b>Pasture</b>	> 30% pasture	Outdoor year round or part of the year	Low
 <b>Silage</b>	> 30% silage and other forages	Closed or semi-open barns with slatted floors and/or straw bedding	Medium
 <b>Feedlot</b>	> 50% grains and other energy feed	Confined, large, open pens, partially with sun-covers	High
 <b>Cut &amp; Carry</b>	> 30% freshly cut grass & other vegetation	Mix of pens and grazing of paths and paddies	Low

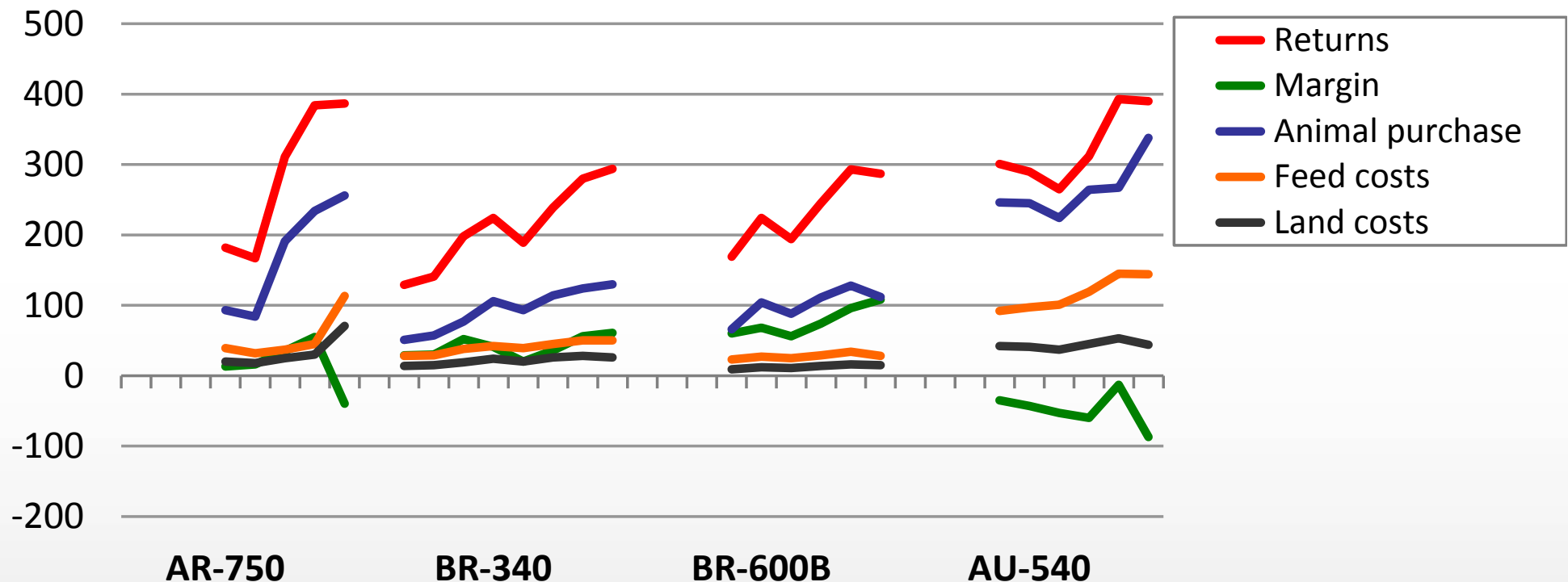
# Feedlots: low margins depend heavily on animal purchase and feed costs (2005-2012)

USD per 100 kg carcass weight

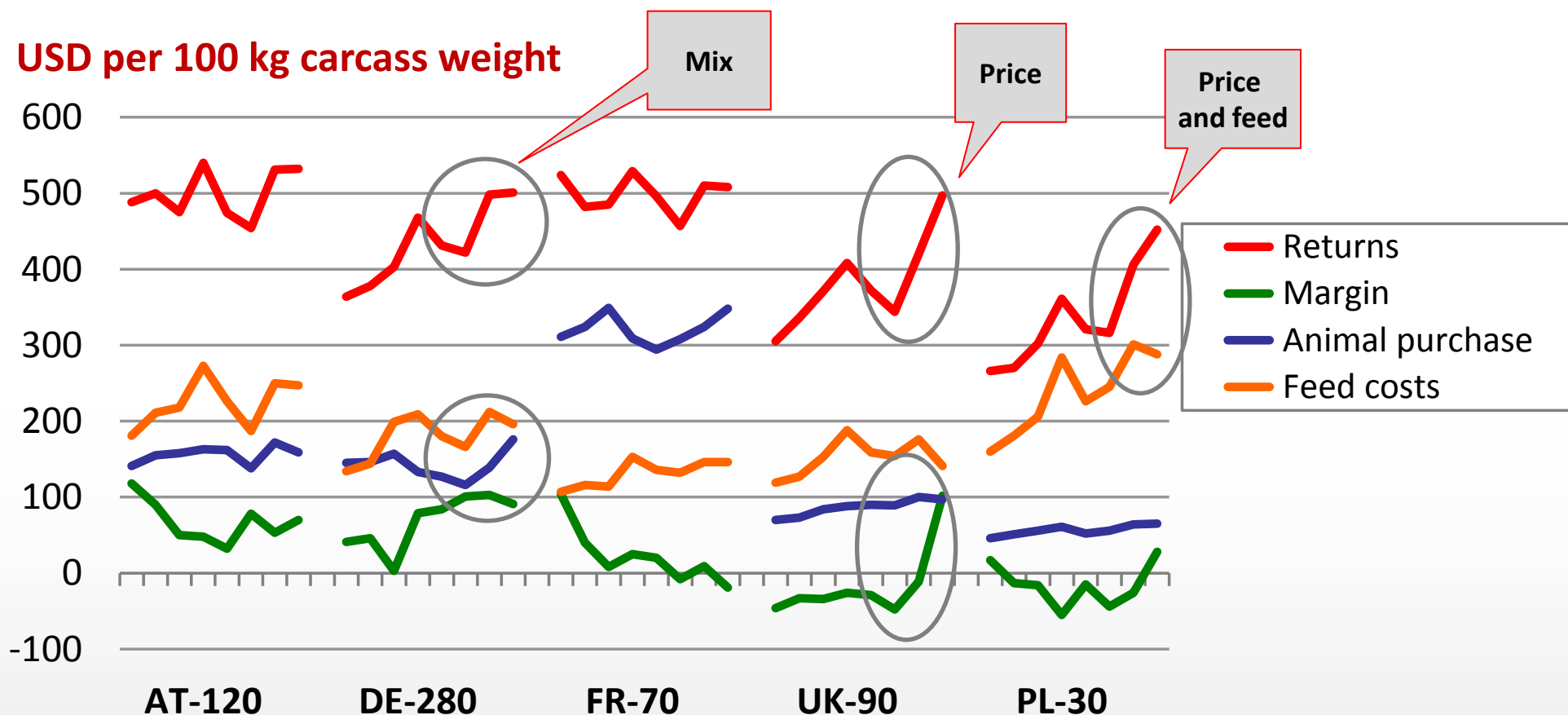


# Pasture farms (2005-2012): Margin depends mainly on beef price, animal purchase and land

USD per 100 kg carcass weight

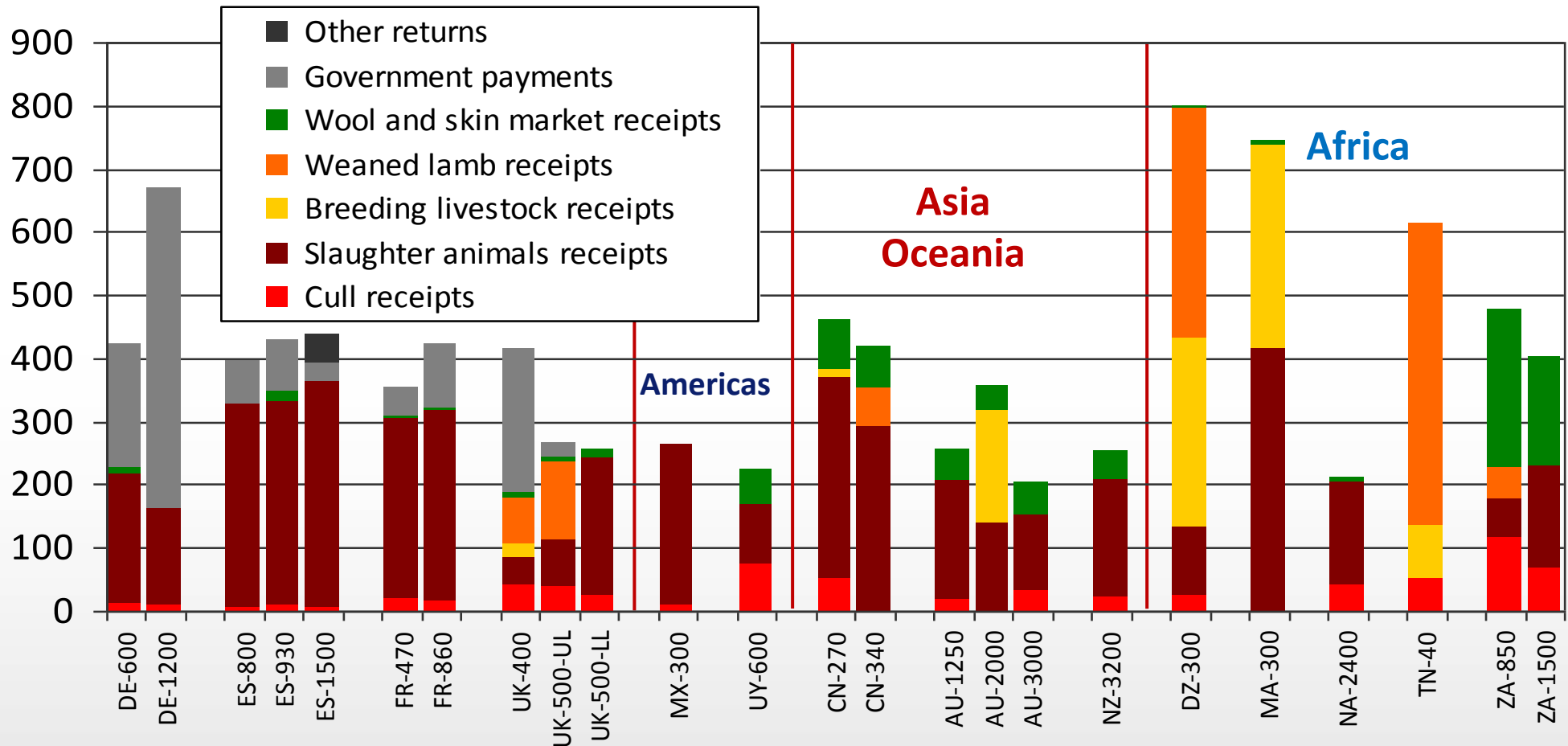


# Silage farms (2005-2012): mixed drivers



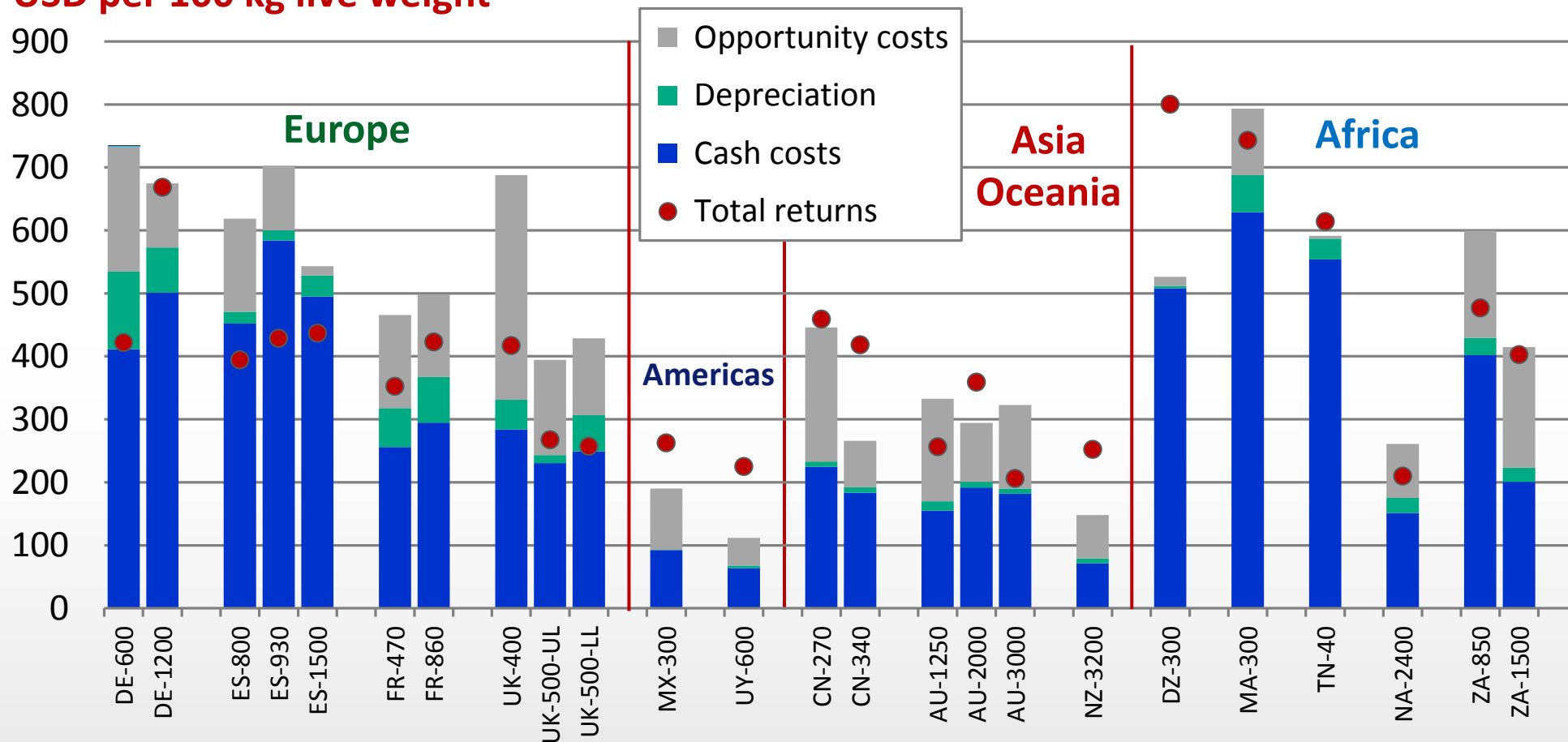
# Sheep receipts: a wide variation

USD per 100 kg live weight



# Sheep profitability: not everywhere bad ...

USD per 100 kg live weight





# Challenges



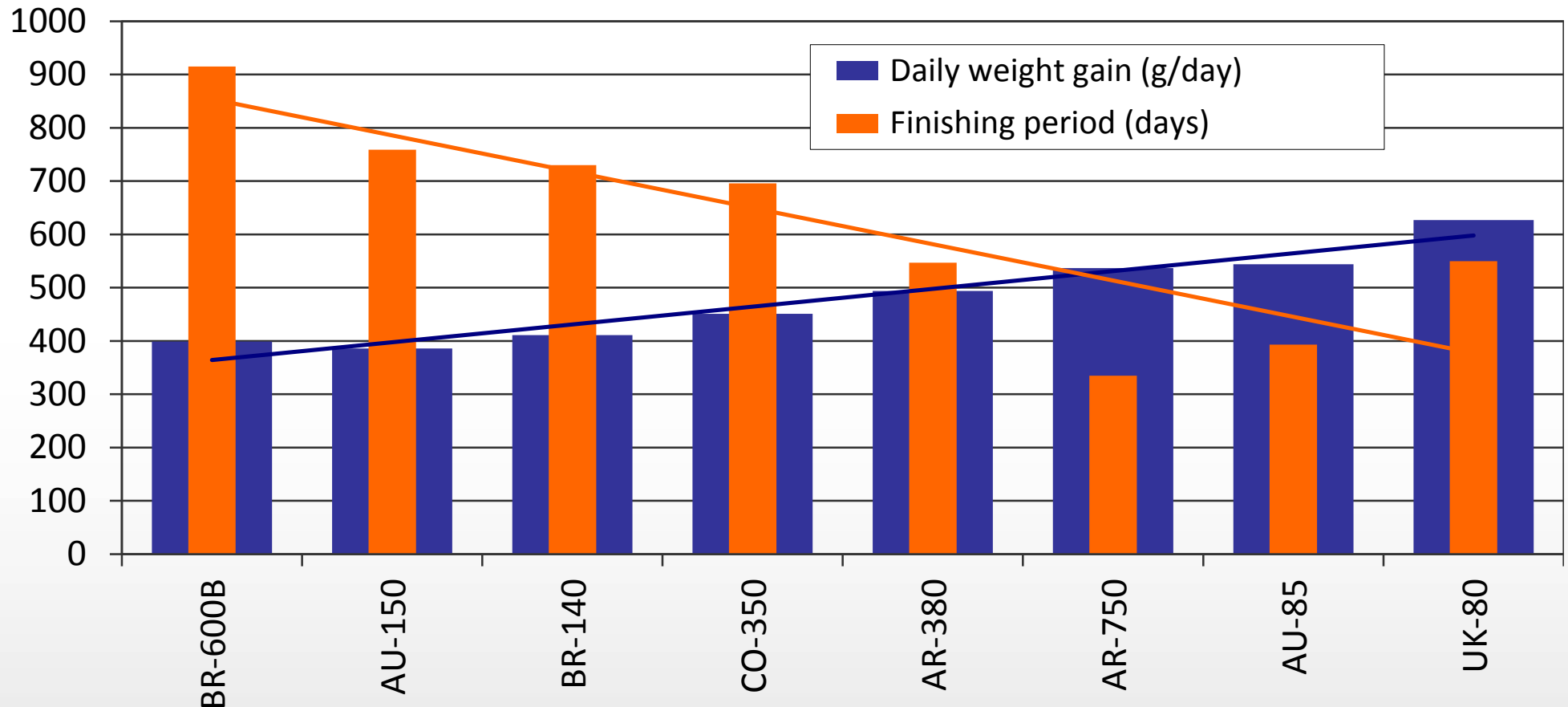
# Challenges (or drivers?)

- Diseases (Bird Flu, FMD, Schmallenberg, Blue Tongue)
- Technical barriers (growth promoters, ractopamine)
- Food safety and scandals  
(horse meat, E-coli, antibiotics ...)
- Animal welfare and related regulations  
(sow housing, castration of piglets, cage egg production ...)
- Environmental restrictions on production  
(license to produce)
- Exchange rates
- Health issues attributed to meat consumption
- Increasing vegetarianism (coming from low level)

# The particular challenge for beef

	Herbivores		Granivores	
	Beef	Sheep	Pig	Chicken
Land requirement	Can use (marginal) grasslands		Need grains	
Feed conversion	6 - 8		2.5 - 3.1	1.7 - 2.3
Cycles per year	0.3	(pasture)	3	10 - 11
	0.7-1	(silage)		
	2-3	(feedlot)		
<b>Emissions</b>				
animal	high	medium	low	low
manure	medium	low	high	medium
feed	low-medium	low-medium	depends on N used for grains	
sequestration	not clear	not clear	low	low
Convenience (prepare)	low	low-medium	medium-high	high

# Increasing performance in the pasture system



# Bridging the gap between top and bottom 25



## GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

- Multi-stakeholder approach coordinated by FAO/AGAL
- Gov'ts, NGOs, industry, research, FAO
- Three focus areas:
  1. Closing (“reducing”) the efficiency gap  
(*agri benchmark* / Ernesto Reyes chairs this Focus area)
  2. Restoring value to grassland (overgrazing, desertification ...)
  3. From waste to worth (manure, water, nutrient, environment)

# Increasing productivity in the pasture system

## More calves per cow

- Genetics
- Reproduction management
- Reduction of mortality/disease

## Improved pasture management

- Subdivision / fencing
- Rotational grazing
- Fertilisation
- New pasture varieties

>> more cows and calves per ha

>> higher weight gains

>> more weight per ha





# Moving finishing from pasture to feedlot

## Move cattle from pasture to feedlot

- Seasonal (Brazil), approx. 10 %
- Generally (Argentina), > 50 %
- 90-150 days

- >> less land required for finishing
- >> more cows/calves can be kept on remaining grassland
- >> higher carcass weights
- >> consistency of carcasses
- >> improved beef quality?
- >> environmental issues?



# Ingredients

## Incentives

- Prices rather than subsidies
- Integration of producers (where does my beef go?)

## Technology

- Genetics
- Mechanisation
- Growth promoters

## Analysis / benchmarking

- With others and over time
- Buy or share a weigher
- Participate in *agri benchmark*

## Management

- Animals (health, performance)
- Feed (yield and quality)
- Marketing

## (Further) education

- Research
- Extension and advisory

# My personal conclusions

- High meat prices (and costs) in the world, not only in Europe
- Profitability low and driven by feed, land, energy and labour (mainly in emerging economies)
- (Decoupled) government payments and other enterprises important for whole farm profitability
- Sheep in 2012 slightly better off than beef
- Productivity increases will happen, mainly in pasture systems and through transition of finishing from pasture to feedlot
- Big potential from reducing the gap between bottom 25 and top 25
- Education, incentives and extension services are key



*agri benchmark*  
– **passionate about facts**

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