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Understanding, managing, and improving animal health – The Swiss Animal Health Info System

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AgroVet Strickhof Conference October 28, 2025



National strategies to strengthen animal health



- Strengthening prevention and early detection ("healthy animals – safe food – healthy people")
- Targeted or reduced use of veterinary medicines
- Confidence in the production and quality of Swiss food



Strengthening herd management (herd diagnostics) as an essential element for achieving the objectives

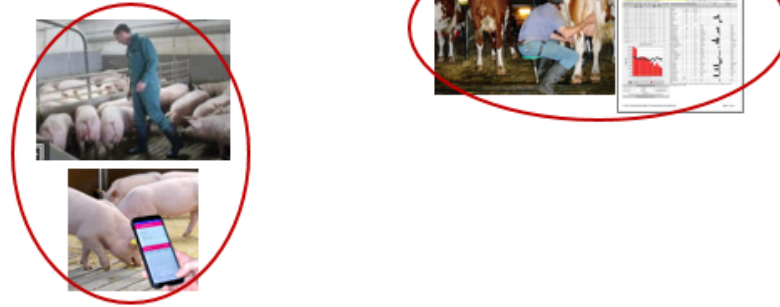


Importance of herd management in the context of national strategies

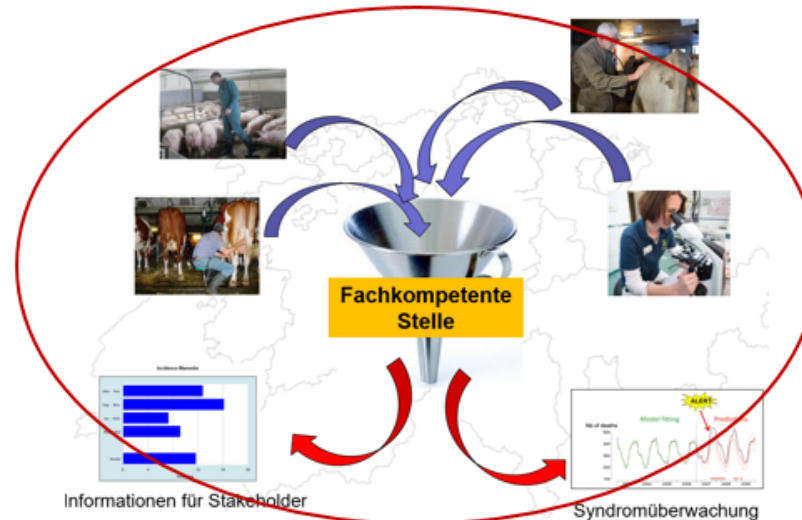


QUALITÄTS STRATEGIE SCHWEIZER LAND- UND ERNÄHRUNGSWIRTSCHAFT
STRATEGIE SECTEUR AGRO- ALIMENTAIRE SUISSE
QUALITÉ

➤ Bestandesebene



➤ Nationale Ebene



Veterinarian + farmer =
herd management

Central information evaluation and
forwarding → early implementation of
(preventive) measures possible



Example: pigs: existing programs

PathoPig (since 2014)

- Financial support for investigating herd problems using autopsy diagnostics by the FSVO
- Livestock veterinarian → Livestock visit → Selection and submission of the animal(s) for **autopsy** to a participating laboratory

ZoE-BTA: "Targeted sampling by the herd veterinarian" (since 2023)

- Cooperation with SVSM and VETSUISSE
- Supplement to *PathoPig* (analogous framework conditions for farms)
- Specialized herd veterinarians → "Farm **autopsy**" → Targeted **sampling** and laboratory submission

→ Central recording of all data (Excel forms) → "Health monitoring" and early detection of trends



Digitization: Viewpoint of the FSVO / Swiss Veterinary Service

Die Schwerpunkte

Infektionskrankheiten und Zoonosen bleiben ein Schwerpunkt. Sie werden dabei stärker im Sinne von One Health betrachtet: Die Gesundheit von Mensch und Tier soll gemeinsam gefördert und erhalten werden. Nur durch eine ganzheitliche Betrachtungsweise von komplexen Gesundheitsproblemen können Zusammenhänge aufgedeckt und sektorübergreifende Massnahmen ergriffen werden, um die Gesundheit von Mensch und Tier sowie eine intakte Umwelt längerfristig zu bewahren.



Die Digitalisierung schreitet auch in Bereichen der Tiergesundheit voran. In Zusammenarbeit mit den verschiedenen Akteuren sollen die Möglichkeiten zur Stärkung der Tiergesundheit ausgeschöpft werden. Dabei soll unter anderem die Datenerfassung und -auswertung optimal genutzt werden, um allfällig vorhandene Tiergesundheitsprobleme frühzeitig zu erkennen. So können nötigenfalls rasch Massnahmen zur Verbesserung der Tiergesundheit ergriffen werden.

Die strategische Zusammenarbeit vieler Beteiligten ist notwendig, um die Tiergesundheit nachhaltig zu sichern. Die Zusammenarbeit des Veterinärdienstes Schweiz mit anderen Akteuren im Bereich Tiergesundheit soll gezielt weiter gestärkt werden.





Digitalization: FOAG perspective

- FOAG leadership for the **"Charter on the Digitization of the Swiss Agricultural and Food Industry"** (2018)
 - Strengthening benefits
 - Reducing administrative burden
 - Transparency in data use/data protection
 - Open exchange via interfaces
 - Added value through data networking





Importance of herd management in the context of national strategies

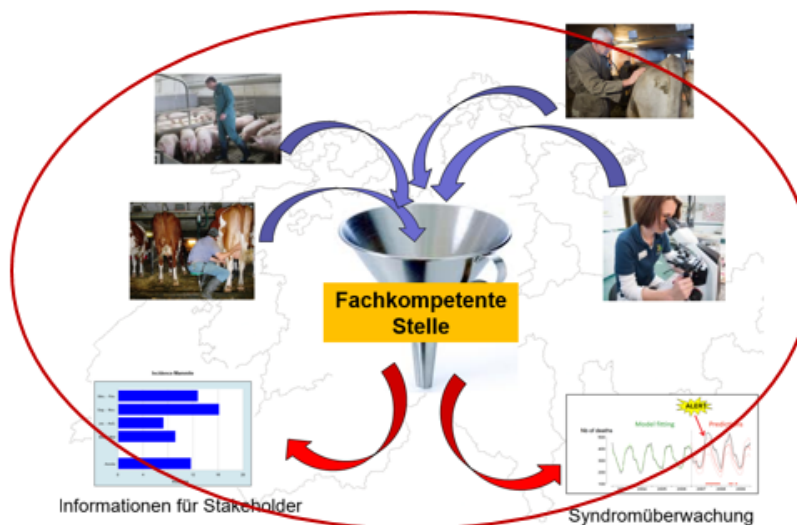


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Veterinarian + farmer =
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Prerequisite: Systematic digital
recording and use of data

Central information evaluation and
forwarding → early implementation of
(preventive) measures possible



"Pig Health Network Platform"

Founded in 2017 with the following members:

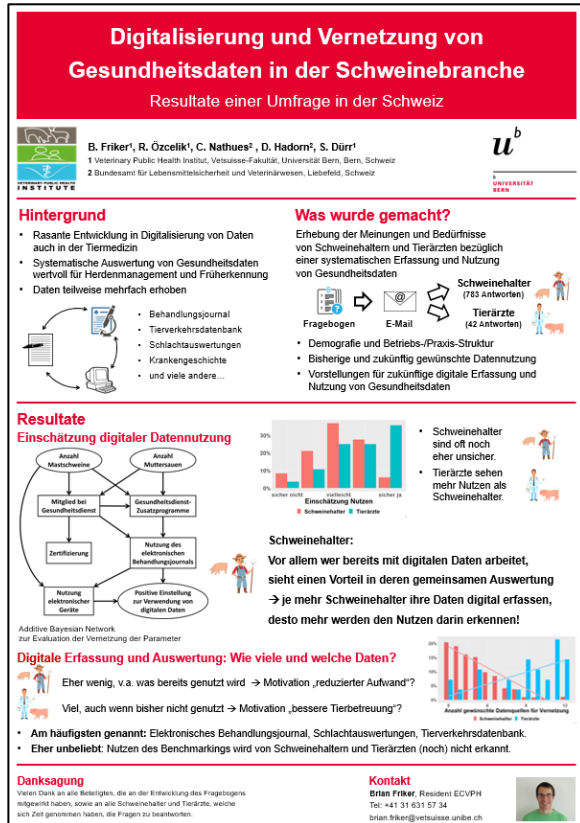
- BLV (management)
- SUISAG-SGD
- Suisseporcs
- Qualiporc
- Swiss Association for Swine Medicine (SVSM)
- Vetsuisse Faculty, Swine Clinics BE+ZH
- Veterinary Public Health Institute

Objective of the platform:

- Harness the potential of **digitalization to improve animal health** → Eliminate duplication in **data collection**; **optimize** existing systems
- Leveraging synergies and creating added value



Idea for the "**Pig Health Info System**" (PHIS) project developed





Project idea *Pig Health Info System* (PHIS)



Digitale Erfassung

- Strukturierte Dokumentation
- Transparente Information
- Nutzbare Daten

Analyse

- Zeitnahe Verarbeitung
- Interpretation
- Identifikation von relevanten Veränderungen

Visualisierung und Kommunikation

- Information und Sensibilisierung
- Früherkennung und Monitoring
- Dashboard

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PHIS - Benefits for stakeholders

For veterinarians:

- Structured recording of findings from pig herds
- Availability of health data
- Improved documentation and communication
- Data collection also for *PathoPig* & ZoE-BTA
ZoE-BTA
- Information/awareness in the event of changes in national animal health

For livestock/livestock owners

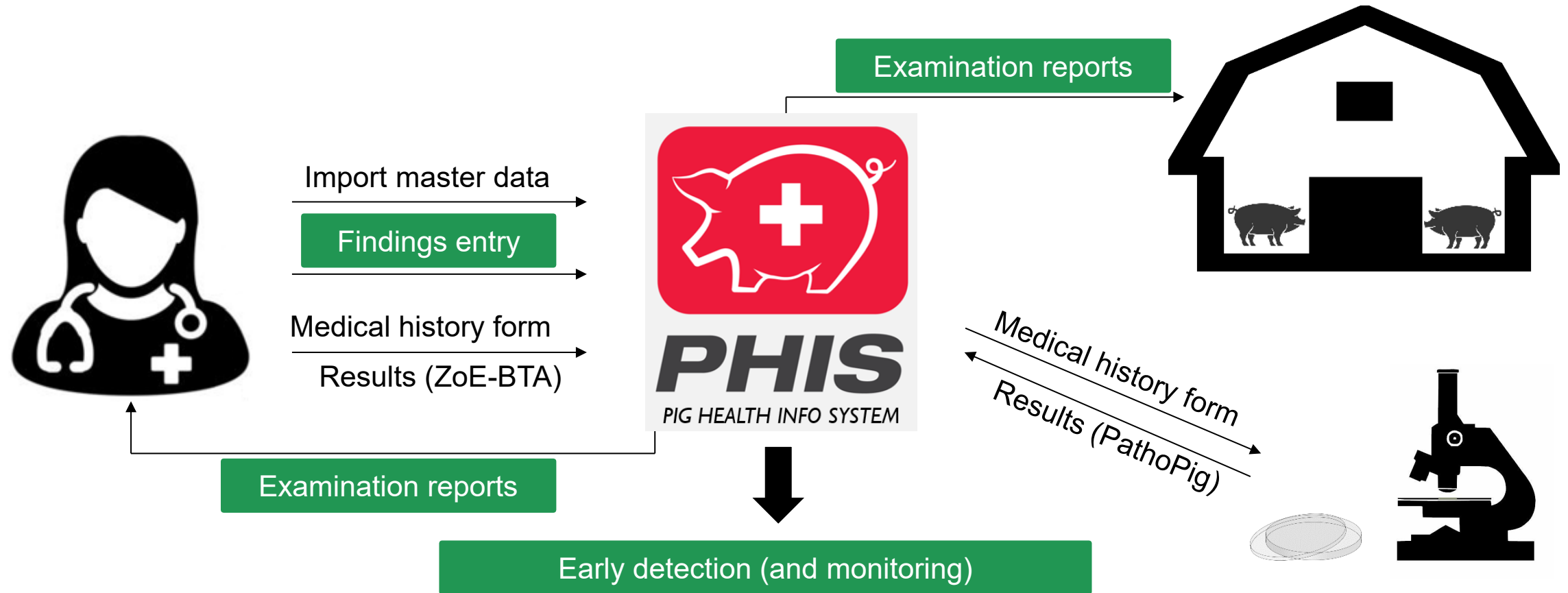
- Structured, transparent documentation of examinations
- Improved advice

For Swiss pig production:

- Monitoring and early detection
 - Improvement of animal health and welfare
-

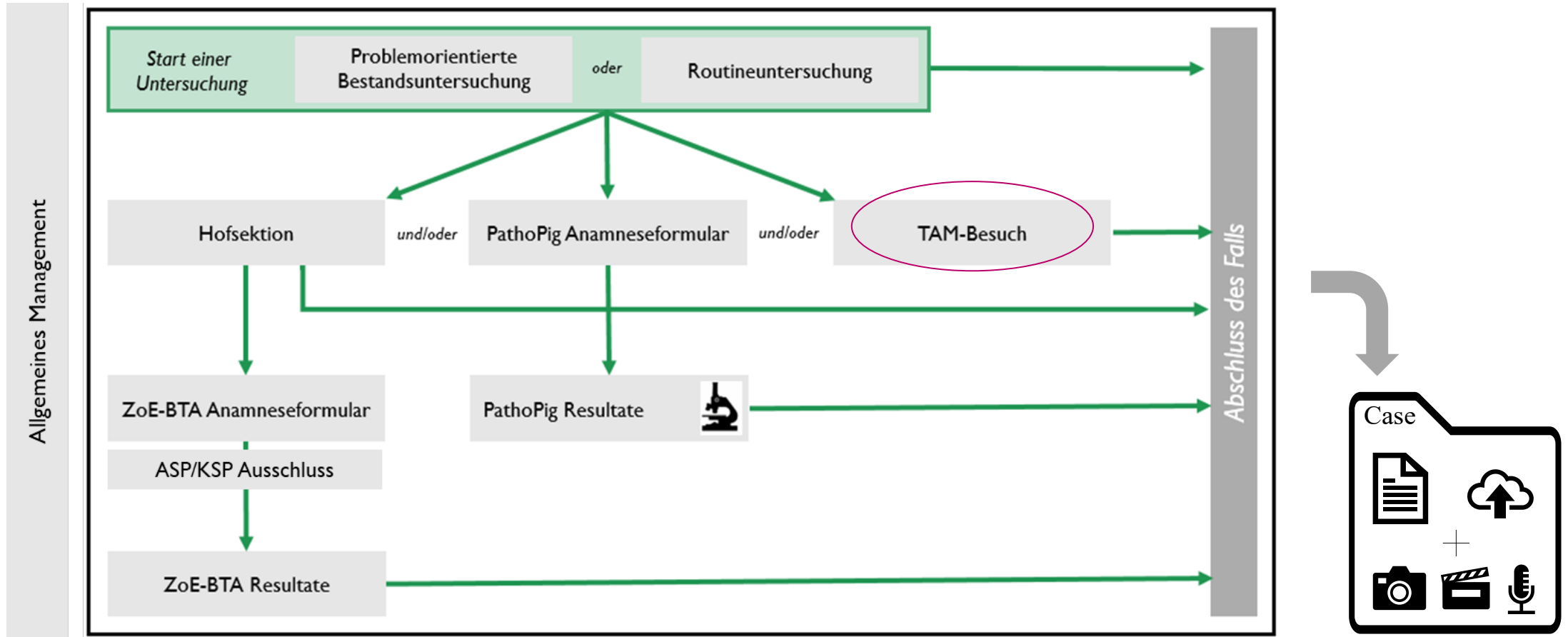


data flow



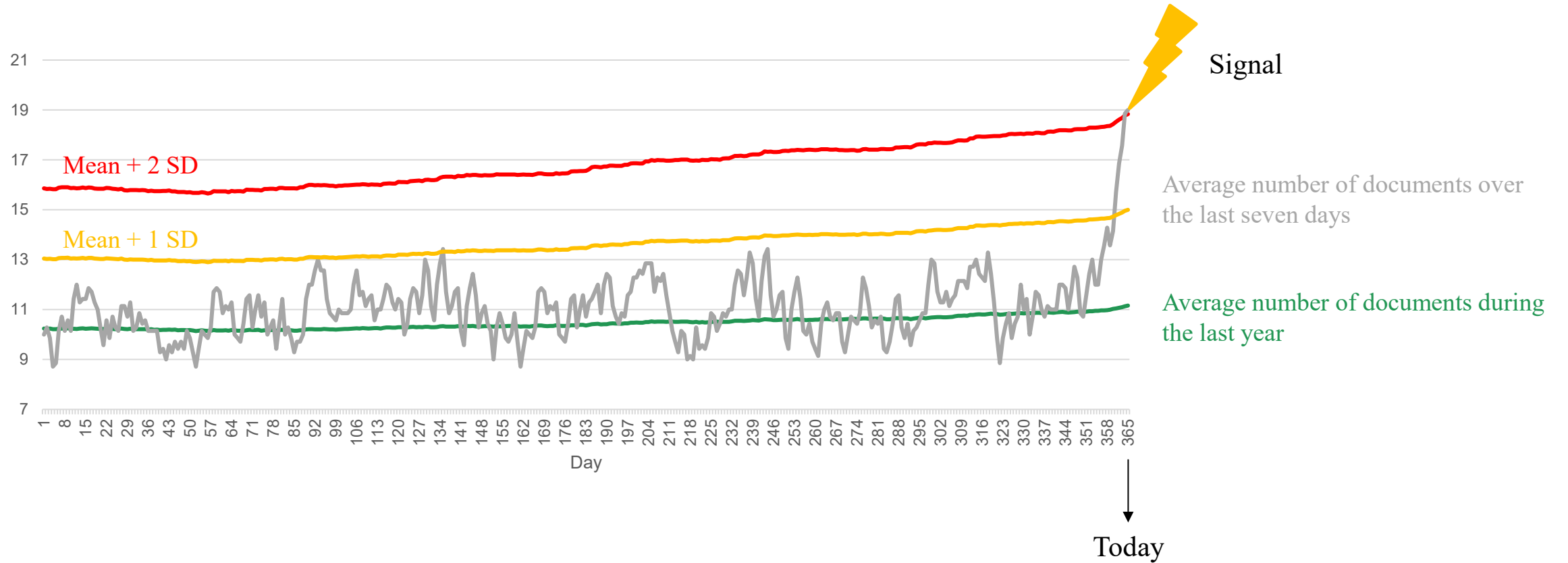


Available forms





Automated data analysis





Implementation and operation



Operation of the AHIS: AHIS specialist unit,
Livestock Health Switzerland (NTGS)



NUTZTIERGESUNDHEIT SCHWEIZ
SANTÉ ANIMAUX DE RENTE SUISSE
SALUTE DEGLI ANIMALI DA REDDITO SVIZZERA

Technical implementation: Department of Technology and Information Technology,
Bern University of Applied Sciences



Berner Fachhochschule
Haute école spécialisée bernoise
Bern University of Applied Sciences

Financing of the AHIS: Federal Office for Food Safety
and Veterinary Services



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Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Lebensmittelsicherheit und
Veterinärwesen BLV
Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et
des affaires vétérinaires OSAV
Ufficio federale della sicurezza alimentare e
di veterinaria USAV

Program participation:

- **All** veterinarians in Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Use of the app is **free of charge**
- Use is generally voluntary, but mandatory for participation in the *PathoPig* and ZoE-BTA programs



Using the PHIS app



Tab. 1: Accounts im PHIS

	31. August 2025	30. September 2025
Anzahl an Praxis-Accounts	68	68
Anzahl an aktiven Vet-Accounts	164	164
Anzahl an Praxis-Accounts mit Beständen	51	52
Anzahl an Praxis-Accounts mit Berichten (definitiv gespeichert)	45	46
Anzahl an Beständen mit Berichten (definitiv gespeichert)	606	618



Using the PHIS app



Tab. 2: Anzahl an definitiv gespeicherten Formularen im PHIS

	30. Juni 2025	31. Juli 2025	31. August 2025	30. September 2025
Allgemeines Management	1105	1127	1142	1178
Problemorientierte Bestandsuntersuchung	461	476	492	512
Routineuntersuchung	1046	1065	1076	1099
TAM-Besuch	920	953	982	1020
Hofsektion	190	200	209	220
PathoPig Anamneseformular	253	256	262	271
ZoE-BTA Anamneseblatt	138	148	156	167
ZoE-BTA - ASP/KSP Ausschlussuntersuchung	121	130	138	147
ZoE-BTA Untersuchungsergebnisse	109	122	128	136
Weitere Angaben zum Fall	18	18	18	19
PathoPig Untersuchungsergebnisse	233	239	241	251
qualiporc Gesundheitsservice	465	477	487	504
Total	5059	5211	5331	5524



Data protection / Data use



Excerpt from the General Terms and Conditions:

- Data collection **only with the consent of the animal owners**
- The **animal owners** receive the **reports**
- Publication/disclosure of data exclusively in **aggregated/anonymized** form
- The obligation to report suspected animal diseases remains unchanged



Outlook PHIS



- Health services app
- National animal health dashboard
- Dashboard at herd level



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface with a green header bar containing a menu icon, a location icon, and the text 'Standort'. Below the header, there are two input fields: 'Liste der Standorte' with a right arrow and 'Strasse Nummer, PLZ Ort' with a location pin icon. Below these fields are three dashed-line boxes for data entry, followed by a green button with a white plus sign. At the bottom, there is a green bar with two icons: a calendar icon labeled 'Fälle' and an information icon labeled 'Info'.

Past examinations

Last routine examination: January 10, 2025
Last TAM visit: January 10, 2025

Biosecurity

Distance to nearest pig farm [m]: 400
Animal categories with outdoor access: Non-lactating sows, boars
Contact with animals/persons from outside the farm possible: No
Indirect contact with wild boars possible: Yes
Clear separation between outdoor and indoor areas: No

Latest findings with prevalence

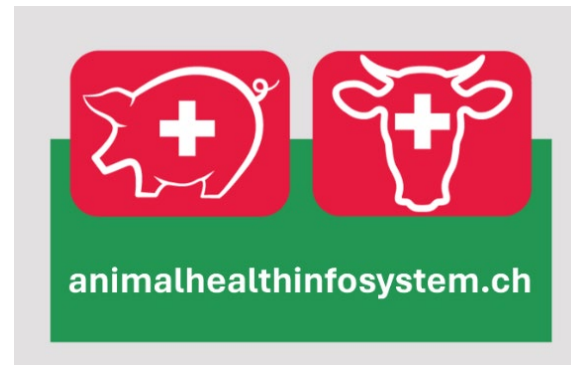
December 27, 2024: suckling piglets, diarrhea 20%
07/06/2024: Lactating sows, hooves/lower limbs 10%
06/07/2024: Lactating sows, fever 5%



Animal Health Info System



- Since January 1, 2024, based at Livestock Health Switzerland (NTGS)
- Includes PHIS and CHIS (Cattle Health Info System)





Cattle Health Info System



- Project launch in 2021 at VETSUISSE in collaboration with BFH
- App currently in pilot phase
- Objectives and structure essentially analogous to PHIS
- Cattle-specific functions
 - Operating communities
 - Individual animal level (medical history of a cow)
 - Offline mode
- Multilingual
- Since April 1, 2025, managed by the AHIS specialist unit at Livestock Health Switzerland (NTGS)





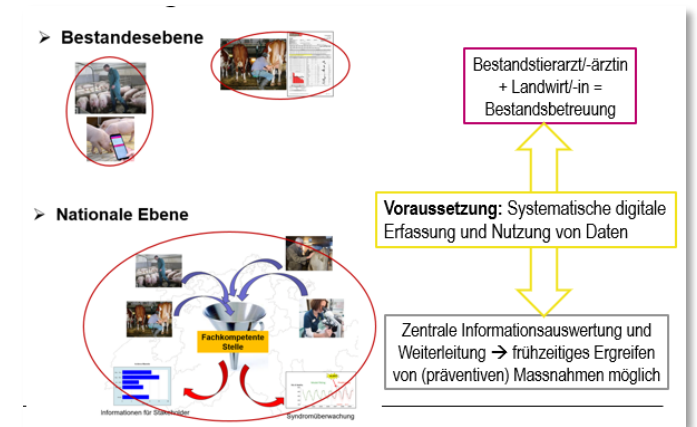
Summary

Objective: Promotion of herd health management

- Supporting systematic documentation of examination findings
- Improving the availability of health data for livestock owners and veterinarians
- Simplifying the exchange of information
- Increased use of recorded health data

Data is NOT held by the federal government, and it does not receive it (→private law)

- Data use (cross-inventory trends) as a 'side effect'
- Ultimately also for TH/TA/stakeholders
- Exception: animal diseases (reporting obligation in any case)





Challenges

Technical

- Interfaces (especially animal movement database, practice software)
- Standardization ("diagnosis codes")
- User-friendly systems (app use in the barn)

Political

- 'Data = power' → Willingness and trust to cooperate must be present (not everyone 'doing their own thing')
 - Data protection / data use
 - Awareness of the importance of veterinarians in 'agricultural issues' (animal health)
 - Veterinary profession: effort - return 'data'
 - Willingness to co-finance all participants and beneficiaries
-



Opportunities

- Exploiting synergies → saving resources
 - Elimination of duplication in data collection (*'once only'*) → administrative simplification
 - Improved availability of health data at herd and population level → strengthening animal health and early detection
 - Investment in contacts and networks along the food chain → Promotion of mutual trust and understanding → Crisis prevention
-



Thank you very much!



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Universität Bern | Universität Zürich
vetsuisse-fakultät

Program participation and contact

Further information at www.animalhealthinfosystem.ch

[Pig Health Info System](#)
- [Registration form](#)



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