

Total and partial condemnations during meat inspection of finishing pigs in a large abattoir in the North of Portugal: frequencies and estimation of economic losses

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INTRODUCTION

Meat inspection (MI) is undoubtedly a crucial step needed to assure public and animal health. During this activity, pathological conditions can be often found by the Official Veterinarian (OV). For each gross pathological found, OV need to apply a judgement criterion to decide if meat is unfit for human consumption, resulting in total or partial condemnations. Condemnations may represent the sanitary profile of the farm having a negative effect on productivity and profitability of Food Business Operators.

OBJECTIVES

- To describe the most common post-mortem causes of partial/total condemnations in finisher pigs in a large abattoir in the North of Portugal.
- To estimate the economic losses incurred by producers due to those condemnations.

METHODOLOGY

From **Dec`22 to Feb`23**, data on the partial and total condemnation causes were recorded. On average, **44%** of the pigs submitted in each batch were assessed (min 22pigs/batch) and all analysis are based on this sample.



RESULTS / FINDINGS

In total, 5597 pigs were assessed from 49 farms. There were a total of 3544 lungs, 1791 livers and 572 hearts condemnations.

Partial Condemnations (%)

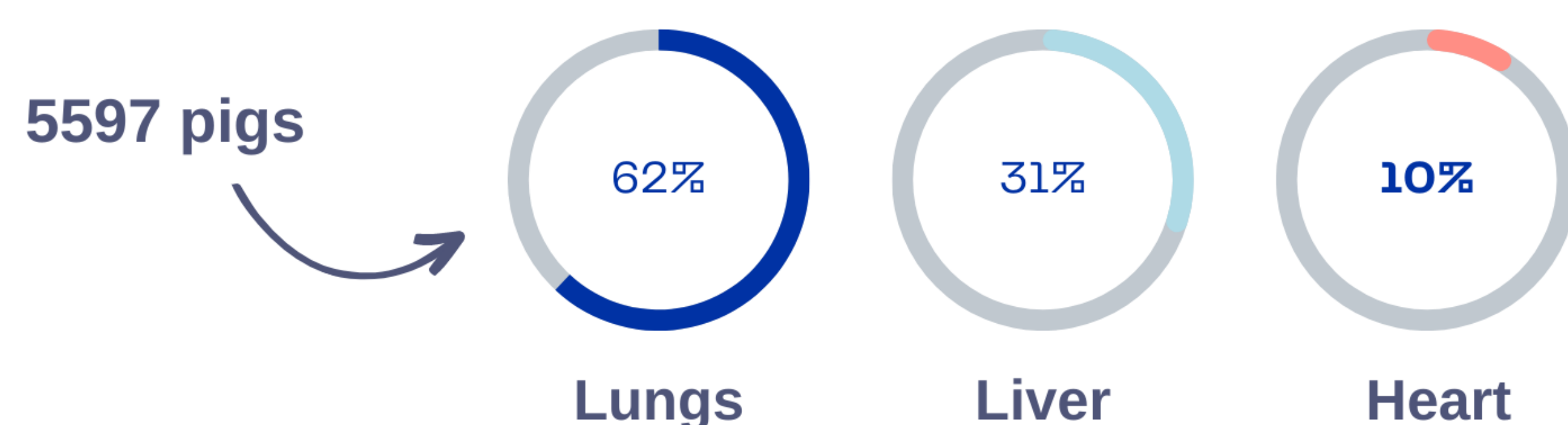


Figure 1 – Percentage of Partial Condemnations in the study sample.

Total Condemnations (%)

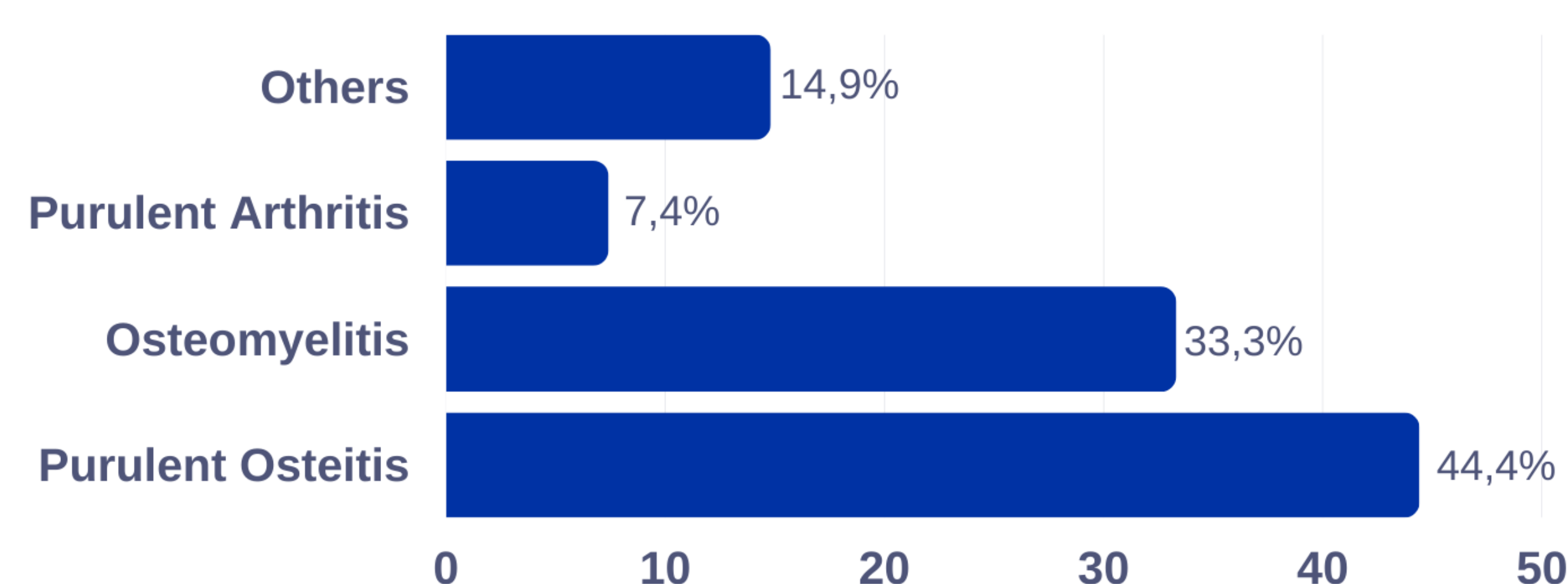


Figure 2 – Percentage of Total Condemnations in the study sample. In total, 23 carcasses were totally condemned.

Highest Economic Losses for 3 Producers (A to C) for each of the following Partial Condemnations (% and €)

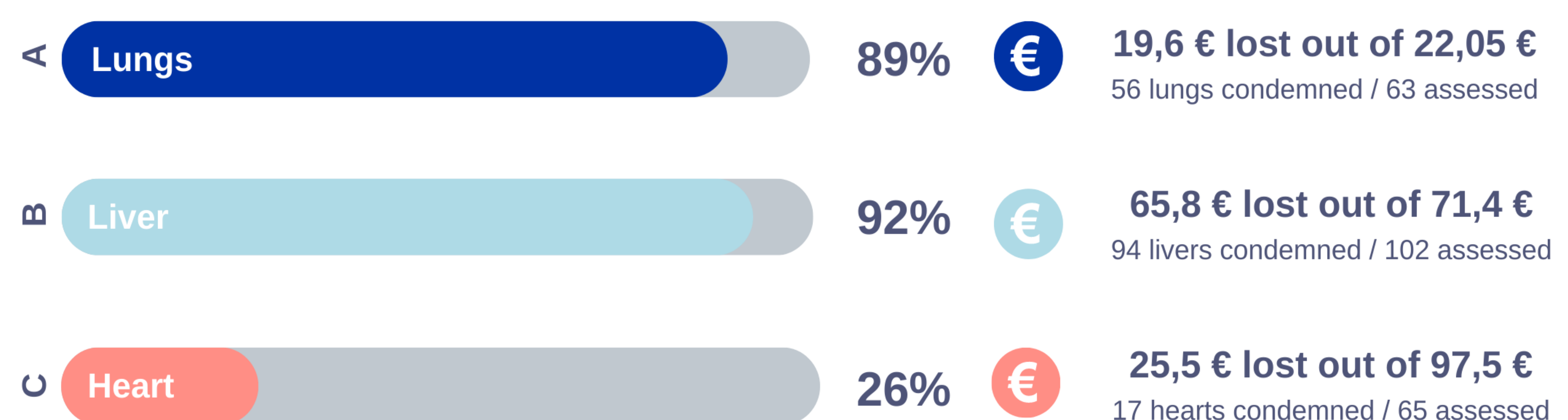


Figure 3 – Percentage of Economic Losses for producers A, B and C regarding their lung, liver and heart condemnations, respectively.

Economic Losses Per Farm (%)

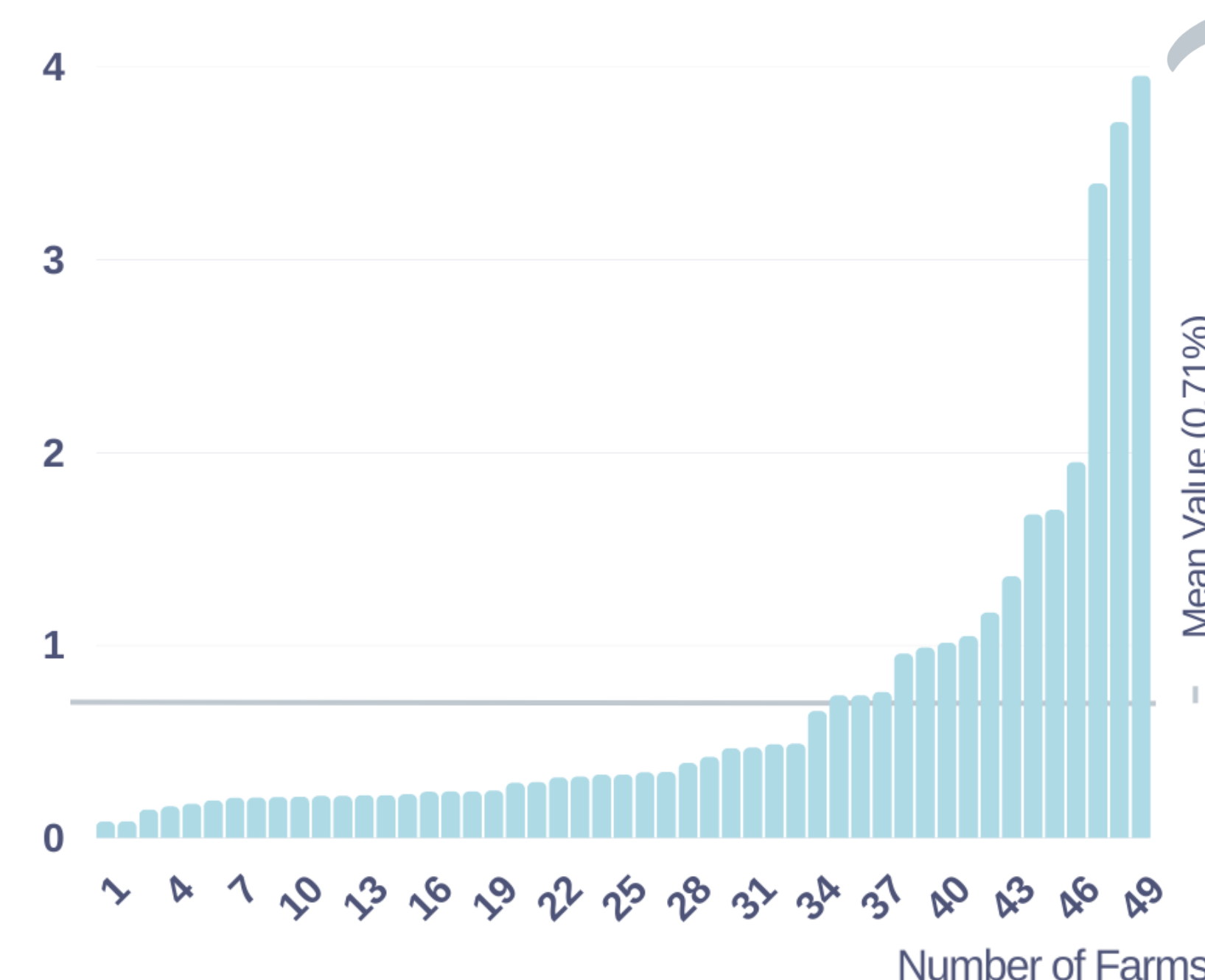


Figure 4 – Percentage of Economic Losses per Farm regarding their partial and total condemnations.

The producer with the highest economic losses (3,95%) had 106 pigs assessed. If no pigs were condemned, he would have gained a total of **21,006€**.

The producer lost **829.4€** due to:

- 4 total condemnations (792 €)
- 37€ of partial condemnations (61.0% of lungs, 6.6% liver and 5.7% heart)

CONCLUSION / TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Producer A in figure 3 had virtually all lungs condemned so recommendations made directly to the farm are likely to have an effect and be a useful exercise to raise awareness for health and welfare issues. Benchmarking exercises may be encouraged to promote the real of use backward tracing and subsequent use in the Food Chain Information

Affiliations

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