



Study of the impacts of animal welfare practices on the wellbeing of dairy and pig farmers

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ISWA 2026



7th July 2026



CONTEXT



Important for 92% of
French people

Animal welfare

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Animal welfare

Opportunity for 72% of farmers

Sometimes it is also a constraint (45% of them)

It is nice to speak about animal welfare, but what about my own wellbeing ?

CONTEXT



Farmer wellbeing

12 to 33% of the farmers feel negative emotions face to societal demands such as animal welfare improvement

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12 to 33% of the farmers feel negative emotions face to societal demands such as animal welfare improvement

62% of French people also think that farmer work conditions are not good enough



- What is the impact of animal welfare practices on the wellbeing of farmers ?
- Which characteristics determine this impact ?

METHODOLOGY

A methodology to characterize farmer's wellbeing : 4 axes / 23 criteria



Physical

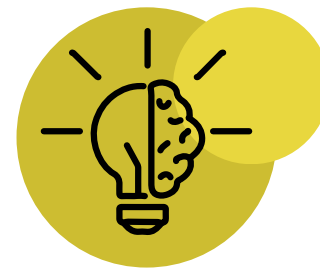
E.g. physical effort, work pace, posture

METHODOLOGY

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Physical



Psychical Cognitive

Mental

E.g. skills utilized, values, interest in the work

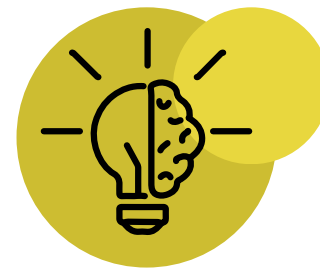
METHODOLOGY



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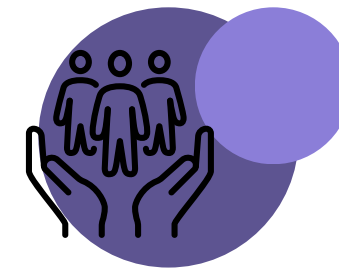


Physical



Psychical Cognitive

Mental



Social

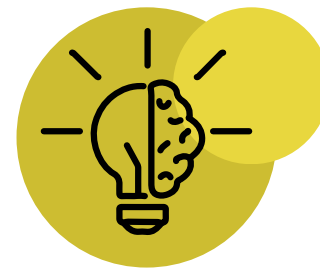
E.g. recognition by peers and professionals, societal acceptability

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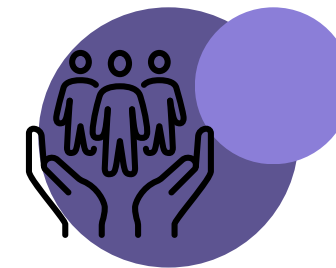


Physical

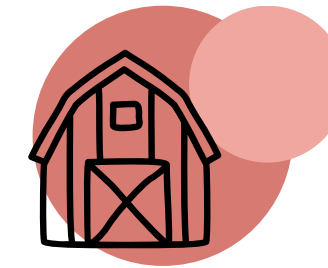


Psychical Cognitive

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Social

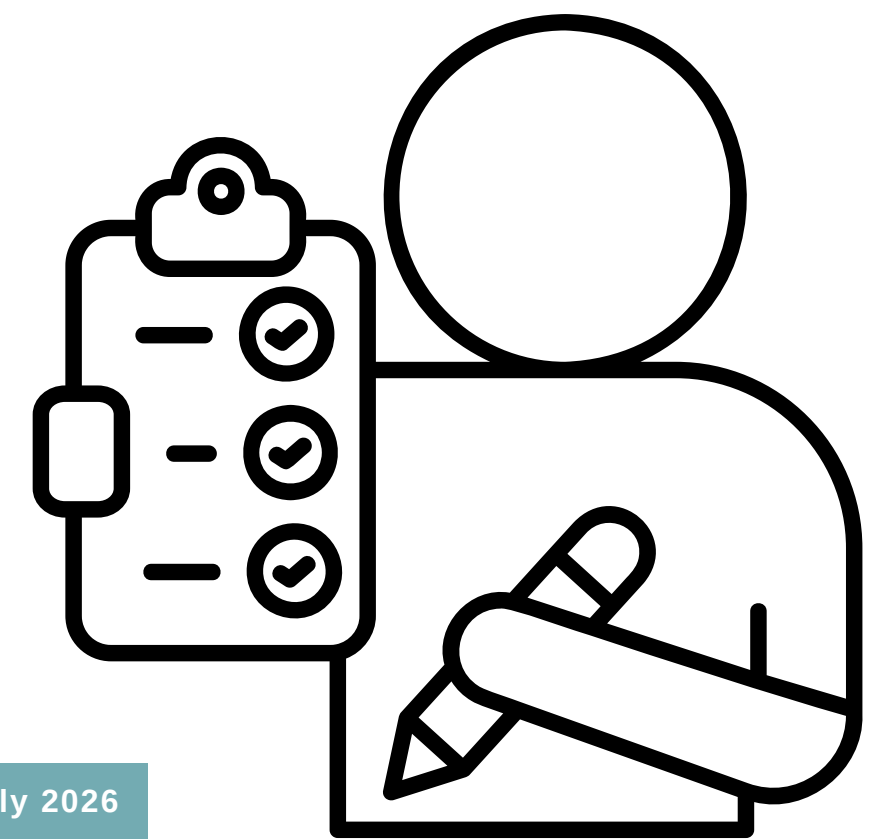


Environemental

E.g. workplace safety, work environment (noise, odors, etc.)

METHODOLOGY

36 farmers (18 dairy & 18 pig farmers) evaluated 1 to 4 animal welfare practices on the 23 criteria, representing ~80 solution-farmer pairs.

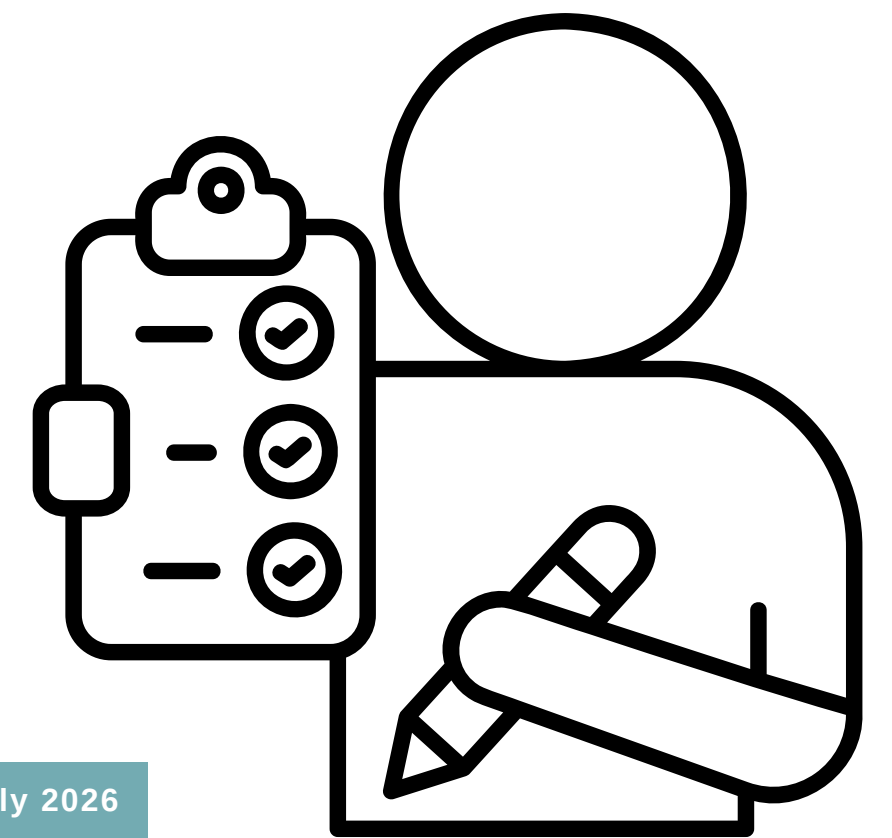


METHODOLOGY

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How did they evaluate the practices ?

→ By rated whether the practice
deteriorated, **maintained** or **improved** their wellbeing compare to the initial situation



METHODOLOGY

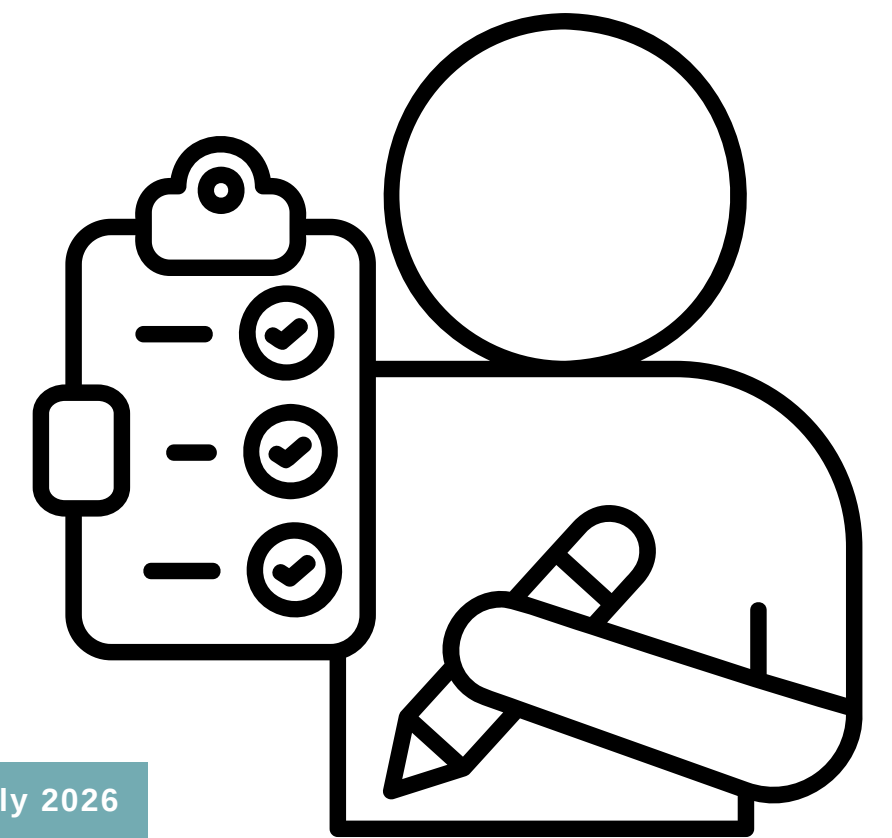
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Overall wellbeing is then evaluated
on a scale from -69 to +69



METHODOLOGY

What types of practices were evaluated ? How can they be characterized ?

→ All kind of practices that aim to improve animal welfare based on bibliography and according to experts

level

- systemic
- material

METHODOLOGY



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reversibility
• yes
• no

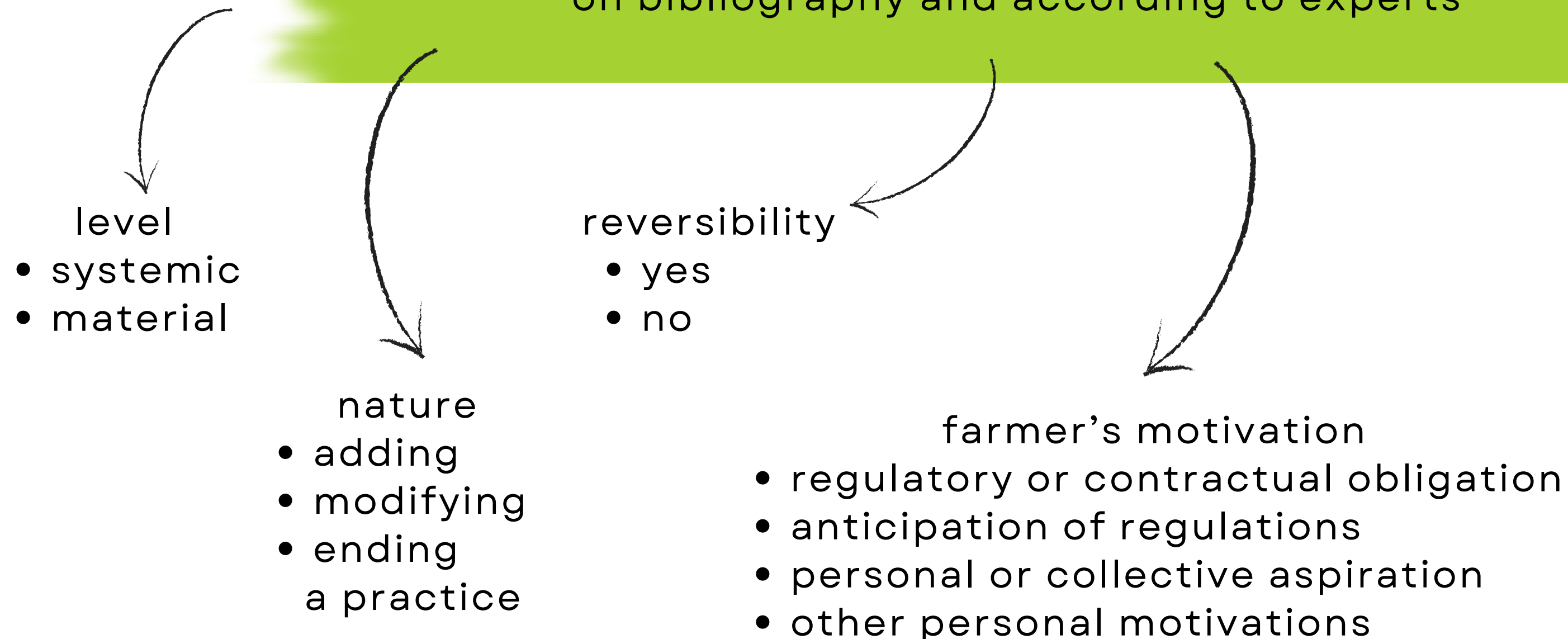
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farmer's motivation

- regulatory or contractual obligation
- anticipation of regulations
- personal or collective aspiration
- other personal motivations

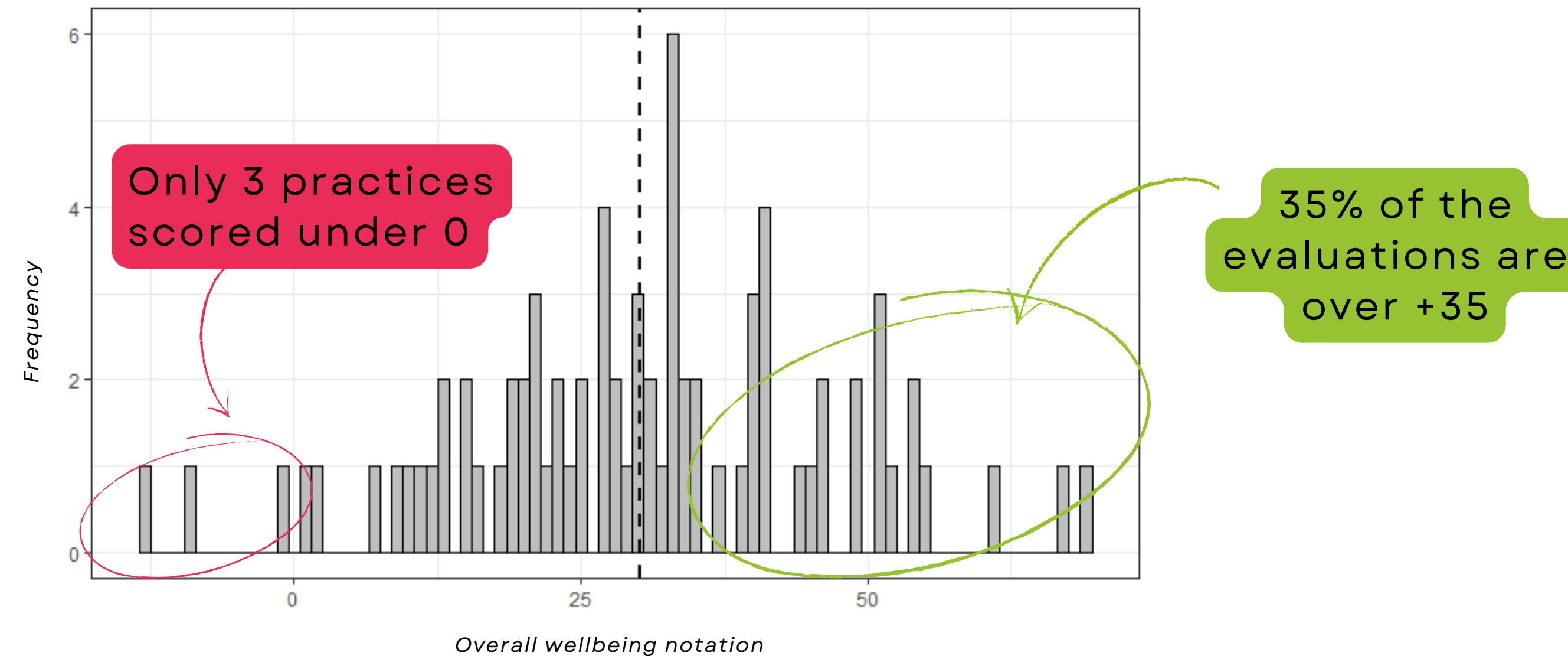
farmer's maturity level

- recent practice (< 1 year)
- some experience (1-2 years)
- extensive experience (> 2 years)

RESULTS



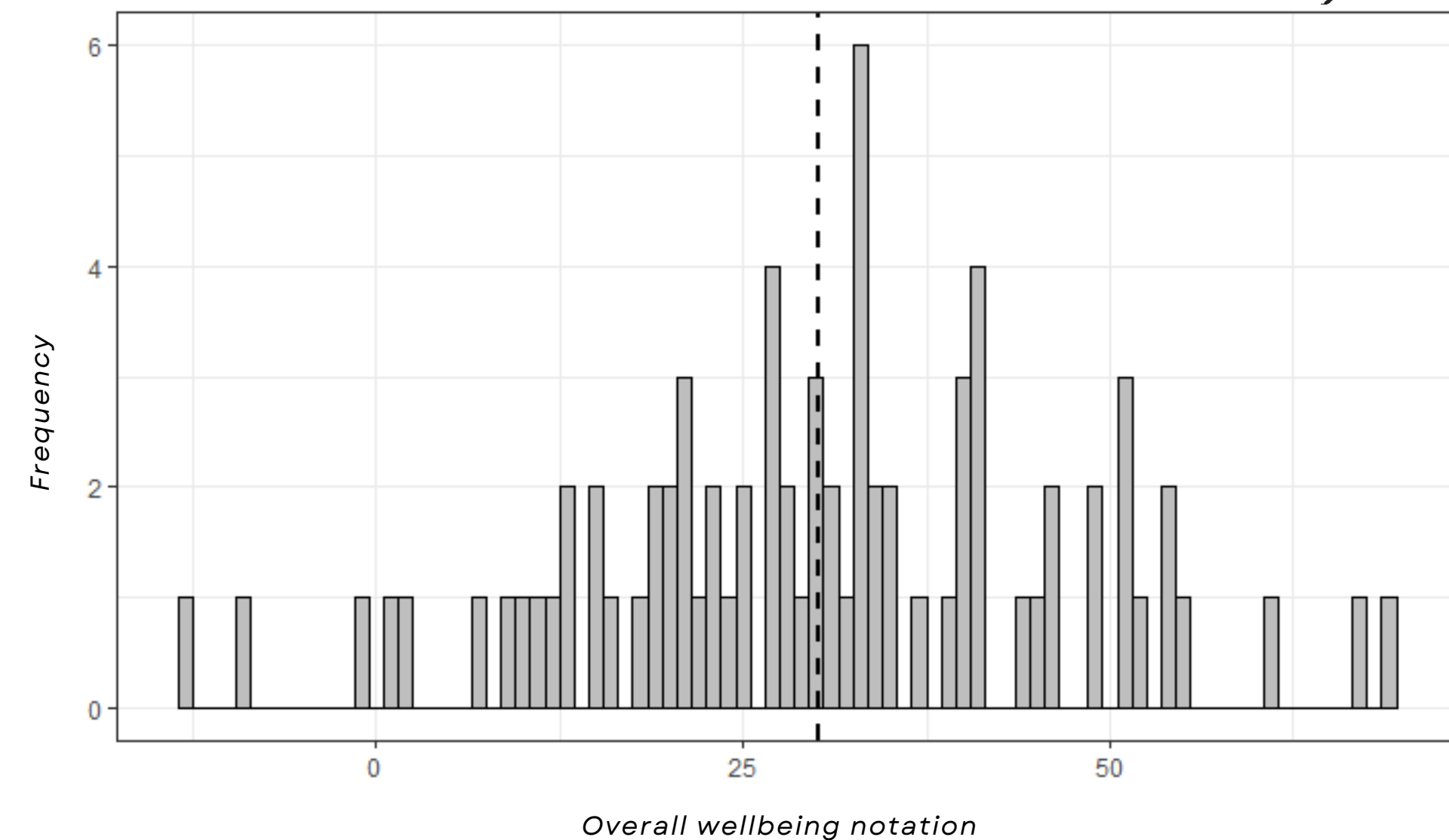
Overall farmer wellbeing is (almost) always improved when implemented animal welfare practices



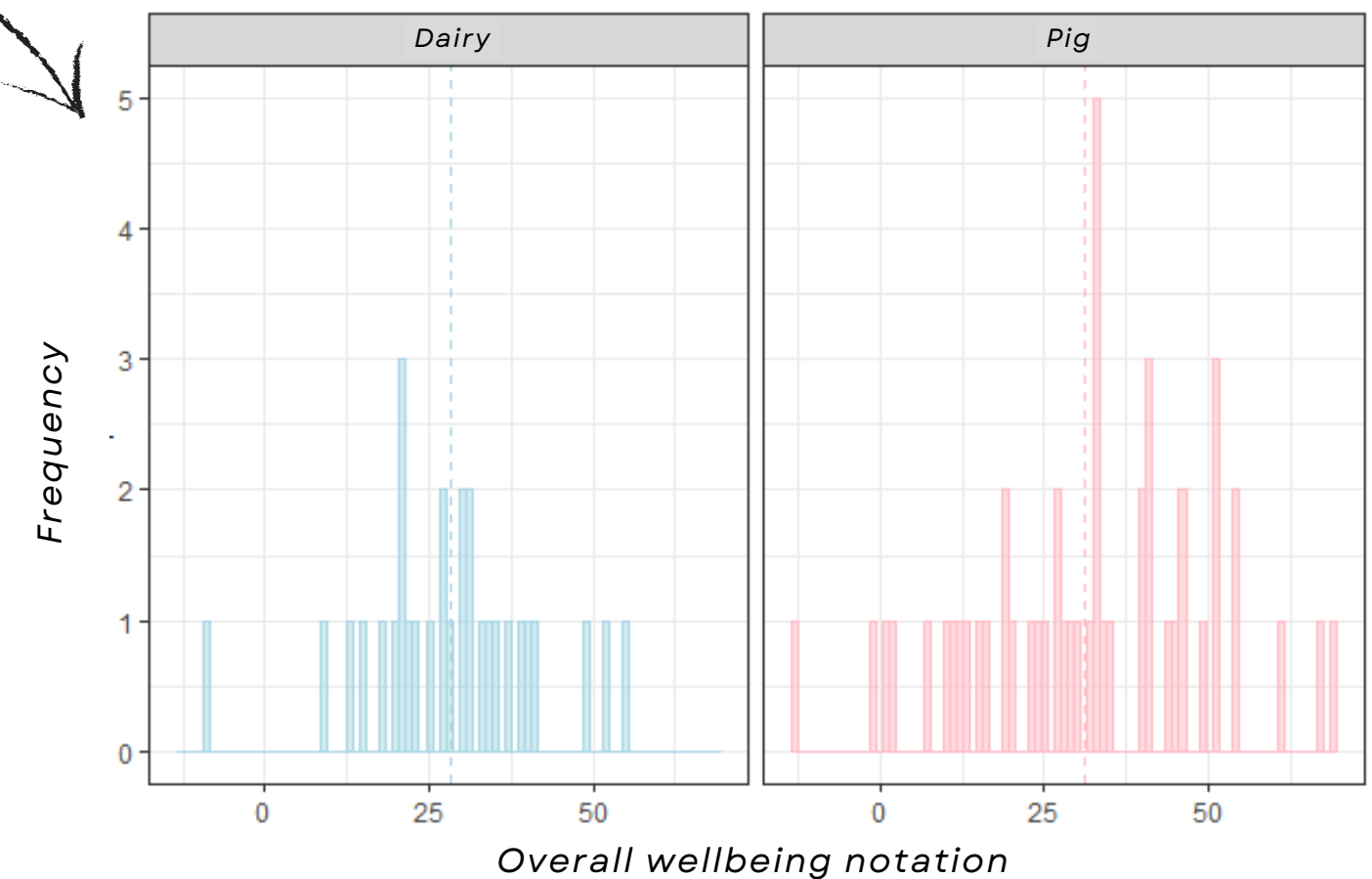
Overall wellbeing notation (from -69 to +69; $n = 77$;
 $mean = +30.1$; $SD = 16.4$)

RESULTS

Overall farmer wellbeing is (almost always) improved when implemented animal welfare practices with **no difference linked to the reared specie.**



Overall wellbeing notation (from -69 to +69; $n = 77$;
mean = +30.1; SD = 16.4)



Overall wellbeing notation depending on the specie
(from -69 to +69; $n = 77$)

Dairy: mean = +28.2; SD = 13.2

Pig: mean = +31.3; SD = 18.1

RESULTS

No real differences between women and men on their notation. The difference seems to be more linked to the age than to the gender of the respondents.

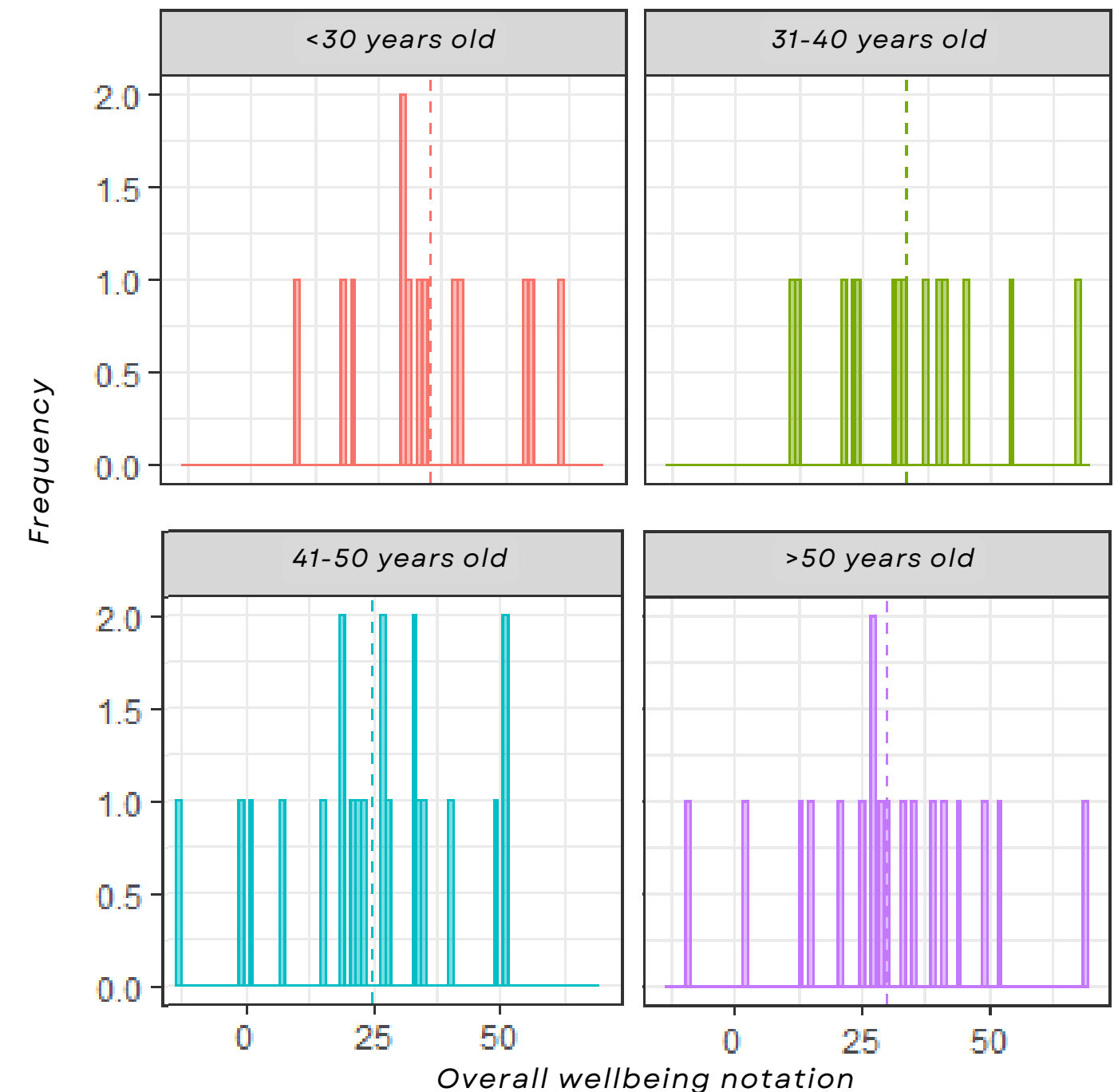
Overall wellbeing notation depending on the age of the farmer (from -69 to +69; n= 77)

<30 years old: mean=+35.1; SD=15.2

31-40 years old: mean=+33.9; SD=16.5

41-50 years old: mean=+24.8; SD=16.9

>50 years old: mean=+29.2; SD=18.6



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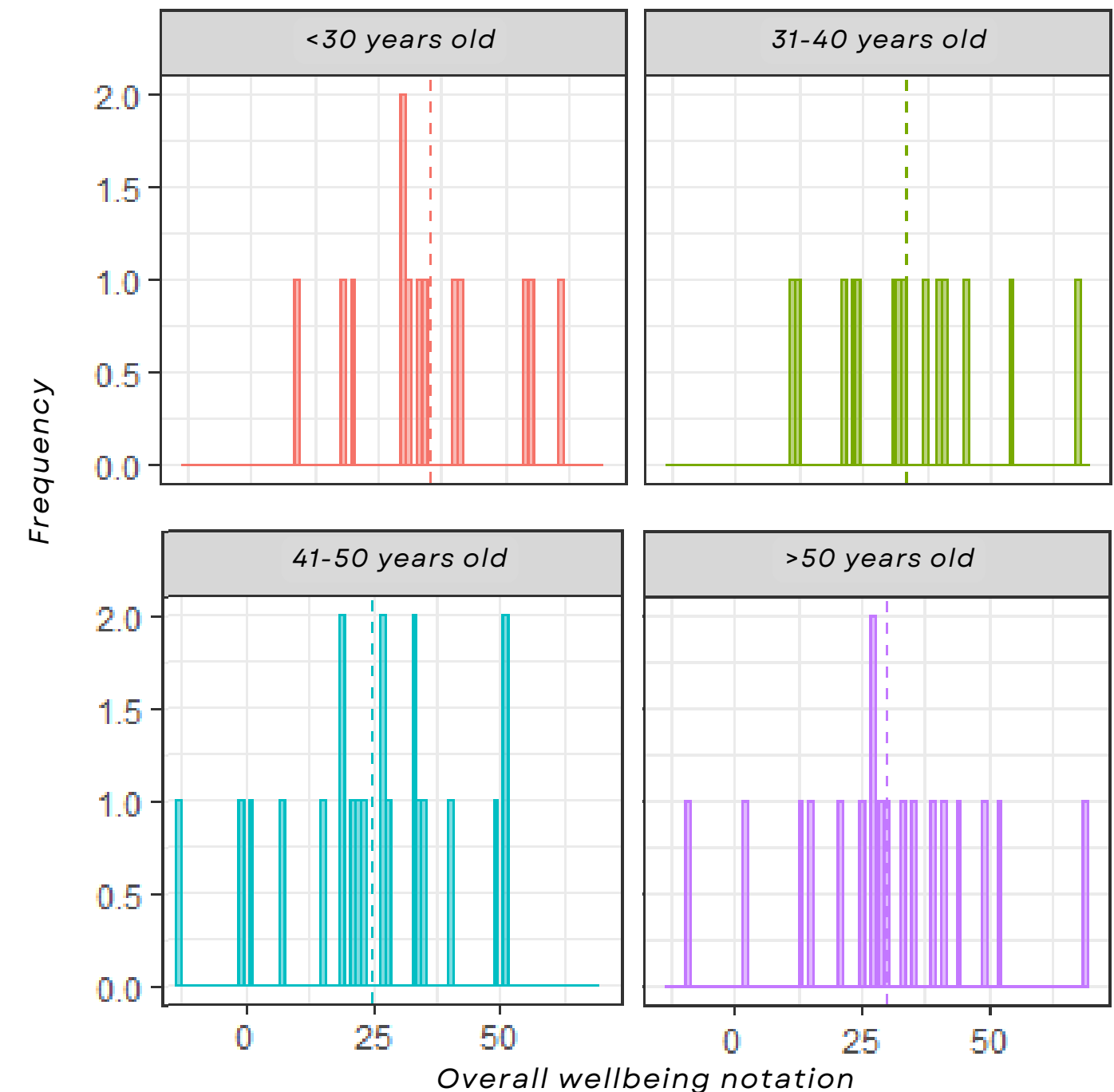
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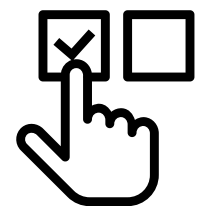
→ **better notation from the younger farmers** (<30 years old) than the older farmers (>41 years old)



RESULTS



Farmers' wellbeing is improved whatever their motivation is, although **the improvement is greater when the practice is chosen rather than imposed.**



- Chosen (personal or collective aspiration or other personal motivations) : from +30.4 to 32.1 (SD= 18.6 and 13.0)

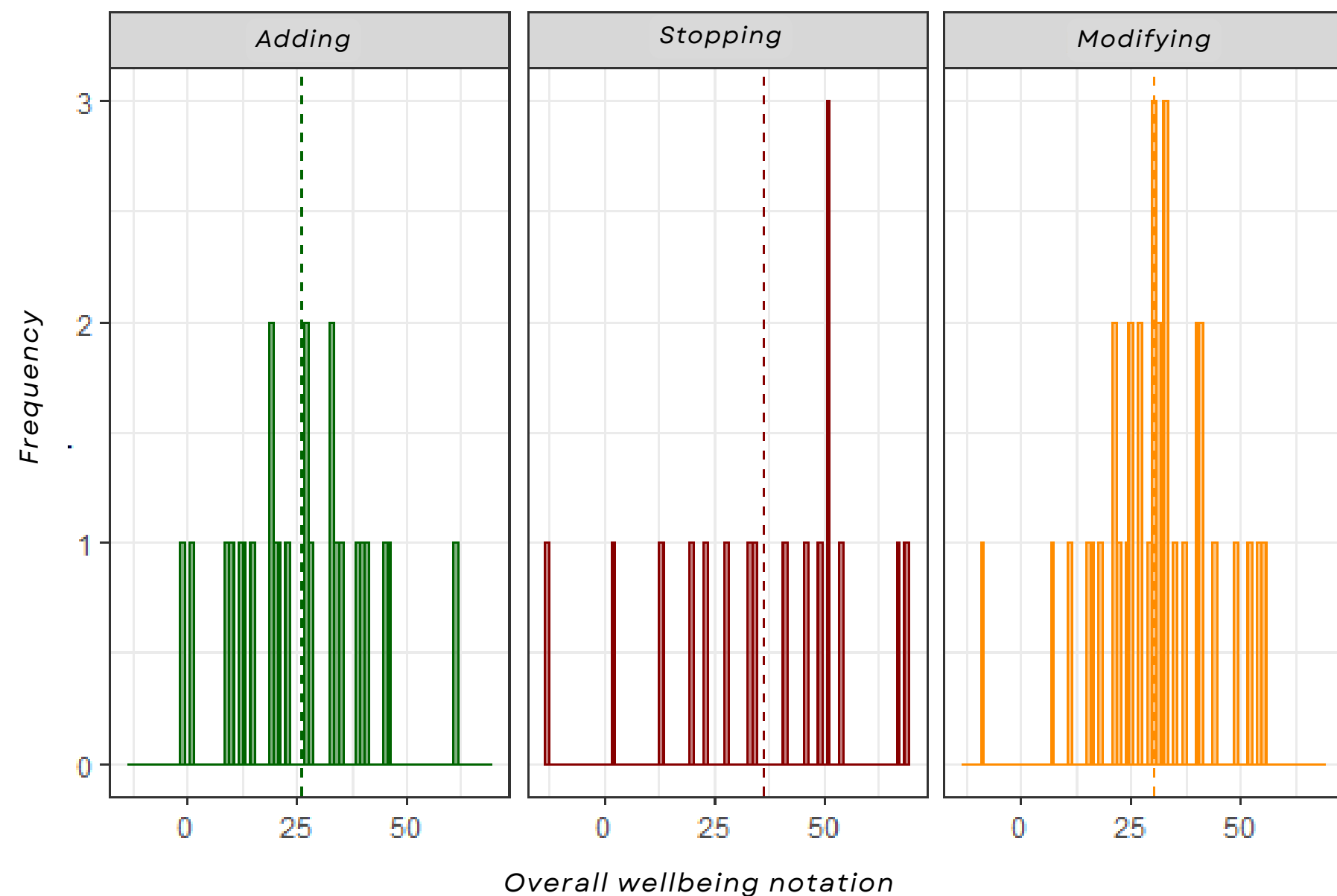


- Imposed (regulatory or contractual obligation or anticipation of regulations): from +249 to 29.6 (SD=17.1 and 15.4)

Also, the farmers give a better score when they practice the animal welfare solution **for >2 years** (mean=+31.4; SD=17.2)

RESULTS

The scoring tends to **be similar for systemic and material practices**. The same result is observed regardless of **whether the practice is reversible or not**. However, the nature of the solution changes the score.



Overall wellbeing notation depending on the nature of the practice (from -69 to +69; n= 77)

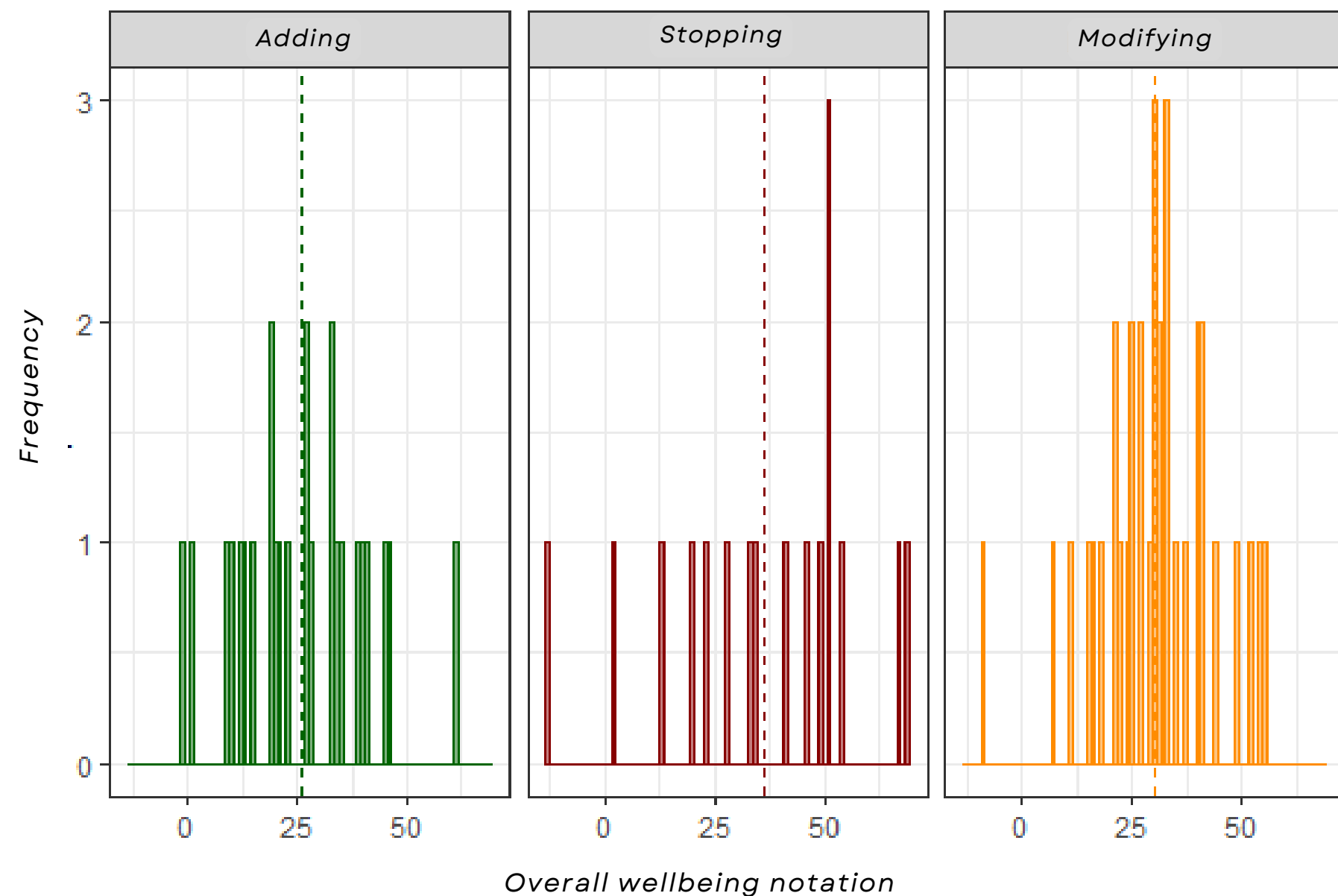
Adding: mean=+26.0 ; SD =15.0

Stopping: mean=+36.4; SD=22.3

Modifying: mean=+30.0; SD=13.4

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Adding: mean=+26.0 ; SD =15.0

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Modifying: mean=+30.0; SD=13.4

→ **ending a mutilating practice** (e.g. stopping tail docking) **could be a more significant way to improve wellbeing** at work than adding or modifying a practice that responds to animal welfare (e.g. domesticating gilts or adding enrichment).

CONCLUSIONS

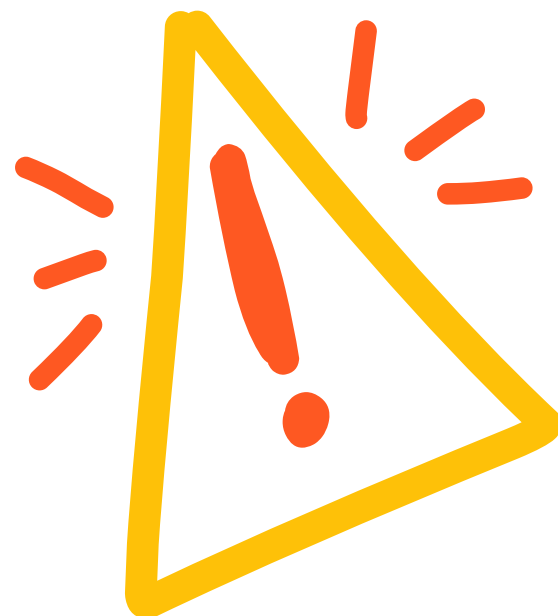


- Overall wellbeing scores show that **animal welfare practices improve farmers' wellbeing**
- Some patterns seem to affect overall wellbeing score:
 - Age: the **younger** the farmer is, the greater its overall wellbeing score is
 - Nature: **ending** a mutilating practice tend to be profitable
 - Motivation: **chosen** practices have greater score than imposed solutions
 - Maturity level: **higher maturity** on the practice gives higher score
- Some factors seem to have little effect on overall wellbeing (e.g. gender, level of practice, etc.)

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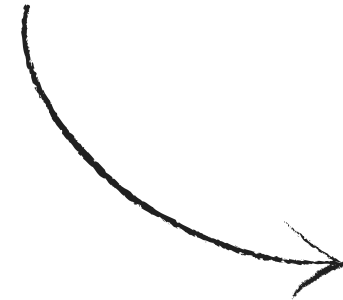


This global view can hide **contrasted effects between physical, mental, social and environmental axes**. It is unlikely driven by an uniform improvement on all dimensions.

CONCLUSIONS



Analysing results by axis is therefore needed to understand these patterns, identify possible trade-offs between dimensions of wellbeing, and better target levers to support farmers in implementing animal welfare practices.



For more information :

[LIT Ouesterel website](#)



Thank you for your attention

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