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# Animal welfare concerns in mobile cattle slaughter

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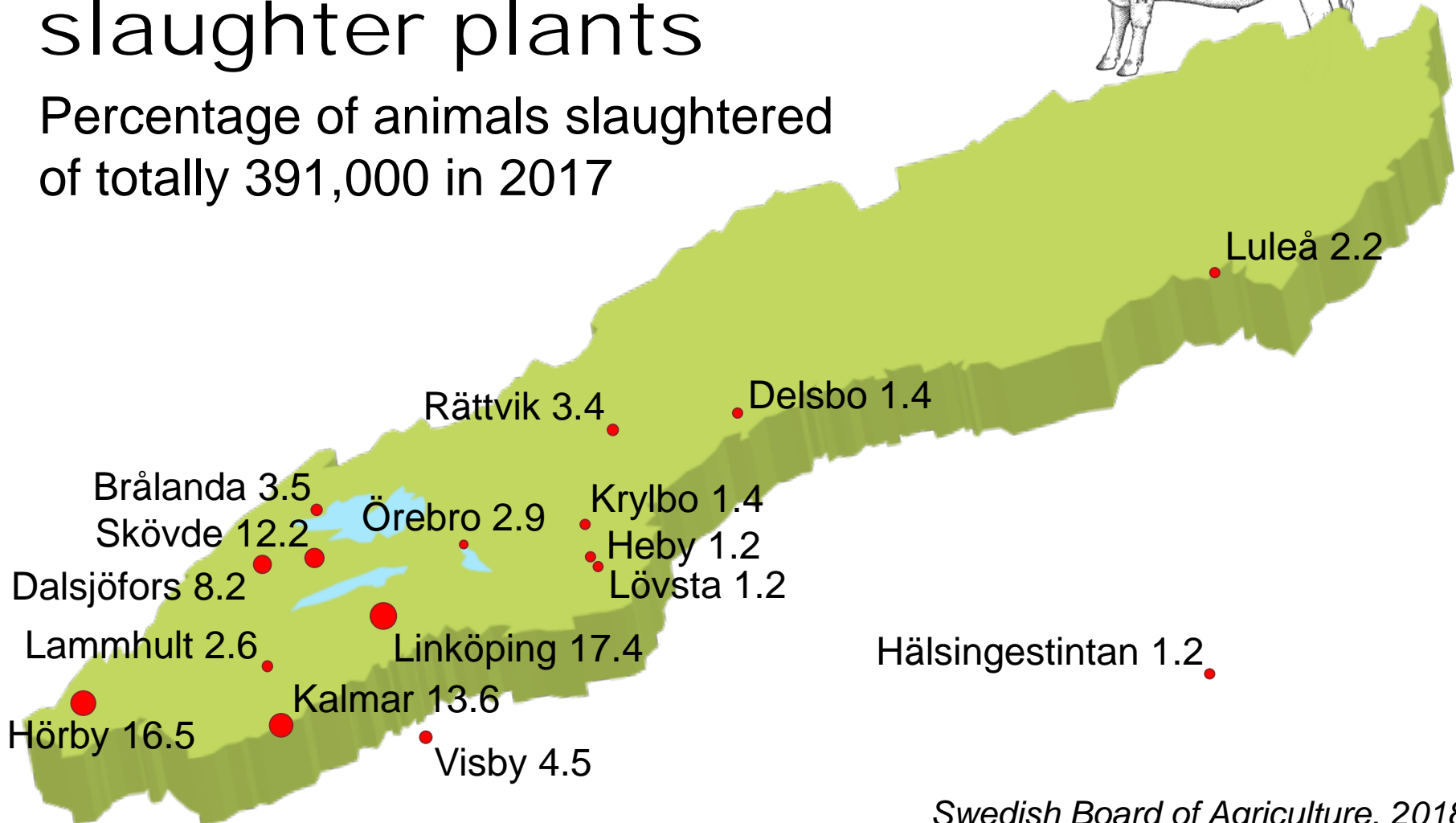
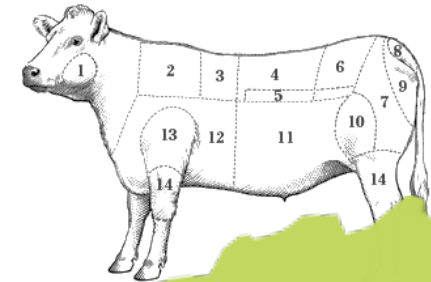
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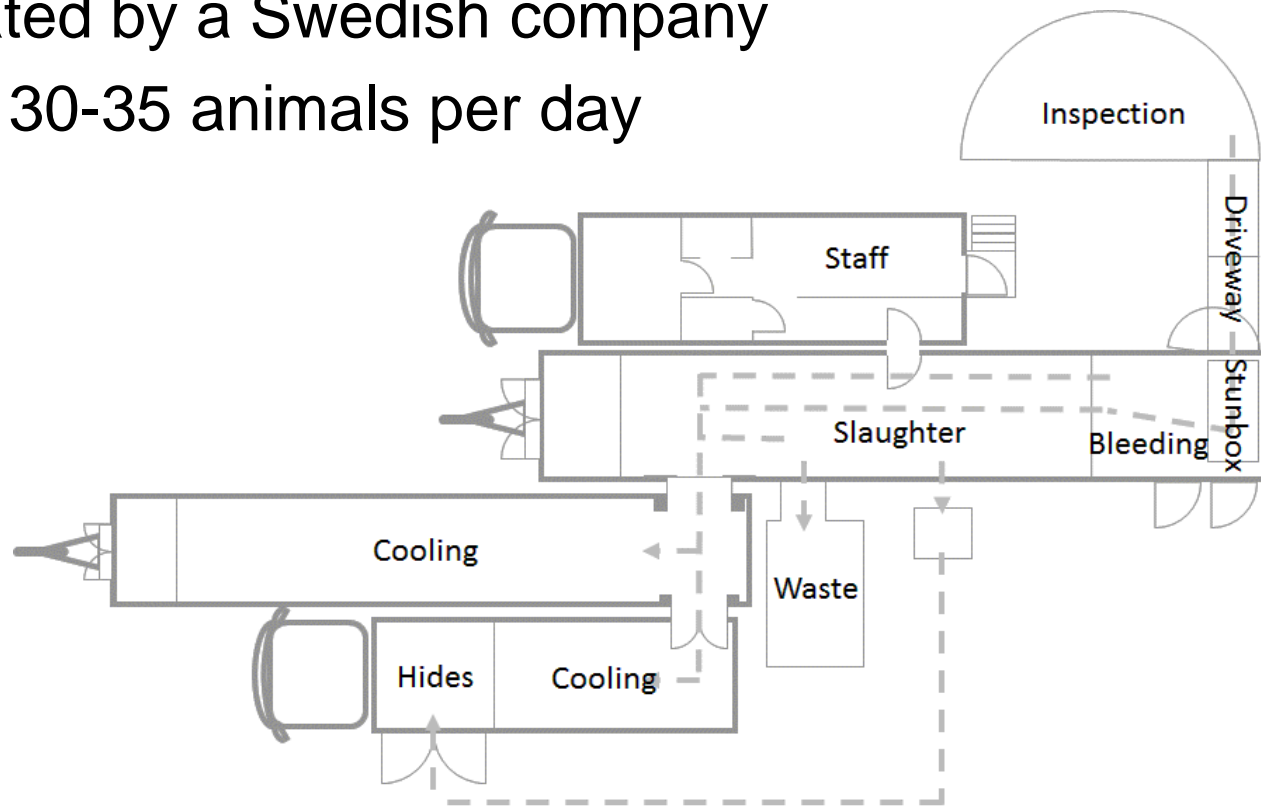
# Main Swedish cattle slaughter plants

Percentage of animals slaughtered of totally 391,000 in 2017



# Mobile slaughter plant

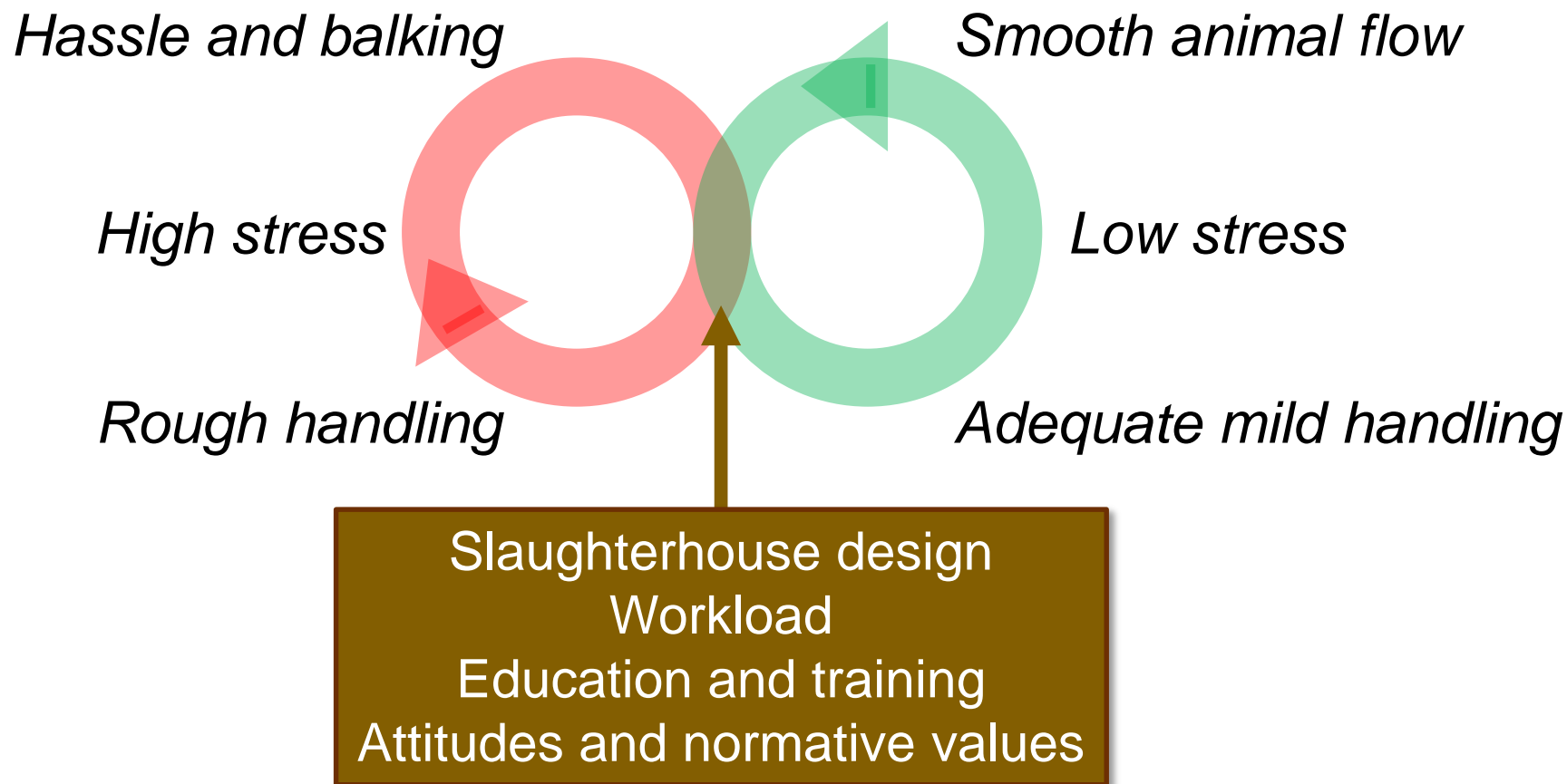
- Since 2015 a full-scale commercial mobile plant for large cattle, operated by a Swedish company
- Capacity for 30-35 animals per day



# Animal welfare implications

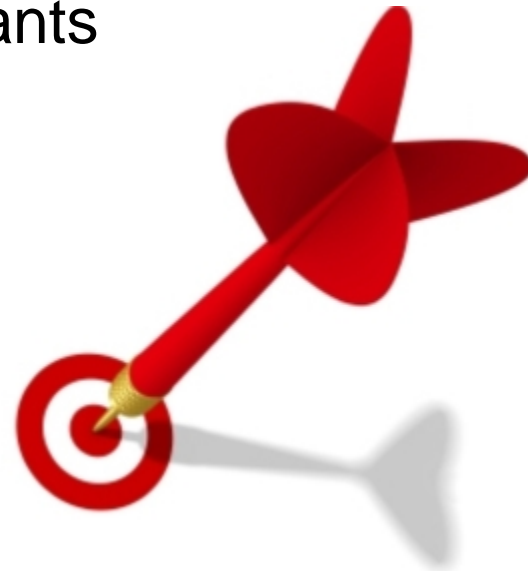
- Sometimes inappropriate facilities and demanding working conditions – difficult to drive animals and handle hassle and balking properly
- Many welfare risks, e.g. stress, injuries and thirst due to incorrect handling
- Inadequate stunning is likely to cause considerable suffering
- Large variations between slaughter plants, stockpersons and animals – sometimes poor conditions

# Human-animal interaction



# Study objectives

- Evaluate animal welfare in mobile slaughter, comparing with large-scale conventional (stationary) slaughter
- Suggest improvements regarding slaughter routines and animal handling at studied plants



# Recordings

- One mobile and one stationary slaughter plant
- 298 animals at each plant, during 1 year
- Animal handling and behaviour, time for driving-stunning-sticking, blood chemistry and carcass characteristics



# Farm conditions at mobile plant

- Varying driveway arrangements, competences of stockpersons and animal types
- Animals driven by farm staff (67%), plant staff (8%) or both (25%)
- Noise from inside plant disturbed driving on outside
- Shifting weather conditions but no major effects



# Transport and lairage at stationary plant

- Animals transported up to 250 km from farm to plant
- One third of animals kept in overnight lairage
- No consistent effects in any direction of transport distance or overnight lairage
- Conditions at transport and lairage not included in study



# Handling and behaviour

- More animals re-shot at mobile plant, compared to stationary (10 vs. 3%)
- Longer stun-to-stick times at mobile plant, compared to stationary (mean 102 vs. 44 sec; 4-4,5 min in single animals at mobile plant)
- Other differences between plants inconclusive
- Shortcomings in mobile slaughter probably due to poor stun design



# Conclusions

- Importance of calm animals when driving to stun box starts
- Importance of appropriate layout of premises, driveways and equipment, and correct handling at driving, stunning and sticking
- Differences between mobile and stationary slaughter mainly due to factors specific to the plants studied, rather than general differences between the two methods

# Acknowledgements

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Thanks for your attention!