



## Department of Economics Seminar Series

### **“Animal welfare and production efficiency in German pork production”**

#### **Time and Place**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 13.00-14.00**

<https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/68319445166>

#### **Abstract**

Sparked by growing societal demand, various labels and programs target at improving animal welfare in intense livestock farming. Based on the assumption of a trade-off between farms' economic performance and animal welfare, these programs typically compensate farmers for potential losses from adjusted husbandry conditions such as additional space. Yet the complexity of animal welfare challenges its measurement and thus the evaluation of such measures, casting doubt on the effectiveness of these programs. Therefore, we empirically investigate the relation between animal health, as a core dimension of animal welfare, and farm performance. Then, we evaluate the German program “Initiative Tierwohl” (ITW). To test for a potential trade-off between animal health and farm performance, we derive relative farm performance measures using data envelopment analysis. Our results do not support a trade-off, but rather indicate the possibility for high productivity at comparatively high levels of animal health. Further, we find ITW participants to perform slightly better in both dimensions, supporting the label's claim of improved animal welfare.

**Welcome!**

### **Featured speaker**



**Reinhard Uehleke**

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#### **About Reinhard**

**Reinhard is a researcher at the University of Bonn. His research interests include behavioral economics, consumer research, agricultural policy evaluation, farm efficiency, and environmental conservation. He has published in journals such as Environmental and Resource Economics, the European Review of Agricultural Economics, and Energy Economics.**