
AN ASSESSMENT OF CRIMES AGAINST ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN SWEDEN

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In cooperation with the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)

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We came home after lunch and there it was a sticker from the animal rights activists on our doorlots of animals were missing. They burgled freezers and refrigerators and vandalised our property: on windows, doors, gate, courtyard, house, bike ... a symbol on the inside of the stable door warned "The Animal Liberation Front sees you"

(an animal farmer reporting a burglary on the property in a case reported by a local Swedish newspaper in 2018).

AIM OF THE STUDY

Aim:

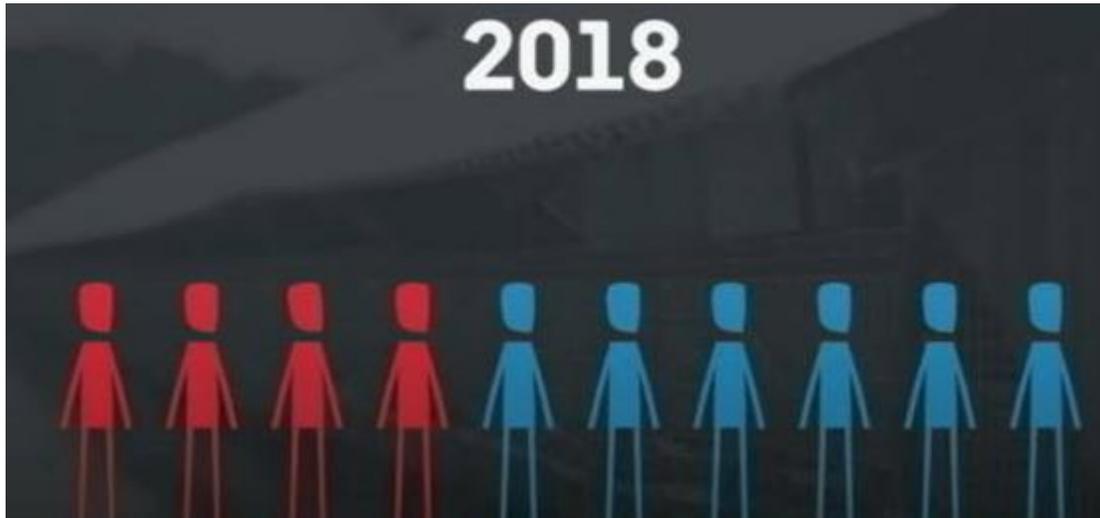
- to investigate the nature of crimes against animal production (CAAP) in a Swedish context.

Which is achieved by:

- exploring new data that can be used to approximate the scale and nature of CAAP, utilizing media archives from the years 2009 to 2019.

CRIMES AGAINST FARMERS

*”LRF: A lot of worry among farmers of attacks and threats”
- SVT, 2019*



4 out of 10 farmers had experienced crime victimization past 2 years in 2018.
LRF, 2019-01-14



Hallands nyheter, 2019-03-17

*”Threats and harassment against farmers increasing”
- Aftonbladet, 2020*

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Situational conditions of farms and the crime events themselves may explain the victimization of farmers

What creates crime events?

Routine activity approach

CRAVED

(Cohen & Felson, 1979 ; Clarke, 1999)

What attributes attracts/deters offenders

- Attractive target
- Lack of capable guardianship
- Motivated offender

- Concealable
- Removable,
- Available
- Valuable
- Enjoyable
- Disposable

Crimes against animal production can be divided into two categories:

- CAAP with a financial motive:
- CAAP with a political motive

Can involve different types of *techniques of neutralization* (Matza & Sykes, 1957)

Techniques of Neutralization

- Denial of responsibility
- Denial of the victim
- Denial of injury
- Appeal to higher loyalties
- Condemnation of the condemners

METHOD

MEDIA ARCHIVES ANALYSIS

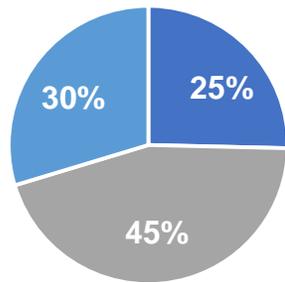
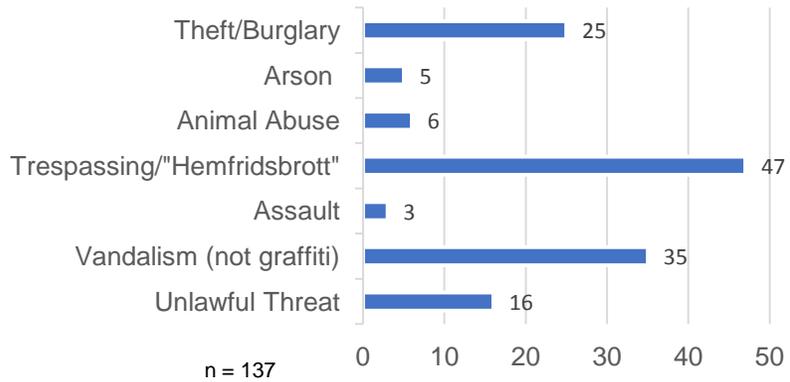
- Collecting relevant newsarticles using specific keywords
- Manual interpretation of articles and categorization of type
- Further analysis of crime type, location and date of events in Microsoft Excel
- Geographical visualization of newsarticles by municipality using GIS

VARIABLES

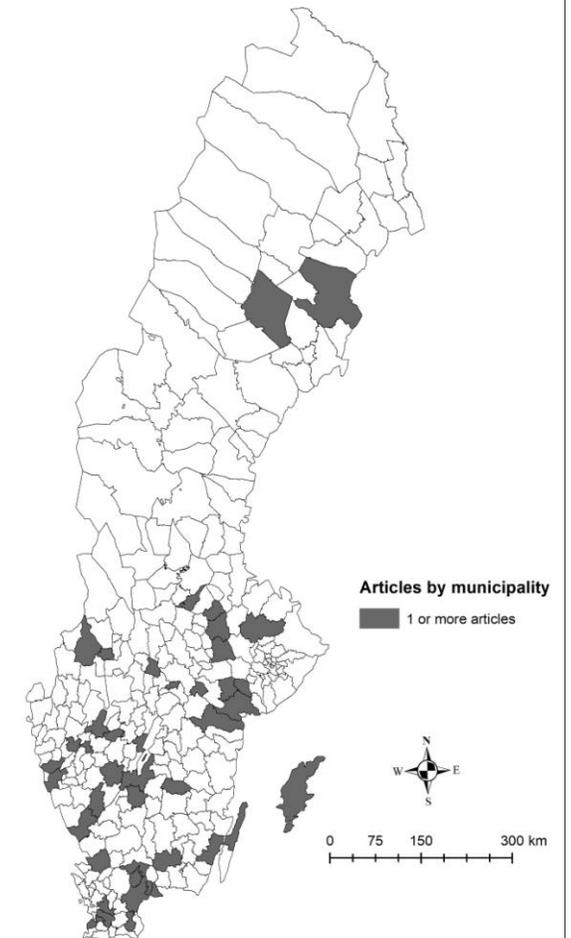
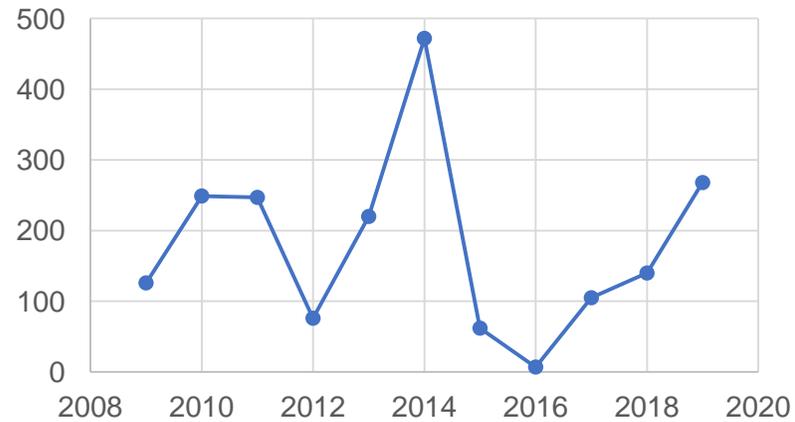
- Actors:
 - Mink farmers
 - Pig farmers
 - Rabbit farmers
- Offenses:
 - Animal abuse
 - Assault
 - Arson
 - Theft/Burglary
 - Trespassing/"Hemfridsbrott"
 - Unlawful Threat
 - Vandalism
- Article types: See right →

Type of article	Interpretation
1st degree	Refer to a specific case and place
2nd degree	Refers to multiple cases/places OR something related to a case (Summaries, trials, follow-ups, result of investigations etc.)
3rd degree	Mostly general discourse about crimes against farmers

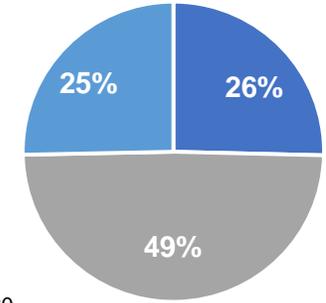
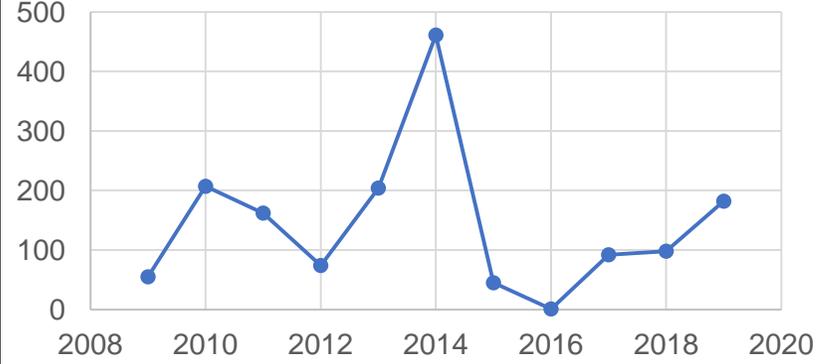
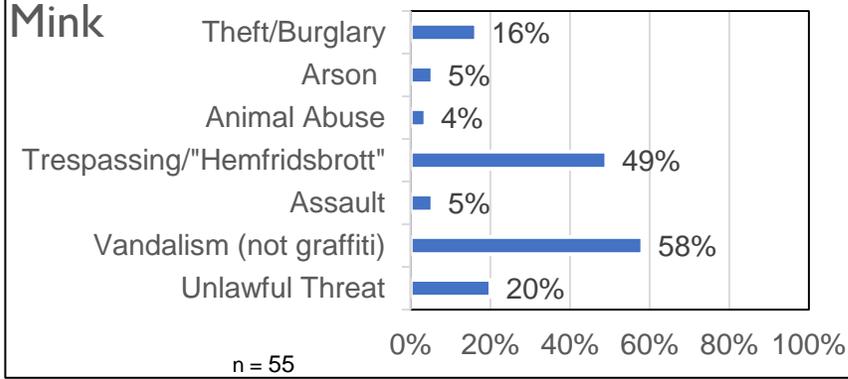
RESULTS: OVERALL



■ First order ■ Second order ■ Third order

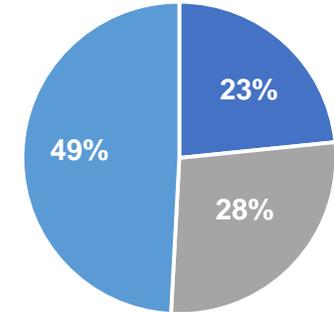
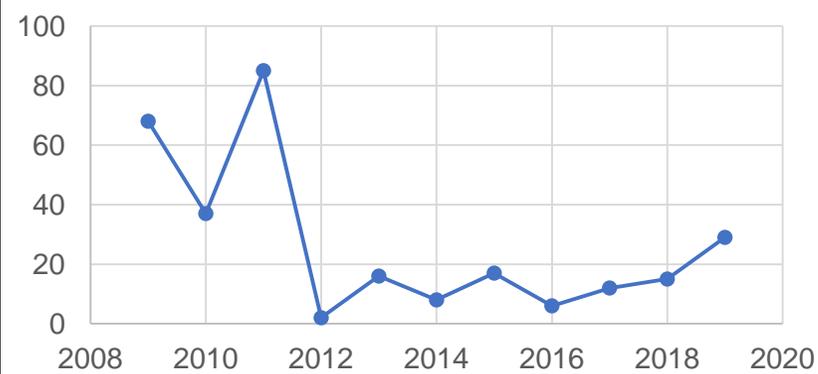
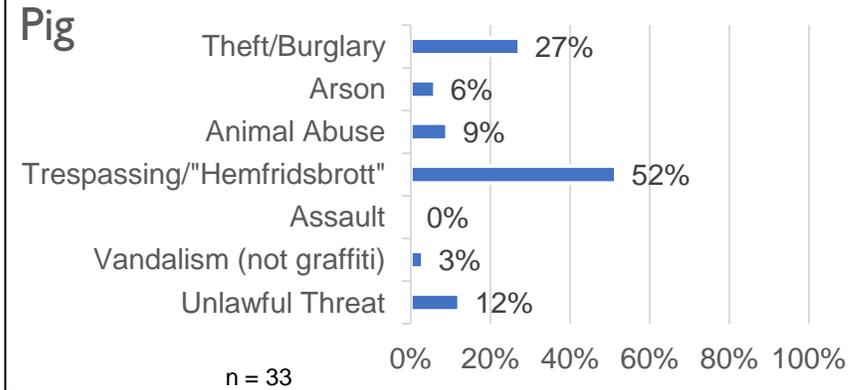


Results by actor



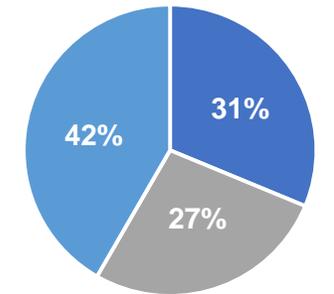
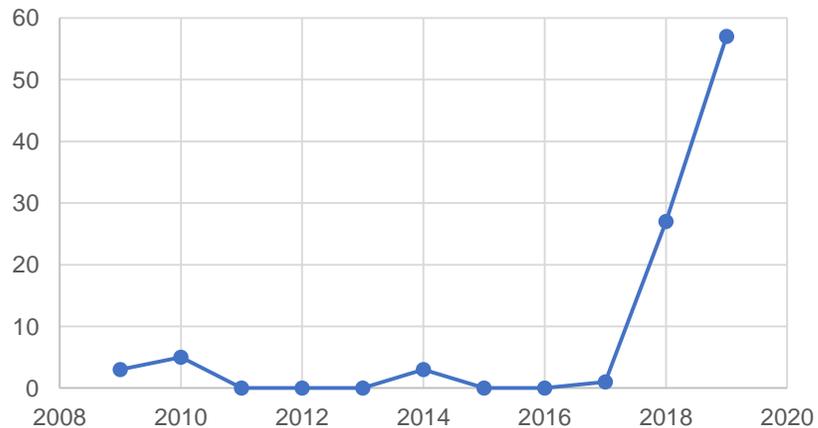
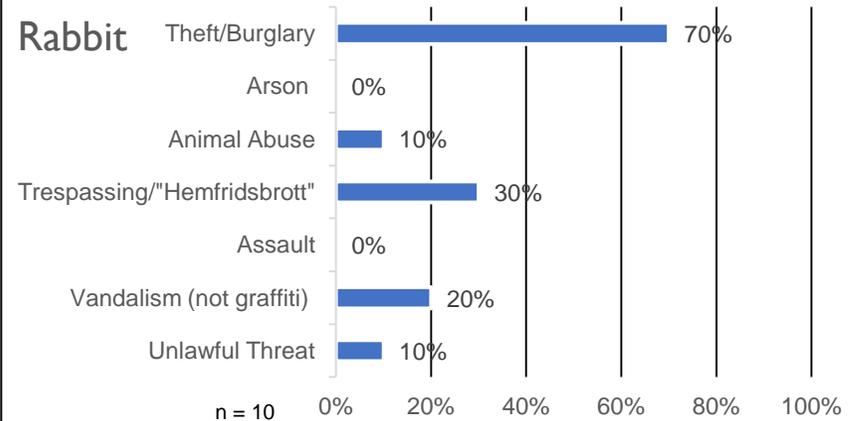
n = 1580

■ First order ■ Second order ■ Third order



n = 295

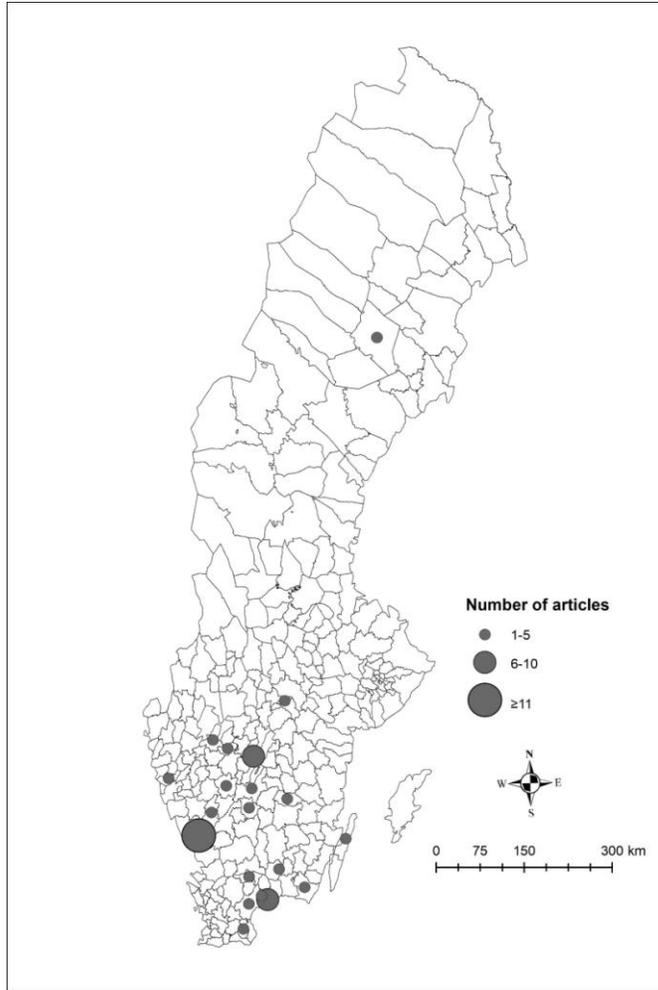
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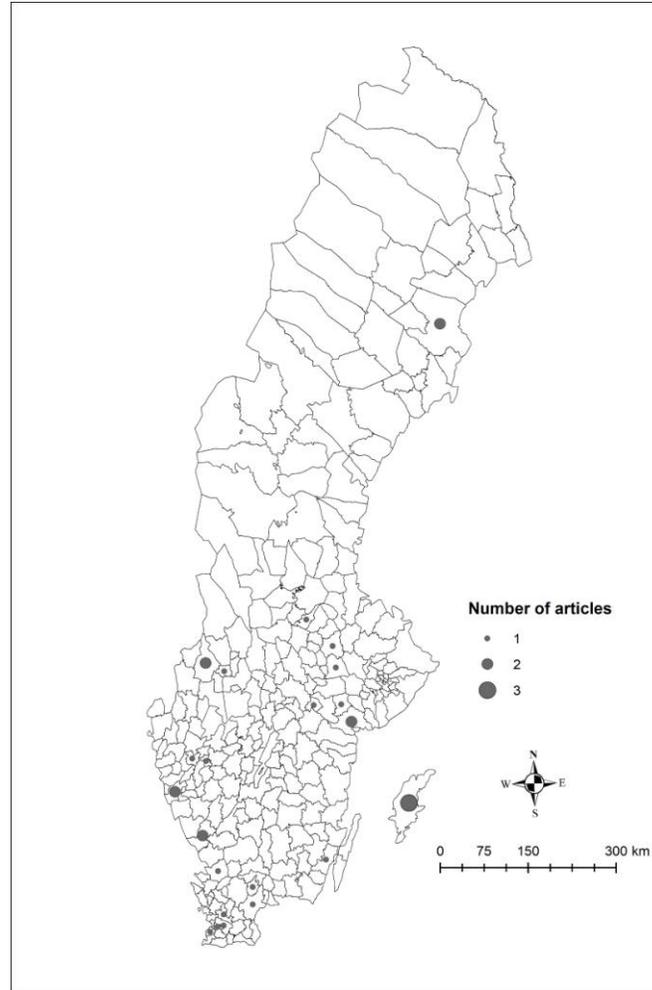
n = 96

■ First order ■ Second order ■ Third order

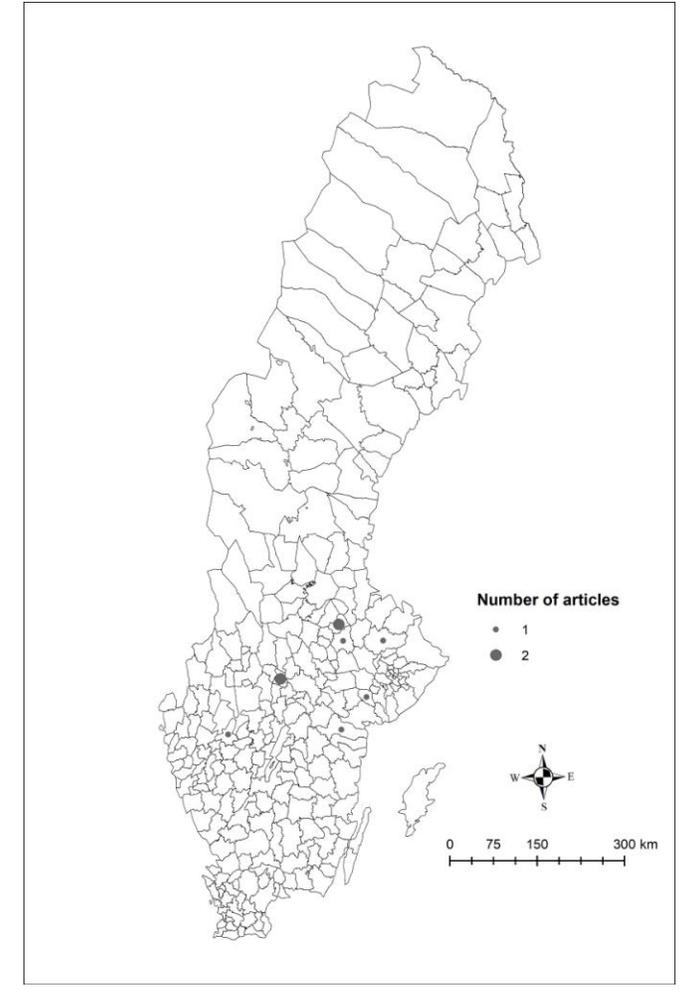
RESULTS: GEOGRAPHY



Mink



Pig



Rabbit

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Situational conditions

- Attractive targets, CRAVED goods:
 - High monetary value of products/animals
 - Easy access to animals through unlocked animal pens
- Low detection of crime
 - Few capable guardians
- Relatively high accessibility to the farms
 - Farms mainly in accessible rural areas or larger municipalities
 - Close to larger roads and highways

Techniques of neutralization

- Denial of injury
 - “The door was open, so we didn’t do any harm”
- Appeal to higher loyalties
 - Duty to save the animals, duty to the organization
- Denial of the victim
 - The farmer is an evil oppressor of the animals and deserves it

Overall points

- CRAVED model expanded for rural areas
- Offenders are not a homogenous group
 - Multipronged approach to prevent CAAP

Thank you!

Questions?