

Pig Owner's News for the

Hunter



Pigs and Biosecurity

March 2021

Ensuring your pigs stay healthy is your priority and the priority of the LLS. Biosecurity plans assist in minimising the risk of exposing pigs to pathogens responsible for disease. Understanding the importance of good biosecurity practices and implementing an effective biosecurity plan is the key to safely and successfully rearing and keeping pigs.

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity refers to the procedures and precautions used to minimise the spread or introduction of harmful organisms (such as parasites, viruses and bacteria) to animals or areas in order to stop the spread of disease.

Why does biosecurity matter?

A good biosecurity protocol keeps your animals safe and keeps the Australian pig industry functioning. Some diseases of pigs are zoonotic as well, meaning they can affect humans, therefore keeping pigs healthy keeps humans healthy.

Biosecurity Management Plan

A good biosecurity management plan requires a multifaceted approach to management practices.

1. Pig health: monitoring pig health is important to identify disease outbreaks as quickly as possible, to minimise spread and ensure the welfare of animals
 - a. Routinely monitor the health of all stock looking for signs of disease
 - b. When purchasing stock ensure they are healthy and come with health records
 - c. Have quarantine procedures in place for introduced stock
 - d. Separate sick pigs from unaffected animals
 - e. Contact a veterinarian for assistance with sick animals
 - f. House all pigs separately to other livestock
2. Pig feed
 - a. Ensure everyone who feeds pigs understand what can and can't be fed to pigs including swill feeding.
 - b. Discuss appropriate feeding with your LLS District Veterinarian
 - c. Keep feed records
3. Controlled entry: ensure there is appropriate signage and control and record all entry to your property from workers, visitors and pigs

4. **Transport:** Pigs should only be transported if they are appropriately branded or tagged; transport vehicles should be cleaned before and after use and records of transport need to be kept
5. **Hygiene:** maintain a high standard of hygiene. All visitors and staff should wash their hands prior to entering property and before leaving. Footbaths should be used and boots should be made available for visitors.
6. **Emergency disease management:** producers should be able to recognise clinical signs of disease in pigs and be able to take measures to stop spread of disease.
 - a. It is important for producers to be able to recognise signs of exotic disease in pigs
 - b. When recognising signs of serious disease in pigs, producers must promptly contact a veterinarian for further investigation
 - c. Producers must be able to humanely dispose of sick pigs or be able to contact someone who can. Plans for carcass disposal should be in place.
7. **Records:** producers should have a farm plan/map, keep a record of all visitors to production site, record incoming feed, record all vaccinations and treatments, keep pig movement records and record all deaths/illnesses/injuries and their suspected causes.



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