

## Be alert for emergency animal diseases



# Make sure your pigs eat the right thing

Information for pig farmers, hobby farmers  
and those who own pigs as pets



### Only feed fruit, vegetables, grains and commercial livestock feed to pigs

Do not feed pigs food or food waste containing meat, meat products, eggs, milk or milk products not of Australian origin and untreated used cooking oils and fats or anything that has been in contact with these items. This food is prohibited pig feed, commonly known as swill.

Prohibited pig feed may contain serious viruses that could be passed on to pigs through feeding – this includes foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and African swine fever (ASF).

The FMD and ASF virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking.

### Food that must not be fed to pigs

- Household, commercial or industrial food waste including restaurant food, butcher shop waste and bakery waste that contains meat, meat products, eggs, some dairy products or anything that has been in contact with these items.
- Examples include table scraps, meat pies, sausage rolls, bacon and cheese rolls, Caesar salad with bacon pieces, deli meats, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia, and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

- Anything that has been in contact with prohibited items via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers such as meat trays and takeaway food containers.

These restrictions apply to ALL pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.

### What food can be fed to pigs?

You can feed pigs:

- Milk or milk products either of Australian origin or legally imported into Australia for stockfeed use.
- Vegetable scraps that do not contain and have had no contact with meat or meat products.
- Fruit, vegetables, and grains.
- Meals made from meat, blood or bone and purchased from a reputable produce store or feed merchant. When purchasing pig feed, look for feed produced by an accredited feed supplier under a quality assurance program such as FeedSafe® visit: [sfmca.com.au](http://sfmca.com.au)
- Rendered animal fat and treated cooking oils.

If in doubt, you should not feed any food other than commercially available pig feed to your pigs.

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### Why is feeding table scraps or food waste to pigs banned?

While feeding discarded or downgraded food substances to pigs is popular because it reduces feed costs and may be seen as waste reduction, the practice could cost Australia its livestock market.

Australia is currently free of FMD and ASF but food containing these viruses may be illegally imported into Australia undetected by quarantine. FMD is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock such as pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer and camelids including alpacas, llamas, and camels.

Swill feeding is considered to be the cause of the devastating 2001 outbreak of FMD in the United Kingdom where over six million animals were destroyed during eradication of the disease. FMD is the single greatest disease threat to Australia's livestock industries.

A large multi-state outbreak has been estimated to cost the national economy around \$80 billion in revenue losses over 10 years.



### Dispose of food waste responsibly

Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that contains food prohibited for pigs should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.

### Report prohibited pig feeding

If you suspect prohibited feed is being supplied to pig owners or fed to pigs, contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23**. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for feeding pigs prohibited feed or supplying prohibited feed that is to be fed to pigs are significant and can include fines or imprisonment.

### What should I do if I notice unusual clinical signs in my animals?

If you notice signs in your animals consistent with an emergency animal disease, such as FMD or ASF, you should report it to your veterinarian and the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888** immediately.

Additional information about the signs of emergency animal diseases is available from our website at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

### Want to know more?



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