



# PIG INSPECTION

The health & welfare of pigs depends on them being regularly inspected. Farming is a year round job, & the responsibility of animal care is shared by everyone involved in farming, from owners to managers, to animal caretakers, to the drivers who transport pigs. Each is accountable for demonstrating a commitment to responsible pig farming.

## PROCEDURE

- All pigs must be inspected at least once daily.
- On inspection each individual pig must be seen
- Adequate lighting (fixed or portable) must be available to enable an animal to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
- Any pig that appears to be ill or injured must be treated appropriately without delay & veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible for any pig that is not responding to the care of the owner or person in charge.

- Where necessary, sick, or injured pigs shall be isolated in adequate accommodation (hospital pen) with dry, comfortable bedding.
- Always carry a colour spray or marker when carrying out inspection & mark individual pigs immediately if they require further attention.
- All stock-keepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of pigs & have a checklist of items for inspection to ensure normal behaviour is being demonstrated.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Spray marker
- Notebook



## INSPECTION CHECKLIST ✓

1. How does the pig react to the presence of a human?
2. Has the pig got access to feed?
3. Has the pig got access to water?
4. Is the lying area dry & comfortable?
5. Is the temperature at pig level within the optimum range (as indicated by lying behaviour)?
6. Is the pig protected from draughts?
7. Is there adequate lighting for inspection & for providing day–night rhythm (minimum 40 lux)?
8. Are manure levels under slatted floors at least 150mm (6 inches) below the top of the slats?
9. Are there any signs of illness or vices on each individual pig?
10. Are or can pigs be subject to excessive noise?

Badly managed & unhealthy pigs will not thrive & it is essential that stock-keepers should watch for signs of distress, disease, or aggression towards any animal by other pigs in the group. Stock-keepers should always be looking out for signs of ill health in pigs, which include:

- Separation from the group
- Listlessness
- Poor appetite
- Increased temperature
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Constipation
- Discoloration or blistering of the skin
- Loss of body condition
- Shivering

- Rapid or irregular breathing
- Persistent coughing or panting
- Swollen navel, udder, or joints
- Lameness - inspection of the feet & legs
- Lack of co-ordination

## HOSPITAL PEN

Pigs in poor health should be separated from the group & moved to a hospital pen, which must:

- Be warm & comfortable - mat or bedding
- Be clean & dry
- Provide plenty of access to feed & water
- Provide palatable, high quality feed
- Ideally be away from healthy animals
- Monitoring of sick animals is critical
- Euthanasia if no response to treatment

## TRANSPORTING PIGS FROM FARM

Those involved in the transport of pigs have a legal obligation to ensure pigs are fit for transport. It is illegal to cause or permit the transport of pigs not fit for travel.

A pig is unfit if they are:

- Aged or new-born
- Diseased, ill, or injured
- Fatigued
- Pig has given birth within the last 48 hours or likely to give birth during transport

### REMEMBER TO RECORD:

- Pig ID
- Condition
- Date moved to hospital pen

