

# A GUIDE FOR NEW KEEPERS PIGS



## **NEW PIG KEEPERS GUIDE**

Whether you keep one pet pig or a commercial herd of pigs you need to be registered with Defra. In the event of a disease outbreak, the precise location of all livestock is essential for effective measures to control and eradicate highly contagious viruses. You place both your own and other livestock in the area at risk if you do not register your holding or report “notifiable diseases”(Please see Annex 2 for a list of notifiable diseases). If you ever have any questions regarding any of these issues then please do not hesitate to contact the **Defra Livestock Identification Helpline on 0845 050 9876** or your nearest Animal Health Office (AHO) For contact details see Annex 1.

### **BEFORE MOVING A PIG TO YOUR HOLDING:**

- You need a County Parish Holding number (CPH) for the land where the pigs will be kept
- The CPH is a 9 digit number
- The first 2 digits relate to the county your pigs are kept in, the next 3 digits relate to the parish and the last 4 digits are a unique number to the keeper. For example, 12/345/6789
- To apply for a CPH you need to contact **The Rural Payments Agency (RPA)** on **0845 603 7777**. After your initial call someone from the RPA will call you back with your CPH number

### **YOU CAN NOW MOVE THE PIG/S TO YOUR HOLDING**

- Pig movements will usually take place under a General Licence, which sets out the conditions for movement. You may obtain a copy from the Defra website (see Annex 1) or from your AHO.
- Pig movements must be accompanied by the movement document
- You will need an Individual Movement Licence to move pigs from a market. This will be issued at the market by a local authority trading standards officer and will also serve as the PRIMO movement document.
- In the event of a disease outbreak the AML2 provides traceability because Defra knows where the pigs are and where they have been
- The person you are buying the pigs from will be responsible for the providing the AML2 – They are known as the departing address
- The departing address completes sections A and C then keeps the yellow copy for their records
- The person transporting the pigs then completes section B with their details and keeps the blue copy
- The AML2 travels with the pigs
- On arrival at your holding you must complete section D with your details

- You retain the pink copy of the AML2 for at least 6 months
- You must send the white copy to your Local Authority's Trading Standards Animal Health department within 3 days of the pigs arriving
- For future movements, please contact your local AHO or local Authority Trading Standards for a tablet of AML2 forms

## **20 DAY STANDSTILL**

- Once the pigs arrive on your holding, your holding will be under a standstill. The standstill rules are there to protect against the rapid spread of any new outbreak of disease – the standstill acts as an incubation period and slows down the spread of disease
- Pigs trigger a 20 day standstill on other pigs when they move onto a holding
- Pigs trigger a 6 day standstill on any cattle, sheep or goats on that holding
- Cattle, sheep and goats moving onto a holding will impose a 6 day standstill on any pig on that holding
- For more information on livestock movements your local AHO and Local Authority Trading Standards can advise you or visit the Defra Livestock Movement website see annex 1

## **REGISTER YOUR PIGS**

- Once the pigs are on your holding you need to register them with Defra
- This time you need to contact your local AHO
- You will be asked your CPH number as a reference
- Once you inform them you are keeping pigs, they may be able to register them for you over the phone but be prepared to put this in writing.
- If your correspondence address is different from the herd location, inform your AHO and confirm they have the correct details
- When your pigs are registered, a herd mark will be automatically created. You may be told this over the phone
- Herdmarks for pigs are 1 or 2 letters followed by 4 digits
- For example, A1234 or AB1234
- The Defra herdmark provides a quick and effective means of identifying premises from which pigs have moved. It is unique, kept on a single database and available to inspectors for rapid tracing
- The AHO will send you a registration document which will contain your personal details, CPH and herdmark
- If you ever have any questions regarding any of these issues then please do not hesitate to contact your local AHO or the Defra helpline

## RECORDS

You need to keep a holding movement record. This should be in the following format:

<b>The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) 2007</b>				
<b>Name and address of the person keeping the record</b>				
Date of movement	The Identification number or temporary mark	Number of pigs	Holding from which moved	Holding to which moved
01/05/07	Slapmark on both shoulders AB1234	5	My Holding Full address CPH	Mr New Holding Full address CPH

- You need to record each movement of a pig on or off the holding within 36 hours of the movement
- Once a year you need to record the maximum number of pigs normally present on the holding
- These records can be in written or electronic form
- You need to keep these records for 6 years after you stop keeping pigs
- Your records must be available for inspection by the Local Authority. They may make an on farm visit or may request your records to be sent in for inspection

## IDENTIFICATION

You can identify your pig by an eartag, tattoo or double slapmark. All equipment can be purchased from agricultural suppliers (for list of suppliers see Annex 1)

### Eartag

- An eartag must be stamped or printed – not hand written
- It contains the letters “UK” followed by your herdmark
- For example, UK AB1234
- Tags used for slaughter must be metal or plastic **but must be able** to withstand carcass processing
- Tags used for movements between holdings can be plastic

## **Tattoo**

- A tattoo of your herdmark on the ear
- For example, AB1234
- UK not needed

## **Slapmark**

- A permanent ink mark of the herdmark which is applied on each front shoulder area of the pig
- Legible for the life of the pig and throughout the processing of its carcass
- For example, AB1234
- UK not needed

## **Temporary Mark**

- Paintmark on the pig – for example, a red line, black cross or blue circle
- Must last until the pig reaches its destination
- Combined with the movement document, the temporary mark identifies the holding from which the pig moved

### ***Identification of Pigs under 12 months old***

- Move between holdings with a temporary paintmark
- Move to slaughter with an eartag, tattoo or double slapmarks
- Move to any type of market with an eartag, tattoo or double slapmarks

### ***Identification of Pigs over 12 months old***

- Move between holdings, to any type of market and to slaughter with an eartag, tattoo or double slapmarks bearing your Defra herdmark. **Your defra herdmark must be applied to a pig before it moves off of your holding**

Below are photos of an eartagged pig and a slapmarked pig.



## **PET PIG WALKING LICENCES**

- Licences can be issued to take pet pigs for walks
- For a licence you need to contact your local AHO see Annex 1
- Your route will need to be approved
- If the Veterinary Officer at the AHO believes there is a risk with your route it will not be approved
- Routes may not be approved due to proximity to: a livestock market, high health status pig farms or fast food outlets, etc
- If it is approved, you are issued with a licence that needs to be renewed annually

## **FEED ADVICE**

Following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2001, the first case of which was found to be at a farm where unprocessed waste food was being fed to pigs, the Government carried out a review of the practice of swill feeding. The outbreak and subsequent review led to legislation banning the feeding of catering waste to any farmed animals or any other ruminant animal, pig or poultry. This is now reflected in EU-wide legislation.

It is illegal to feed any pig any catering waste (including used cooking oil) from restaurants, kitchens (both household and central), and other catering facilities even if those establishments cater solely for vegetarians.

Current legislation also imposes strict controls banning the feeding of other materials of animal origin or products containing them to farmed animals. There are however a small number of exceptions to this, and the following materials may be fed to pigs:

- Liquid milk or colostrum may be fed to pigs kept on the same holding as that on which the milk or colostrum originated;
- Former foodstuffs other than catering waste food from kitchens etc (see above) containing rennet, melted fat, milk or eggs but where these materials are not the main ingredient;
- Fishmeal, (animal derived) di-or tri-calcium phosphate, or blood products if suitably processed (see TSE Regulations internet link below); and
- Milk, milk products and white water when suitably treated.

Please note that anyone obtaining waste milk, milk products or white water to feed to their pigs would need to register with Defra for this purpose, although, in the case of milk products, this would only be necessary if they contained more than 80% milk. Details on how to register are available from either the Defra helpline (08459 33 55 77) or the internet (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/byproducts/guidance/register.htm>).

It is permissible to source certain types of former foodstuffs (see above), as well as fruit and vegetables, from non-catering premises for feeding to pigs, but this must only be done from those premises that either do not handle materials banned from being fed to pigs, or that have (HACCP) procedures in place to ensure complete separation from prohibited materials, and these procedures have been agreed with the local authority. .

If you are uncertain about what can and cannot be fed to your pigs please contact your local Animal Health Divisional Office for further advice. A list of these offices is available on the internet ([www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/animal-health-offices.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/animal-health-offices.htm)). If in doubt don't feed it.

No matter how tempting it may be to feed catering waste food or other types of banned material to your pigs, this is illegal, and the above controls were introduced for a reason. Contaminated waste food can spread viruses and bacteria, and when infected with a disease like Foot and Mouth pigs can quickly infect other animals. Following these requirements will help keep your animals healthy and will reduce the risk of future outbreaks of disease.

Further information on the above controls is available on the internet at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/byproducts/wastefood/index.htm>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/bse/controls-eradication/feed-ban.htm>

## USEFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITE LINKS

**Defra Livestock Identification Helpline (open Mon-Fri 9:00 to 17:00) –**  
0845 050 9876

**Rural Payments Agency –** 0845 603 7777

**Defra Website –** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Defra Pig Identification and movement pages –**  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/pigs/idmovement.htm>

**Animal Health Offices -** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/search/index.asp>

**Defra Disease surveillance and control pages –**  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/index.htm>

**Defra Animal By-products pages -** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/byproducts/index.htm>

### **Slapmark & Eartag Suppliers**

[http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/pigs/slapmark\\_makers.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/pigs/slapmark_makers.htm)

National Pig Association (NPA)  
Agriculture House  
Stonleigh Park  
Warwickshire  
CV8 2L2  
<http://www.npa-uk.org.uk/>

British Pig Association (BPA)  
Trumpington Mews  
40b High Street  
Trumpington  
Cambridge  
CB2 2LS  
[www.britishpigs.org.uk](http://www.britishpigs.org.uk)

British Pig Executive (BPEX)  
PO Box 44  
Winterhill House  
Snowdon Drive

Milton Keynes  
MK6 1AX  
[www.bpex.org.uk](http://www.bpex.org.uk)

The Pig Veterinary Society  
[www.pigvetsoc.org.uk](http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk)

## **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

## **ANNEX 2**

A notifiable disease is a disease named in Section 88 of the Animal Health Act 1981 or an Order made under that Act.

In practice, if you suspect signs of any of the notifiable diseases listed below, you must immediately notify the Defra Divisional Veterinary Manager at your local Animal Health Divisional Office.

### **Notifiable Diseases in Pigs:**

#### **African Swine Fever – This has never occurred in this country**

ASF is similar to Classical Swine Fever (see below), but it is caused by a different virus. The ASF virus can be given to pigs by ticks and biting flies, as well as directly from infected pigs and pig meat. There are acute and chronic forms of ASF. In the acute disease, pigs firstly go off their food and are extremely dull with a high temperature (40-42 degrees C). They can then have diarrhoea, vomiting, coughing and a purple blotching of the skin. They might have a swaying gait, abort their litters and have a discharge from the eyes and nose.

#### **Classical Swine Fever – Last occurred in this country in 2000**

CSF also has acute and chronic forms and is spread to pigs by infected pigs, pig meat, or dirty vehicles, boots, etc. In the mild and chronic forms of the disease, the signs are less obvious – there may be a short-lived lack of appetite and fever and perhaps abortion. However, in the acute form, pigs are very dull and off their food with a high fever (40 – 41 degrees C). They may cough and initially show constipation then later, diarrhoea. There may be a discharge from the eyes and nose and the skin can be reddened and blotchy. Sows may abort or give birth to a weak litter. Some new born piglets have tremors.

#### **Aujeszky's Disease – Occurred last – 1989 in this country**

Aujeszky's disease is also caused by a virus. Affected pigs have a variety of signs including sneezing, coughing, laboured breathing and fever. They may show nervous signs, too, such as trembling, circling and a swaying gait. Sows might abort or give birth to still born or mummified litters. Deaths are highest in younger pigs.

#### **Foot and Mouth Disease – Occurred last – 2001 in this country.**

The chief symptom in pigs is sudden lameness. Pigs prefer to lie down and when made to move squeal loudly and hobble painfully, though lameness

may not be so obvious where the pigs are on deep bedding or soft ground. The blisters form on the upper edge of the hoof, where the skin and horn meet, and on the heels and in the cleft. They may extend right round the hoof head, with the result that the horn becomes detached.

At a later stage new horn starts to grow and the old hoof is carried down and finally shed. The process resembles the loss of a fingernail following some blow or other injury. Mouth symptoms are not usually visible, but blisters may develop on the snout or on the tongue and along the udder

### **Swine Vesicular Disease – Occurred last – 1982 in GB**

The symptoms are clinically indistinguishable from foot-and-mouth disease but SVD only affects pigs. There is a fever of up to 41 degrees Centigrade, then vesicles (blisters) develop on the coronary band, typically at the junction with the heel. The disease usually appears suddenly but does not spread with the same rapidity as foot-and-mouth disease. Mortality is low but in acute cases there can be some loss of production. Lameness develops due to the eruption of vesicles at the top of the hooves and between the toes. Vesicles may also develop on the snout, tongue and lips. The surface under the vesicles is red and this gradually changes colour as healing develops. The entire hoof may be shed. In less severe cases the healed lesion may grow down the hoof and this is seen by a black transverse mark. Recovery is usually complete within two to three weeks.

### **Teschen Disease (Porcine enterovirus encephalomyelitis) –This has never occurred in this country.**

Initially, infected pigs have a fever, loss of appetite, are dull and slightly uncoordinated. As the disease progresses there is irritability, stiffness, muscular tremors or rigidity, and convulsions. There may also be grinding of the teeth, smacking of the lips and squealing as if in pain. The voice may change or be lost entirely.

The course of the disease is usually acute and death, generally preceded by paralysis, normally occurs within three to four days of the appearance of symptoms. Mildly affected animals may recover. All age groups of pigs are susceptible to this disease.

### **Vesicular Stomatitis – This is a very rare disease of pigs which has never occurred in this country, but can also affect cattle, horses and people.**

This disease, like SVD and FMD, causes blisters, but a different virus is involved. Areas of skin become blanched, followed by the formation of vesicles on the snout of pigs, on the lips, tongue, hard and soft palate and the coronary band. Lesions may also occur in other areas of the skin, especially

where there is abrasion of tissue. The vesicles yield a serous fluid as they burst, usually 6 to 24 hours after formation. The hoof may become detached if vesicles have gathered there. Mortality rates are moderate to low.

### **Anthrax**

This disease occurs rarely in pigs, but it can be given to people, too. It is caused by a bacteria and infected pigs can have fluid filled swellings around the neck or have a bloody diarrhoea. Spores of the bacteria can live for some time in slurry and contaminated housing.