

Humane Choice Food Safety Risk Assessment - Pigs



This assessment needs to be complete as part of your application for accreditation under the Humane Choice Standard.

You will need to examine your property and operational procedures to ensure that the pigs you produce are not exposed to any risks that may jeopardize the wholesomeness of the food you produce.

You will need to implement the required systems specified in this assessment as part of your ongoing farm management strategy.

Signed:..... Date:

Please print name:

Business Name:

Business Address:

Phone: Email:



Feed and disease management

1. Feed Controls

Purpose: to ensure that in-feed medications and chemicals applied to crops and pastures do not result in contaminated feed being fed to pigs and resulting in chemical residues at slaughter.

1.1 Pasture

It is a requirement of the HUMANE CHOICE Standard that all pigs have access to paddocks and forage.

Do you, at any time, apply pesticides or herbicides or any other chemical to pastures grazed by pigs or pasture that pigs can gain access to?

No If no, go to question 1.2

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

Crop, pasture and paddock treatment record

On farm management

Ensure that all WHP are observed before allowing pigs access to those pastures and that your records accurately state the chemical used, the application rate, WHP and the date applied.

1.2 Do you grow any feed for your pigs on farm? This will include hay, silage and straw bedding.

No If no, go to question 1.3

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

Crop, Pasture and Paddock Treatment Record
Stored Grain Treatment Record

On farm management

Ensure that all WHP are observed before allowing pigs access to those pastures and that your records accurately state the chemical used, the application rate, WHP and the date applied.



1.3 Do you purchase, or bring on to your property, any feed, including hay, silage and straw, to be fed to the pigs?

No If no, got to question 1.4

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

Commodity Vendor Declaration

Delivery dockets

On farm management

Do not feed swill (byproducts and scraps containing any meat or imported dairy products) to pigs.

Ensure that feed is fresh and palatable and free from chemical contamination (vendor declaration) and that it is also free of mould.

Only buy feed from suppliers that are happy to supplier a Vendor Declaration.

Ensure that your feed is free of ingredients of animal origin unless they have been treated and processed according to approved methods by a licensed operator.

Check all delivery dockets to ensure that you receive the correct feed.

1.4 Do you store feed or grain in silos or storage bins?

No If no, got to question 1.5

Yes If yes, go to question 1.4.1

1.4.1 Do you apply any chemical treatments to these silos or storage bins?

No If no, got to question 1.5

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

Stored Grain Treatment Record



On farm management

Ensure that all WHP are observed before using any feed stored in silos and bins before feeding to pigs and that your records accurately state the chemical used, the application rate, WHP and the date applied.

Ensure that each silo or storage bin is clearly identified to avoid delivery into the wrong storage facility.

It is highly recommended that stored feed and grain be inspected regularly for vermin attack. If mice or rat baits or poisons are used they must be placed in areas that pigs and wildlife cannot gain access to. Their use should also be entered in the farm Chemical List and the Stored Grain Treatment Record and a bait map recorded.

2. Medication Controls

2.1 Do you include any medications in any feeds that you mix on farm?

No If no, keep batch samples for a period of at least 6 months and go to question 2.2

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Note: The HUMANE CHOICE Standard prohibits the use of antibiotics or growth promotants of any form in pig feed unless used strictly for the treatment of a disease or parasite infestation, and used under veterinary advice.

Records to be kept

Animal Treatment Record
Chemical List

On farm management

Ensure that accurate records are kept of any in feed treatments and that there is no risk of cross contamination of medicated feed with unmedicated feed and that this is prevented by flushing the storage facility to completely empty it of treated feed. Observe any WHP.

2.2 Do you at any time apply chemical or medicinal treatments (either by injection, in water, or topically) to your pigs?

No If no, go to section 3

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.



Records to be kept

Instructions from your veterinarian if applicable
Animal Treatment Record
Chemical List
Delivery or invoice dockets for the treatment

On farm management

Ensure that accurate records of all treatments are kept and that those records show clearly the name of the product, dose rate, the purpose for which it is used, how it is applied and any WHP or ESI is observed. Also include any over the counter medications on these records as well as any 'off-label' use recommended by your veterinarian including the recommended WHP.

Any treatments applied to pigs should only be administered by, or supervised by a person who has completed the relevant modules of a recognised chemical users course.

Ensure that pigs for which the treatment is intended are clearly identified and an assessment of their body weight is made.

Before the treatment is administered, ensure the following:

- that the directions on the label of the treatment are followed
- that the treatment is administered as per label instructions
- that the correct dose rate is used
- that the expiry date on the treatment is checked
- and that the treatment is listed on the farm Chemical List and used only for the purpose intended on the label

2.3 Bought in feeds containing medications

The HUMANE CHOICE Standard prohibits the use of proprietary feeds containing medications of any kind.

2.4 Do you administer any medications or vaccines via injection?

No If no, go to section 4

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following procedures in place in the event that a needle should break off inside a pig.

Broken needles must be prevented from entering the food chain.



Permanently identify any pig with a retained needle using a specifically coloured ear tag.

Ensure that the pigs identification is recorded in the Animal Treatment Record.

Other medication controls that need to be addressed on your farm and how you manage them:

4. Bringing pigs onto the property and Artificial Insemination

4.1 Do you bring in or buy in replacement pigs from another herd?

No If no, go to question 4.2

Yes If yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

Vendor Declaration

Animal Treatment Record

On farm management

Do not buy in stock that you suspect may have had access to an environment that would comprise your food safety standards.

Only buy pigs from a reputable breeder that will supply you with a Vendor Declaration with full details of any treatments given, retained objects and any access the animals may have had to any potential hazards while grazing.

If the Vendor Declaration indicates any treatments have been administered to these pigs record it in the Animal Treatment Record.

All bought in pigs should be contained in a quarantine area for a period of at least 7 days.



4.2 Do you use artificial insemination?

No. Go to next question

Yes, ensure you have the following records and management practices in place.

Records to be kept

- Semen Vendor Declaration or equivalent
- Delivery dockets for semen
- Farm Chemical List
- Animal Treatment Record
- Mating Records must include details of semen used

On Farm Management

Ensure that the supplier of the semen provides details of the antibiotic used in the semen and includes the relevant withholding period.

Specify that the semen be adequately identified to reflect the property of origin at the time of ordering.

Record the withholding period of the antibiotic used in the semen in the Chemical List.

Record all sows that are artificially inseminated in the Animal Treatment Record.

The HUMANE CHOICE does not promote the use of artificial insemination and recommends that only natural mating be used.

5. Pig housing and pasture management controls

5.1 Pig hutches, sheds and shelters

For any housing in all stages of your operation, ensure that there are no protruding nails, bolts, wires, sharp objects or broken structures that may lodge in the pig or be swallowed by the pigs and cause damage to the carcass and injury to human health.

Remove any cut off pieces of wire, dropped nails, bolts, screws, welding rods from the pigs environment after maintenance has been completed and before pigs are allowed to again access the housing.



5.2 *Paddocks and Grazing*

Pigs raised under the HUMANE CHOICE Standard must have access to pasture. This also means that you must assess the risk of unacceptable residues that may be in your soils. Persistent Chemicals that you should be aware of are;

Organochlorine: Of main concern this chemical is also known as Aldrin, DDT, Dieldrin, HCB, BHC, Chlordane and Heptachlor.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs): Belonging to the OC family this chemical was added to electrical capacitors, transformer oils and some hydraulic oils as a fire retardant.

Lead, Arsenic and Cadmium: Arsenic was previously used in sheep dips.

Cadmium, while occurring naturally in some soils, is present in some phosphate fertilizers.

Best practice would be to have your soils tested.

Are you aware of any organochlorine pesticides being used in the past?

Yes No

Have you ever had an adverse report on residues found in livestock raised on your property?

Yes No

If you have answered yes to either of the above two questions, you must exclude your pigs from any suspect areas and have the soil tested.

If soil tests confirm the presence of unacceptable levels of persistent chemicals, all pigs must be permanently excluded from the areas affected. These areas must be securely fenced to ensure that no animals can access the area.

Do you know the history of any cropping on your land?

Yes No

If you are unsure of the cropping history on your property and you are aware that the land has been cropped in the past, it is advised that you have your soils tested for persistent chemicals.

Do you have an old sheep dip on your property?



If yes, this area must be securely fenced off to prevent access by pigs along with any land that the dip drained to or any area that held chemical or debris and sludge removed from the dip. It is advised that you have the soil in this area tested so that you are aware of the extent of any risk.

In some cases a history of the property for residues can also be obtained through your Rural Land Protection Board.

Older sheep and cattle yards are a potential risk for chemical residues. While it is generally acceptable to handle pigs in these facilities, do not hold the animals in these yards unless you have had the soil tested and the tests confirm there is no risk.

Fence off any old building, shearing sheds and yards so that pigs cannot gain uncontrolled access to them. There is a good chance that old timber buildings have been treated with OCS

Fence around telegraph poles that may be on pastured areas of you land if those pose a risk.

Clear paddocks of any debris before allowing pigs to graze.

Grazing for pigs must be carefully monitored to ensure that the animals cannot access any potential hazards that would cause injury or food safety risks.

When planning paddocks for grazing pigs, ensure the area does not contain food safety risks like old sheep dips, household rubbish dumps, old shed sites, old chemical drums and the like.

Inspect paddocks that pigs are grazing on a daily basis for carrion and dangerous items that the pigs may have up rooted.

Fencing must be adequate to prevent the pigs from straying into potentially hazardous conditions.

Pigs must never be able wonder into areas that have the potential to allow them access to chemicals, feed storage, household rubbish, storage sheds or any area they may allow them to digest or come into contact with any thing that may result in contamination or injury to the pig.

Vehicles, tractors, machinery and tools must not be left in paddocks that pigs have access to.



Other pasture and housing controls that need to be addressed on your farm and how you manage them:

6. Presale Check

On farm management

Check the Animal Treatment Record prior to sale to ensure that there are no pigs still in any WHP or ESI. Check for any pigs that may be recorded as having retained needles or objects and clearly identify those animals and record them on the current version of the PigpassNational Vendor Declaration.

Clearly brand all pigs that are to be loaded for sale in accordance with state legislation.

Ensure that the brand slapper is kept in good condition and that there are no broken or bent needles.

All pigs must be fit to travel at the time of loading