

**Be alert for
emergency
animal
diseases**



Make sure pigs eat the right thing

Information for food outlets

Food and food waste containing meat, meat products, milk or milk products not of Australian origin or anything that has been in contact with these items must not be fed to pigs. This food is prohibited pig feed, commonly known as swill.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia. Swill 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. Swill feeding of illegally imported meat or dairy products is considered to be the most likely way these viruses would be introduced to Australia.



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, 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 swill 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.

Be alert for emergency animal diseases



Dispose of food waste responsibly

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

Why is feeding swill 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 severe outbreak has been estimated to cost the national economy around \$80 billion in revenue losses over 10 years.

Swill can also contain other significant viruses not currently found in Australia.

Report swill feeding

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

Want to know more?

Call **13 25 23**

Visit [Laws against supplying and feeding prohibited feed to pigs \(swill\) | Business Queensland](#)



📞 13 25 23

🌐 biosecurity.qld.gov.au

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