

Make sure your pigs eat the right thing.

Don't feed swill.

Do not feed pigs food or food waste containing meat; meat products; eggs; milk or milk products not of Australian origin; or anything that has been in contact with these items. This food is prohibited feed for pigs, 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).

The FMD virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking. It is considered the virus is most likely to be introduced to Australia through the illegal importation of meat or dairy products.

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; eggs; 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.

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



Be FMD aware. Be FMD prepared.



**Queensland
Government**



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.
- Bakery scraps or vegetable scraps that do not contain and have had no contact with meat or meat products.
- Fruit, vegetables and cereals.
- 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: www.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.

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 but food containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia. 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 \$52 billion in revenue losses over 10 years.

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

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.

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.

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

If you see clinical signs in your animals consistent with FMD, immediately contact your local veterinarian. In addition, **Biosecurity Queensland** MUST be notified on **13 25 23** or through the Emergency **Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**. Information on FMD clinical signs is available from our website.

Want to know more?

Call **13 25 23**

Visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD

