



Free Range and Free Farmed Pigs

Farm Audit Checklist



Farm Audit Checklist for Free Range and Free Farmed Pigs

Version 1 – 2020



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Introduction

This farm audit checklist for free range and free farmed pigs provides a summary of the relevant SPCA Certified standards and is intended to help members assess their farm and prepare for an audit.

It is not exhaustive and not intended as a replacement for the standards, which should be read and understood before this checklist is used.

In addition, while completing this checklist and addressing any problems it raises will increase the likelihood of a successful audit, it is not a guarantee of success.

Please do not send this document to SPCA Certified. It is provided purely for your own reference.

Date of assessment:		Group ages:	
Overall comments:			

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	Good Nutrition		
	Feed		
N1 – N3 & N5	Pigs have daily access to a good diet, which is provided in a suitable way and does not contain swill, hormones, growth promoters or pig derived proteins. Food by-products are fed in accordance with MPI guidelines.		

N4	Detailed information on food composition is available on request.		
N6 & N7	Feeders are checked daily and are not situated in dunging areas.		
N8 & N9	Feed is stored securely and enough is on hand to last for 48 hours if needed.		
N10 & N11	Body condition is assessed daily and recorded monthly for the herd. Action is taken if a pig is below 2 or above 4.5 on a five point scale.		
	Water		
N12 - N15	Drinkers provide all pigs with clean water when they need it, are checked daily and do not contaminate bedding areas.		
N16 & N18	<i>E.coli</i> is tested in the water line annually. Non-town supply water is also tested annually and a back-up water source/treatment option is available for emergencies.		

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	Good Environment		
	Buildings and housing		
E1	A detailed site plan is available for viewing.		
E2 & E3	Internal surfaces are easy to clean and the environment does not pose an injury or health risk to the pigs.		
E4 & E5	Equipment, including auxiliary power supplies, is maintained in full working order and electrical tests are conducted annually.		
	Flooring in barns		
E6 – E8 & E10	Flooring is solid and stable, with adequate drainage. Slats do not comprise more than 25 % of the floor area and bare concrete is not used.		
	Lying areas and bedding		
E11 – E16	Lying areas are solid, with good quality bedding that is checked daily and replaced between groups.		

	Lighting in barns		
E17	Shed lighting mimics normal day/night length.		
	Temperature		
E18	Suitable resources are provided to enable pigs to maintain a comfortable temperature at all times.		
	Ventilation and air quality		
E19	All structures that pigs use are properly ventilated, without causing draughts.		
E20 & E21	Dust and ammonia are minimised.		
	Outdoor environment		
E22	The outside area is managed to maintain ground cover and reduce disease and environmental risks.		

E23 & E24	Pigs have access to artificial shelters that are dry and can withstand the effects of bad weather.		
E25	Pigs have access to shade during hot/humid weather.		
	Transport (off-farm)		
E26 & E27	Pigs are assessed before transport and no unfit animals are transported.		
E28 & E29	Equipment, vehicles and holding areas are fit for purpose, clean and safe for pigs to use.		
E30 & E31	Less than 1 % of pigs fall during loading and those that do are immediately treated.		
E32	Pigs are not off food for more than 16 hours and have access to water until immediately before loading.		
E33 & E34	Outdoor pigs are not moved into barns until 48 hours before loading and unfamiliar pigs are not mixed.		

E35	Tusked boars are transported in way that minimises the risk of injury to themselves, other animals and people.		
E36 & E37	Pigs are not loaded/transported in hot weather (>30°C) and transport does not exceed eight hours from start to finish.		
E39 & E40	Accurate transport records are kept and a contingency plan for delays/emergencies is in place.		
E41	Pigs are not transported for sale at auction or market.		
	Emergency preparedness		
E42	An emergency preparedness plan is in place and regularly reviewed.		
E43	Fire prevention procedures are in place and any alarms/extinguishers are well maintained.		

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	Good Health		
	Animal health plan		
H1 & H2	A detailed animal health plan, which is regularly reviewed and which covers major health and welfare issues, is in place.		
H3	Regular veterinary visits are undertaken and the outcomes recorded.		
H4 & H5	Herd injury and lameness records are kept and any sudden deaths or disease outbreaks are reported to SPCA.		
	Pharmaceutical use		
H6 – H8	Pharmaceuticals are only administered by competent people, following veterinary prescription, stored safely and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.		
H10	Pharmaceuticals are not routinely used for induction.		

H11	Accurate records of all treatments are kept.		
	Surgical husbandry procedures		
H12 - H14	Surgical procedures are conducted by competent people that can recognise signs of pain/distress in pigs, and use clean, well maintained and appropriate equipment.		
H15	Significant surgical procedures are performed using pain relief.		
H16 & H17	Records of surgical procedures are kept and animals are regularly inspected afterwards.		
	Tail docking		
H19	Docking is done no later than 36 hours after birth, using a hot iron to remove no more than half of the tail.		
H20	Any docking done after 36 hours is done by a veterinarian, using pain relief.		

H21 & H22	Tail biting incidents are recorded and a plan is in place to stop tail docking.		
	Tooth clipping/grinding		
H23 & H24	Tooth clipping/grinding is done before five days of age and is not routine.		
	Tusk trimming		
H25 & H26	Tusk trimming is done under sedation, by a veterinarian using embryotomy wire.		
	Nose ringing		
H27 & H28	Nose rings/clips are inserted into the correct part of the nose and wire is not used.		
	Castration		
H29 - H31	Surgical castration is not done and all use of Improvac® (Zoetis) is recorded.		

	Animal identification		
H32	Procedures are conducted by competent people, using clean, well maintained and appropriate equipment.		
H33	A maximum of two tags per ear are used and ear notching is not done.		
	Breeding		
H34 & H35	AI and pregnancy scanning (through the flank) are done by a competent person. Other methods are performed by a veterinarian.		
H36	Farrowing aids are lubricated and not used to increase the speed of birthing.		
	Inspection of animals		
H37 - H39	Pigs are inspected daily in a careful manner and any issues are recorded.		
H40	Inspections increase in frequency during bad weather or if there are welfare concerns.		

H41	Foot health checks are done on adult pigs every 3-4 months.		
	Sick or injured pigs		
H42 - H47	Sick or injured pigs are appropriately cared for in hospital/isolation pens as required.		
	Euthanasia and mortality		
H48	All cases of euthanasia and mortality are recorded in the animal health plan.		
H49 - H51	Mortality levels are monitored and pigs are euthanased the same day as untreatable suffering is detected.		
H53 - H55	Pigs are euthanased by trained staff, using appropriate equipment, in a manner which minimises additional suffering.		
H56 - H58	Pigs are stunned before being killed, then bled out, with staff confirming that death has occurred.		

H59	Carcasses are disposed of in accordance with local council regulations.		
	Biosecurity		
H60 & H61	A biosecurity plan is in place and lethal pest control options are reviewed annually.		

Reference Standard	Summarised standard	Check (Y/N)	Comments
	Appropriate Behaviour		
	Breeding, servicing and farrowing		
B1 - B3	An appropriate environment, with adequate grip is used for breeding and the practices used do not cause pain or injury to the animals.		
B4 & B5	Service paddocks are at least 10.5 m ² and animals within them are closely monitored.		

B6	Boars are of a similar size to the sows.		
B7 & B8	Farrowing crates are not used and farrowing accommodation is large enough for the sows to turn around in.		
B9 - B11	Sows are introduced to their accommodation five days before farrowing, given bedding material 72 hours before farrowing and monitored closely throughout.		
B12 & B13	Farrowing huts are designed to minimise the effect of bad weather and in shared paddocks, are well spaced out.		
B14	Bedding is disposed of, or composed, once farrowing is completed.		
	Management of piglets and growing pigs		
B15 & B16	Sows and piglets are monitored twice daily for one week post farrowing and any piglets that are struggling are removed or euthanased.		

B17 & B18	Piglets are given solid feed from 21 days and are not weaned before 23 days of age.		
B19 - B21	Weaners are observed daily for one week post weaning and are kept in stable groups with sufficient space to move and lie down.		
	Space allowances		
B22 & B23	Outdoor pigs have sufficient space to display normal behaviours and are not stocked at more than 18 sows/hectare.		
B24	Pigs in barns are not stocked at more than the allowances given in appendix 5 of the standard.		
	Handling and moving pigs		
B25 - B28	Pigs are handled in a low-stress way by competent people, who do not hit, shout or poke the animals in sensitive areas.		
B29 - B31	Pigs are moved in a way that does not involve harmful handling equipment/methods, or picking them up by their ears/tails.		

B32	Sick pigs are handled with extreme care or else euthanased where they are found.		
B33 & B34	Pigs are only restrained for essential purposes and noise is kept to a minimum.		
B35	Slips, falls and injuries during moving are monitored and minimised.		
	Behavioural enrichment		
B36	All pigs have access to fresh foraging material.		
B37	If additional enrichment is used, it is regularly inspected and changed between groups.		
	Wallowing		
B39	Wallows are well maintained to keep them attractive and safe for pigs to use.		

	Managers, stock-keepers and other personnel		
B40	All farm staff comply with the standard and relevant Codes of Welfare.		
B41 & B42	Animal welfare and whistle-blowing policies are in place on the farm.		
B43	Sufficient resources, including staff, are provided to meet the needs of the pigs.		
B44 & B45	Staff are appropriately trained for their roles and training records are kept for inspection.		
B46 & B48	All staff and contractors are aware of their animal welfare responsibilities and know who to contact if they encounter problems.		
B47	Staff do not undertake tasks on the farm unsupervised, until they have been fully trained themselves.		

END OF ASSESSMENT



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