



# Prohibited pig feed

## Information for Environmental Health Officers

Feeding pigs food waste that contains meat or has been in contact with meat is illegal in Australia. This practice could introduce deadly emergency animal diseases like African swine fever (ASF) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Environmental Health Officers play a critical role in preventing these diseases. They educate and advise food businesses on proper waste handling and disposal.

### What is prohibited pig feed?

Prohibited pig feed (also known as swill) is food that contains meat, meat products, or has been in contact with mammalian materials such as beef, pork, lamb or goat.

### How does this affect food businesses?

Food businesses must ensure food waste that contains meat, meat products or has been in contact with mammalian materials is not knowingly provided for feeding to pigs.

### Examples of prohibited pig feed:

- meat, meat scraps, or trimmings from mammals
- fruit and vegetable waste that has been in contact with meat
- bakery waste contaminated by meat (e.g. cheese and bacon rolls)
- offal, blood, bones, or mammal carcasses
- non-Australian dairy products unless legally imported for livestock feed
- used cooking oil unless treated to the required standard.

## Where is prohibited pig feed commonly found?

- food processors and manufacturers
- food retailers (bakeries, supermarkets)
- restaurants, cafés, fast-food outlets, delis, lunch bars
- home kitchens
- rubbish tips

## Safe materials to feed pigs:

- commercially manufactured pig feed
- grains, fruits and vegetables, provided they have not had contact with meat
- meat meals and tallow, provided they have been produced according to the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products (AS 5008:2007)
- Australian milk or milk products or imported milk and milk products for stockfeed
- used cooking oil, provided it has only been used for cooking in Australia and has been processed according to the National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils Intended for Animal Feeds.

## Responsibilities of an Environmental Health Officer

- Educate food businesses on prohibited pig feed laws.
- Advise businesses on correct waste disposal to prevent pigs (including feral pigs) from accessing food waste.
- Ensure businesses use authorised waste collection services.
- Report any suspected illegal feeding practices to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

## Penalties for illegal feeding practices

Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Agriculture Standards) Regulations 2013, food businesses can be fined up to \$5,000 for:

- feeding prohibited pig feed to pigs
- allowing pigs to access prohibited pig feed
- collecting and storing prohibited pig feed for feeding to pigs
- supplying prohibited pig feed for feeding to pigs.

## How to report suspected illegal feeding

- email [livestockbiosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:livestockbiosecurity@dpiird.wa.gov.au)
- call the **Emergency Animal Disease hotline 1800 675 888**.

## More information

Visit our pig feed webpage: [dpiird.wa.gov.au/pigfeed](http://dpiird.wa.gov.au/pigfeed)

## Important Disclaimer

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