



Owning a Pedigree Pig

Responsibilities and legal obligations

When you first buy a pedigree pig you become responsible for the health and welfare of your herd. You must also ensure that you do not endanger the health of other pig keepers herds.

■ Farm Health Planning

Happy pigs are Healthy pigs!

The first step in improving welfare is to make sure your pigs are healthy. The BPA's consultant vet Bob Stevenson, working with Defra, has developed a Farm Health Plan for small scale pig producers. A draft Farm Health Plan is available which can be implemented with your local vet. Copies are available from the BPA website.

Biosecurity doesn't mean turning your farm into a prison!

- Know your health status and use the British Pig Executive (BPEX) on-line Food Chain Information forms - even if your abattoir does not accept electronic forms your vet will be able to see the Meat Hygiene Service health reports.
- Ask about any pigs coming onto your farm - Ask if your supplier has a health plan and get your vet to talk to their vet.
- Isolate pigs that are coming onto your farm - If you buy in breeding stock, send your sows out for mating or take your pigs to a show you need an isolation facility. This does not have to be complicated or expensive. Ask your local Animal Health Office (AHO) for details of the minimum requirements. They will inspect and approve it.
- Integrate new pigs into the herd - Expose the new pigs gradually to your herd. Mix them in isolation with some pigs that you are sending to the abattoir.



- Have a treatment plan for your herd - make sure that you are using medicines correctly and safely.
- Keep your plan up to date - It's a working document that will change and develop with your herd. You can always discuss changes with your vet on the phone.

Remember!

Years of conservation breeding can be wiped out at a stroke by a disease epidemic such as the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001. It is every pedigree breeder's responsibility to help maintain national biosecurity.

■ Notifiable Diseases

Certain diseases such as Foot and Mouth are Notifiable Diseases. If you suspect that your pigs have been infected you MUST inform your local Animal Health Office. Leaflets are available.

One of the most likely routes of infection is the feeding of infected meat to pigs. You cannot feed any kind of catering or kitchen waste to farmed animals. Catering waste is defined as all waste food, whether raw or cooked, including used cooking oils, which arise in premises such as:

- Household kitchens
- Restaurants
- Fish and Chips/Pizza/Kebab shops
- Takeaway shops
- Canteens
- Cafés
- Vegetarian kitchens/restaurants



■ Transport

"No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way that is likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them" All persons who take animals on a journey, whatever the length, should always apply the following good transport practice:

- The journey is properly planned and time is kept to a minimum and the animals are checked and their needs met during the journey.
- The animals are fit to travel.

- The vehicle and the loading and unloading facilities are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering.
- Those handling animals are trained or competent in the task and do not use violence or any methods likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering.
- Water, feed and rest are given to the animals as needed, and sufficient floor space and height are allowed.
- You will need to obtain a transporter authorisation and certificate of competence if you undertake journeys over 40 miles. For journeys over eight hours you will also need to have your vehicle approved and, if undertaking export journeys, a system of satellite tracking fitted.

Further details can be found on the Defra website or by ringing 0845 603 8395.

Welfare

The welfare of pigs is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 under which it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals - this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met. This means that a person has to look after an animal's welfare as well as ensure that it does not suffer. You must obtain a copy of the Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs and make it available to anyone else working with your pigs.

Traceability.

Pigs can spread dangerous diseases such as Foot and Mouth. In the event of an outbreak Defra and Animal Health must be able to trace the whereabouts of all pig herds.

Before moving a pig to your holding:

- You need a County Parish Holding number (CPH) for the land where the pigs will be kept. The CPH is a 9 digit number.
- To apply for a CPH you need to contact The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on 0845 603 7777. After your initial call someone from the RPA will call you back with your CPH number.

You can now move the pig/s to your holding

- Pig movements must be accompanied by an AMLS2 movement document. The person you are buying the pigs from will be responsible for providing the AMLS2. In the event of a disease outbreak the AMLS2 provides traceability because Defra knows where the pigs are and where they have been .
- You must send the white copy to your Local Authority's Trading Standards Animal Health department within 3 days of

the pigs arriving. You retain the pink copy of the AMLS2 for at least 6 months.

20 day standstill

- Once the pigs arrive on your holding, your holding will be under a standstill. The standstill rules are there to protect against the potential spread of any new outbreak of disease.
- Pigs trigger a 20 day standstill on other pigs when they move onto a holding (but 6 days on any cattle, sheep or goats present). There are exemptions to the standstill if you have a Defra approved isolation facility e.g. for breeding purposes.

Register your herd

- Once the pigs are on your holding you need to register them with Defra through your local AHO within 30 days.
- Herdmarks for pigs are 1 or 2 letters followed by 4 digits For example, AI234 or ABI234. They are different from herdmarks for cattle and sheep.
- The AHO will send you a registration document which will contain your personal details, CPH and herdmark.

You must have a herdmark and a CPH for your herd to be listed on the Breeds at Risk Register which will be used to determine herds eligible for special measures such as vaccination in the event of a disease outbreak.

As well as knowing where the herds are Defra and Animal Health also need to be able to trace the movements of pigs in case they may have spread disease.

In addition to the movement licence all pig movements on and off your farm must be recorded in your movement book.

The Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) 2007				
Name and address of the person keeping the record				
Date of movement	The Identification number or temporary mark	Number of pigs	Holding from which moved	Holding to which moved
01/05/08	Eartag HDL/123	1	My Holding Full address CPH	Mr New Holding Full address CPH

- You need to record each movement of a pig on or off the holding within 36 hours of the movement.
- Once a year you need to record the maximum number of pigs normally present on the holding.
- These records can be in written or electronic form.
- You need to keep these records for 6 years after you stop keeping pigs.
- Your records must be available for inspection by the Local Authority.

Pedigree breeding is all about traceability so pedigree breeders should be setting the standard when it comes to traceability for disease control

The final link in the chain of traceability is the identification of pigs. The current Pigs Records, Identification and Movement Order (PRIMO) rules came into effect on the 6th April 2007

- Pigs of any age moving from your holding to a market of any kind must be permanently identified with the Defra herd mark of your holding.
- Any pigs aged 1 year and over that you move off your holding must be permanently identified with the Defra herdmark of your holding.
- Pigs moving to slaughter are still required to be permanently identified with your Defra herdmark.
- Movements of pigs under 1 year of age between holdings can continue to be identified with a temporary mark.

■ Identification Marks

To comply with Defra movement rules you apply a permanent herdmark to your pig using an eartag, tattoo or double slapmark. The BPA has additional rules for pedigree identification. The Defra rules are as follows:

Eartag

- An eartag must be stamped or printed – not hand written.
- It must contain the letters "UK" followed by your herdmark. For example, "UK AB1234".
- Tags used for slaughter can be metal or plastic but must be able to withstand carcase processing.
- Tags used for movements between holdings can be plastic and can be combined with your pedigree identification.



Tattoo

A tattoo of your herdmark on the ear. For example, "AB1234".

- "UK" not needed.
- Requires six digit tattooing pliers.



Slapmark

A permanent ink mark of the herdmark which is applied on each front shoulder area of the pig. For example, "AB1234".

- Legible for the life of the pig and throughout the processing of its carcase.
- "UK" not needed.
- Not suitable for coloured breeds.

Temporary Mark

- Paintmark on the pig – for example, a red line, black cross or blue circle.
- Must last until the pig reaches its destination.
- Combined with the movement document, the temporary mark identifies the holding from which the pig moved. Only suitable for weaners sold for fattening.

The BPA recommends that all herdbook registered stock moving off your holding for the first time should have a plastic button eartag showing the Defra herdmark, the BPA Herd Designation Letters and the individual ear number. This is in addition to the compulsory pedigree identification applied at birth. Pedigree registered pigs which move to more than one holding such as boars for hire do not have to be retagged for each move provided that the unique individual pedigree identification is recorded on the movement licence. See the BPA leaflet Pedigree Breeding the First Steps for more details on pedigree identification. Defra Livestock Identification helpline 0845 050 9876.

■ Pet Pig Walking Licences

Licences can be issued to take pet pigs for walks. For a licence you will need to contact your Local Animal Health Office (AHO).

■ Further Information is available from www.defra.gov.uk

The British Pig Association website www.britishpigs.org has copies of the following Defra documents for download. We can also supply printed copies on request.

- Guidance for new pig keepers.
- Code of recommendations for the welfare of pigs.
- Foot and Mouth and Classical Swine Fever Leaflets.

For the location of your Local Animal Health Office (AHO) visit www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth or look them up in the phone book. Animal Health Information line 0844 8844600.

To find details of your Local Trading Standards Office visit www.tradingstandards.gov.uk or look them up in the phone book. Information on Safe Use of Medicines for Animals is available from www.ruma.org.uk

Regulations may vary in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. See the BPA website for details.





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The first steps

Pedigree Breeding
The next generation

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