

MediaRelease

New Zealand
PORK

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New Zealand Pork Industry Welfare Audit Programme

New Zealand Pork has set up a welfare audit system on behalf of the industry in response to both consumers' and farmers' requests.

The purpose is to provide assurance to all that NZ pork comes from farms on which the pigs are well cared for, and provide farmers with an independent assessment of their farming practices which allows continuous improvement.

The Audit programme is administered by independent organisation AsureQuality. Their role includes setting up the programme, planning, scheduling and reporting on the audits, registering auditors, calibrating auditors and general programme support.

The audit is against the current pig welfare code issued by the Minister of Agriculture on the advice of independent body the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. MAF animal welfare was consulted in its development.

Throughout the audit any serious welfare breach is reported to MAF enforcement for follow-up.

Any other issues that can improve welfare are pointed out to the farmer for action within agreed timeframes.

In setting up the system farmers requested that their personal information remain private, particularly because of concern around break-ins and safety of their stock and families.

The audit will evolve to meet the requirements of the new pig welfare code once that is released by the Minister of Agriculture.

Ends

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