

Good Management Practices for Outdoor Pigs

Good management practice guidelines have been developed in consultation with outdoor pig farmers. These guidelines assume ‘normal’ or ‘typical’ climate and environmental conditions. In dealing with a biological production system, circumstances may differ when adverse weather conditions such heavy rainfall, snow, or drought events occur.

Farm Planning and Records

	A farm environment plan is developed and followed and includes a farm environment risk assessment
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Land Management

Farm Location	
	The farm is in a lower rainfall area.
	Outdoor production occurs on flat land to minimise runoff and allow huts/shelters to be effectively positioned.
Ground Cover	
	<p>Ground cover is maintained in accordance with the following guidelines:</p> <p>For all dedicated outdoor pig units, or those in a pastoral rotation, the minimum ground cover is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For dry sows: 40% cover on 75% of land (< 40 % cover permissible of 25% land). • Each paddock to have on average >10% cover • At least 70% cover for farrowing sows. <p>For all outdoor pig units that form part of an arable operation, the minimum ground cover is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% (100% to 0% in 2 years) for dry sows • At least 70% for farrowing sows.

	<p>To maintain ground cover and prevent rooting in the soil, breeding stock should be fitted with a nose ring and/or clip(s). Minimum Standard 16 (d) of the Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2018 states “If nose rings, clips or wires are used they must be placed through the cartilage at the top of the snout or in the tissue separating the nostrils”</p> <p>See NZPork Good practice guidelines: Nose rings, clips and wires for pigs</p>
<p>Waterway/runoff management</p>	
	<p>Stock are excluded from natural waterways, drains, wetlands and water races that flow through the property. Culverts or bridges are installed at stock crossings.</p>
	<p>If runoff from a paddock can get into a flowing waterway/drain, an effective planted riparian margin is required.</p>
	<p>If runoff from tracks can get into a flowing waterway / drain, runoff management is in place to prevent runoff from entering waterway/s</p>
	<p>Troughs, drinkers and gateways are located away from flow paths.</p>
	<p>Runoff from wallows is prevented from entering a waterway.</p>
	<p>Paddocks are grazed top to bottom (ground slope)</p>
	<p>Stock are not left on a break-feeding paddock in wet weather, or concentrated on small areas of a paddock for extended periods</p>
<p>Nutrient Management</p>	
	<p>Fallow is reduced during and immediately after the pig phase of rotation e.g. by planting a catch crop in the area previously occupied by pigs.</p>
	<p>NPK fertiliser is not to be applied to paddocks running pigs.</p>
	<p>Any other fertiliser is applied in accordance with the fertiliser code of practice.</p>
	<p>No effluent is spread on paddocks running pigs.</p>

Animal Management

Stocking Rate	
	<p>For breeding animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a dedicated pig farm with no rotation: Less than or equal to 17 total breeding animals/ha • For a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every 2 years (minimum of 2-year return period): Less than or equal to 21 total breeding animals/ha • For a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every year (minimum of 1-year return period): Less than or equal to 24 total breeding animals/ha • For a pig unit on an arable farm with rotation at least every 2 years (minimum of 2-year return period): Less than or equal to 32 total breeding animals/ha <p>For free range growing animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum space requirement of 20-25m²/pig, subject to variables including size of pigs, duration of stay, rainfall, soil type, pasture species, climatic conditions, spelling of pasture and cropping practices. Greater minimum space requirements may be needed to maintain reasonable groundcover in some situations.
Diet	
	An appropriate diet is provided and is fed at the level required to support physiological function and health at different stages of production e.g. separate diets for gestating and lactating sows.
Disposal of dead stock	
	Dead stock are disposed of in a biosecure manner. Offal pits are sited away from waterways and other sensitive areas such as bores (check in Council plan if there are guidelines). Site fallen stock compost facilities away from waterways and flow paths.
Animal Welfare	
	Stock have access to shelter and housing dimensions, area per sow and construction of housing/ shelters is compliant with including Regulation 24 (Pigs must have access to shelter and a dry lying area), and 25 (Minimum lying space for grower pigs) of the Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2018.
	Farrowing huts are shifted after each lactation.