



primefacts

FOR PROFITABLE, ADAPTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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Moving pigs into and within NSW

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This document applies to all commercial and pet pigs

Moving pigs into NSW

Brucellosis is a bacterial infection. *Brucella suis* are the bacteria that cause brucellosis in pigs, and occasionally in humans.

Brucella suis has been found in the northern parts of Australia, but NSW is currently considered free.

Therefore the movement of pigs from:

- Queensland,
- Western Australia north of the Tropic of Capricorn, or
- Northern Territory north of the Tropic of Capricorn

into any part of NSW is not permitted unless the pigs are moving from a herd not known to be infected with *Brucella suis*, and one of the following applies:

- the pigs are being sent directly to an abattoir for slaughter within 7 days; or
- the pigs have been tested for *Brucella suis* in the last 30 days with negative results; or
- the pigs are from an accredited brucellosis free herd.

All of the above pig movements must be accompanied by a completed health certificate for the introduction of pigs into NSW from Queensland, Western Australia or Northern Territory ([Form available from our website](#)).

Importation of fodder

If you plan to move pigs into NSW and are bringing plant-based feed with them you must meet the requirements for the importation of plant material into NSW. These requirements vary depending on the state of origin.

See [Information on importing fodder into NSW from interstate](#) (Primefact 42). For more details, call Industry & Investment NSW Agricultural Compliance on 02 6391 3384.

Moving pigs within NSW

Identification

Pigs over 25 kg that are consigned to a saleyard or abattoir in NSW must be branded with a carbon ink shoulder brand.

The brand must show the property identification code (PIC) of the property of origin of the pig, in characters at least 2 cm high.

Your PIC and pig brand can be obtained through your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA, formerly Rural Lands Protection Board).

Owners of very small numbers of pigs (1–3) can organise to have these pigs branded with a Crown Swine Brand if necessary. This can be organised through your local LHPA provided at least 2 weeks notice is given.

Identification exemptions

Pigs moving directly between properties or moving to a show, exhibition or field day do not need to be branded.

Movement documentation

All pigs moving within NSW must be accompanied by a completed "PigPass" form or equivalent. This form is to be handed to the representative of the receiving property, saleyard or abattoir and be kept by them for a number of years.

PigPass is a National Vendor Declaration form developed by the pig industry to ensure that no unwanted residues in pork enter the human food chain. This form provides the buyer of the pigs with information about where the pigs are from, how long they had been at that location and details of any veterinary medicines or medicated feed that they've received. This information is valuable to the buyers of the pigs, and is especially required when the pigs are purchased for slaughter.



Minimum land sizes for keeping pigs in NSW

You are not allowed to have pigs or dung within 60 m of a dwelling, workplace, church, school or public place. This means that you will need at least 1.5 ha to be allowed to keep a pig.

Note: not all local government areas in NSW allow the keeping of pigs. You will need to check with your local council before introducing any pigs.

For more information see [Responsible pig ownership: information for local councils and pig owners](#) (Primefact 712).

Feral Pigs

It is illegal to keep or transport feral pigs in NSW.

Restrictions on feeding pigs

There are important restrictions in NSW on what pigs are allowed to eat. These restrictions are in place to reduce the risk of an exotic disease such as foot and mouth disease being introduced via contaminated feed.

For more information see [Swill feeding](#) (Primefact 637).

Animal Welfare

There are minimum animal welfare requirements for the transport and keeping of pigs in NSW.

The [Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Land Transport of Pigs](#) provides welfare directions for pigs in transit.

[The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Pigs](#) provides welfare directions for the keeping of pigs.

Further information on the keeping pigs is available from I&I NSW website's [pig page](#).

Emergency animal disease

If you suspect that pigs being moved into or within NSW are infected with an emergency animal disease, you must call the emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

See [Emergency animal diseases](#) (Primefact 588) for details.

More information

For more information on moving pigs into and within NSW, and for details of the relevant legislation, contact any Industry and Investment NSW or Livestock Health & Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board) office, or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/stock-movements

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Biosecurity guidelines for pig-owners

Biosecurity helps you to protect your pigs from pests and diseases. This means avoiding or managing disease risks. The main biosecurity risks for pig owners are:

- introduced pigs
- people, equipment and vehicles
- rodents, flies and other animals
- not keeping your pigs in good health

Introduced pigs

- Use artificial insemination to introduce new genetics
- If live pigs must be introduced source them from a single reputable breeder with a high herd health status
- Quarantine introduced pigs for minimum 6 weeks - in a separate bio-secure facility at least 3 km from the home piggery
- Use an all-in all-out system for introduced growers

People, equipment and vehicles

- Only allow essential personnel to access your farm and sheds
- Require personal disinfection (washing, changing clothes and footwear) before entry
- Insist on all trucks being cleaned and disinfected before entry
- Locate loading facilities outside the farm perimeter or at least 50m away from the piggery - have a 'no return' system in place
- Keep equipment within each unit or if movement is unavoidable, clean and disinfect between units

Rodents and other animals

- Prevent feral pigs, cattle, dogs and cats from accessing your piggery
- Control rodents, birds and bats

Maintaining your pigs in good health

- Inspect pigs daily
- Pay close attention to nutrition, ventilation, stocking density and temperature
- Ensure water supplies are clean, cool and can't be accessed by other animals
- Maintain an effective vaccination and medication program
- Isolate, test and treat sick pigs

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Check for updates of this Primefact at:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (September 2009). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Industry & Investment NSW or the user's independent adviser.

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