

DPI Biosecurity & Food Safety

Responsible use and disposal of food waste

Animal food restrictions



New South Wales has a number of biosecurity measures in place to prevent the introduction and spread of a number of exotic and endemic animal diseases including foot and mouth disease (FMD), African swine fever (ASF) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease). If these diseases enter NSW, they have the potential to decimate our agricultural markets.

Introduction

Pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer and alpacas can become diseased by eating food and food waste that contains, or has had contact with, diseased meat or meat products. This is commonly known as swill (for pigs) and Restricted Animal Material or RAM for sheep, cattle, goats, deer or alpacas.

Animal food restrictions

Restricting the types of material fed to pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer and alpacas are mandatory measures, as outlined in section 24 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Specific examples of this type of food include:

- Table scraps
- Meat pies and sausage rolls
- Bacon and cheese rolls
- Salads with bacon pieces
- Deli meats
- Untreated used cooking oils and fats

These animal species must not have access to, or be fed, any food waste from restaurants, cafés, kitchens, festivals or other food producing outlets that contains meat products from mammals or has been in contact with meat from mammals as outlined in clause 37 and clause 38 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

Food and food waste that contains the following must not be fed to pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer or alpacas or supplied to their owners for the purpose of animal feed: Meat/Meat products/Imported dairy products not of Australian origin, or/Anything that has been in contact with these items.

Food items that have been in contact with swill or RAM through their collection, storage or transport, must not be fed to pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer or alpacas.



Biosecurity Duty

In conjunction with the mandatory measures, anyone that deals with biosecurity matter must also discharge their biosecurity duty when dealing with that matter as per Section 22 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The biosecurity duty is discharged if the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised i.e. you do not feed or supply swill or RAM to pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer or alpacas.



Report it!

If you become aware that pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer or alpacas have been fed, supplied or had access to these food substances, you have a legal obligation to report it.

You must immediately notify an authorised officer of the event or contact the:

NSW Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244

You will be asked for the following information:

- The persons full name and address
- Details of the event
- The location of the event
- Any other relevant information

Penalties for non-compliance

Penalties apply when these restrictions on material are not met for pigs, sheep, goats, deer or alpacas. These penalties are up to \$220,000 for an individual and \$440,000 for a corporation. Where the breach is ruled as intentional or reckless, penalties may increase up to \$1,100,000 for an individual and \$2,200,000 for a corporation.

More information

For further information visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity

For specific information relating to swill feeding and restricted animal material, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Helpline on **1800 680 244** or email quarantine@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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