

# Eight “Must do’s” for pig owners



Regardless of the size of your enterprise or hobby farm, pig owners play a vital role in maintaining the health and welfare of livestock and providing quality pork products to consumers. There are a number of requirements for pig owners that are monitored by State government and industry authorities. This brochure provides information on these “must do’s”.

## 1. Register your property

All properties where pigs are kept must be registered and have a property identification code (PIC). Your PIC is needed when completing travel documents such as National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) that accompany your pigs when you sell them and/or have them processed at an abattoir.

Remember, check with your local council for land use planning guidelines and legal requirements before keeping pigs in your local government area. For more information, see Responsible pig ownership primefact [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/responsible-pig-ownership](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/responsible-pig-ownership) and Consent Requirements for Small Scale Pig Farms primefact [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/consent-small-scale-pig-farms](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/consent-small-scale-pig-farms).

## 2. Identify your pigs

You must identify individual pigs if you sell them or have them processed at an abattoir, and in NSW, it is a requirement that you identify pigs if you

sell them to another farmer. The nationally-agreed method for identifying larger pigs is the body tattoo/brand while, smaller pigs (< 25kg) are ear tagged with an NLIS accredited tag.

For more information see NLIS Pigs: Selling pigs primefact. [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/selling-pigs-nlis](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/selling-pigs-nlis)

## 3. Register on the PigPass database

You need an NVD when you sell your pigs or have them processed at abattoirs. NSW requires an NVD even when pigs are moved between farms but ownership does not change. This assists with tracking the movements of livestock in the event of an exotic disease outbreak or a food safety scare. The first step in getting an NVD is to register with the PigPass database.

To register, visit [www.pigpass.com.au](http://www.pigpass.com.au) or phone the PigPass Help Desk on **1800 001 458**.



## 4. Ensure all pigs that move off-farm are accompanied by a travel document (NVD)

The PigPass NVD is the nationally-recognised and recommended travel document for pigs. You must complete all sections of the PigPass NVD and sign the declarations. PigPass NVD books can be purchased on-line or by phoning the Help Desk on 1800 001 458. Alternatively, an electronic (E-PigPass) can be completed on-line and downloaded at no cost.

<http://www.pigpass.com.au>.

## 5. Be welfare-compliant

If you own or have animals on your land, you have a duty of care to look after them. The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals (Pigs) – 3rd Edition – 2008 outlines welfare standards and “best practice” guidelines for pig owners. In addition, each state has legislation governing welfare requirements of pigs. Links to the MCOP and to individual state welfare legislation can be found at [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au), under “Industry Focus - Animal Welfare - Husbandry”



## 7. Keep your pigs healthy

There are five things to do to keep your pigs healthy:

- i. Have and adhere to a Herd Health Program.
- ii. Do not feed prohibited pig feed material (swill).
- iii. Report unusual/notifiable diseases (e.g. foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, classical swine fever).
- iv. Only use restricted (Schedule 4) veterinary medicines when prescribed by a veterinarian for your pigs.
- v. Adhere to all label instructions on non-veterinary chemicals (e.g. Taktic, Dectomax etc.) including dose rate and withhold or export slaughter intervals.

A veterinarian or State Government industry representative can assist you with training in recognition in exotic diseases, as well as designing a herd health program that best suits you. Further information on recognising exotic diseases of pigs can be found in the “Health and disease” section of [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs).



## 6. Get training in pig husbandry

It is a legal requirement that anyone caring for pigs is suitably qualified or works under the supervision of a suitably qualified person. The qualifications required to care for pigs differs among States, but may include having a Certificate III in Pork Production or being assessed as “competent” by a registered training organisation. Visit [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au), under “Industry Focus - Animal Welfare - Training” for more information. For specific information on training requirements in your state, contact your local industry representative.

## 8. Start a quality assurance program

The Australian Pig Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ) was developed to optimise the quality of pig meat grown in Australia. It includes food safety, welfare, biosecurity and traceability standards. All export abattoirs require that pigs are sourced from a holding that has a recognised quality assurance program that is annually audited by an independent body. This is also a requirement of domestic abattoirs in some states. Further information on APIQ can be found at [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au), under “Industry Focus - Product Integrity - Quality Assurance”.

## Need more information?

For more information contact Local Land Services on **1300 795 299**, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call the **NSW Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Hotline** on **1800 680 244**.

If you see any unusual signs of disease or death, call the

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL  
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE  
1800 675 888**