



FACT SHEET

KEEPING DISEASES OUT

Incoming pigs

Who you purchase stock from will affect the genetic quality and health of your pigs. Most new diseases are introduced via diseased “carrier” pigs. Table 1 lists important diseases of pigs. The diseases listed in the first column can be eliminated - **AVOID BUYING PIGS THAT CARRY THESE DISEASES!** You cannot avoid the diseases listed in Column 2.

Table 1: Important Diseases in Pigs That Limit Performance

Diseases to watch out for	Diseases that you can't avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swine dysentery Mange Mycoplasma pneumonia Pleuropneumonia Atrophic rhinitis Worms-roundworm & whipworm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glassers disease Ileitis Colibacillosis Greasy pig disease Strep. Meningitis Erysipelas Leptospirosis

Of the preventable diseases listed above, the most costly are swine dysentery, chronic respiratory disease (Mycoplasma pneumonia and pleuropneumonia) and uncontrolled mange. Swine dysentery and pneumonia are both estimated to reduce net revenue by more than \$50 per sow per year, whilst uncontrolled mange reduces net revenue by \$20-\$50 per sow per year. These losses are the result of decreased growth, decreased feed conversion efficiency, increased variation in carcass size and P2 backfat, increased deaths and increased veterinary costs (mainly medication and vaccination).

Knowing the health status of pigs purchased

A veterinarian who works regularly with pigs can help by assessing your pigs' health and liaising with your supplier to define their health status. Some clues to determining health status include:

- Clinical observation (e.g. coughing, diarrhoea, deaths, scratching);
- Herd health records (does the herd meet acceptable performance targets for growth and mortality?);

- Post-mortem results from pigs that have died on farm;
- Results of health checks undertaken at processing (by a veterinarian or trained officer);
- Medication records (many medications can mask disease symptoms); and
- Diagnostic tests undertaken on specimens submitted from pigs and conducted by laboratories with specialist pig expertise (e.g. bacterial culture on dung samples for the swine dysentery bug, blood tests for pleuropneumonia).

Don't buy in disease!

- Only buy pigs with similar or higher health status than that of your own herd. Ideally, only purchase from farms with known health status.
- Give preference to a breeder/supplier who is geographically isolated, more than 3 km from other piggeries. There are reports that *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* can travel more than 3 km to potentially infect nearby piggeries.
- Ensure pigs are delivered direct from the supplier to your farm.
- Avoid buying breeding stock from a public auction where pigs from different sources are brought to the same site.

Disclaimer: The opinions, advice and information contained in this publication have not been provided at the request of any person but are offered by Australian Pork Limited (APL) solely for informational purposes. While APL has no reason to believe that the information contained in this publication is inaccurate, APL is unable to guarantee the accuracy of the information and, subject to any terms implied by law which cannot be excluded, accepts no responsibility for loss suffered as a result of any party's reliance on the accuracy or currency of the content of this publication. The information contained in this publication should not be relied upon for any purpose, including as a substitute for professional advice. Nothing within the publication constitutes an express or implied warranty, or representation, with respect to the accuracy or currency of the publication, any future matter or as to the value of or demand for any good.