



FACT SHEET

QUARANTINE

Why use quarantine?

The purpose of quarantine is to protect your herd against the introduction of new infectious agents that cause economically-damaging disease. During this time, you can observe the pigs for signs of ill-health. Incoming stock can be vaccinated if required. Housing new stock in a separate area away from your “home farm” is an insurance policy should your supplier find out they have a new disease – allowing you to cull these animals and avoid disaster!

Quarantine guidelines

- The ideal quarantine housing would be located at least 3 km away from other pigs. This is the distance that *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (causes respiratory disease) can travel on air between farms.
- If no separate shed is available away from the piggery, house incoming pigs in a separate pen in a well-ventilated area in the piggery, preferably with separate drainage and in an area lightly stocked.
- Use separate clothing and boots – only for the quarantine area.
- Visit these pigs at the end of each working day – and don’t return to your home farm.
- House pigs in quarantine for at least six to eight weeks.
- Run the quarantine on an “all-in/all-out” basis. That is, it should be emptied of pigs, cleaned and disinfected prior to occupation by newly purchased stock.
- House sentinel pigs – that is grower pigs (12–16 weeks) with pigs in the quarantine area. If they get sick, you know the incoming pigs have a disease you don’t have.
- Using sentinel pigs also allows new pigs to acclimatise to the diseases present on your farm. Major problems arise when gilts of high health status herds (e.g. a herd free of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, pleuropneumonia or swine dysentery) are put straight into a herd where these diseases are present. They may become ill or may fail to come into heat or fail to conceive.
- Use non-medicated feed, unless you have been advised by a veterinarian to specifically medicate for a reason. Medication can mask disease signs.

- Any feed, equipment and vehicles present on the main farm would not enter or leave the quarantine area without thorough cleaning and disinfection.
- During quarantine and acclimatisation, any outward signs of disease (excessive sneezing, coughing, diarrhoea, presence of blood or mucous in faeces, skin lesions, loss of appetite or lameness) should be noted. A vet should be called to inspect the animals immediately if this occurs. Any serious problems should be reported immediately to the breeder so that a solution may be reached.

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