



FACT SHEET

SWILL FEEDING – IT'S ILLEGAL

November 2018

Do not feed meat, meat products or anything that has been in contact with meat to pigs.

Key Points

- Swill is food scraps, bakery waste, restaurant waste, untreated used cooking oils or other food waste that contains or has come into contact with meat or meat products
- Swill is a “Prohibited Pig Feed”. This means it is illegal to feed swill to pigs in all States and Territories of Australia. Swill feeding is illegal because it can carry exotic diseases that could devastate our livestock industries
- The swill feeding ban applies to all pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept on your property for your own consumption
- Feed only quality assured feed to pigs and ask your feed supplier for a vendor declaration
- If you are unsure what you can or can't feed your pigs, ask your state or territory Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for guidance.



Meat and mammalian material can contain viruses that are not found in Australian livestock. Diseases like African swine fever, classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, and transmissible gastroenteritis can be carried and transmitted by feeding swill to pigs.

An outbreak of African swine fever would be disastrous for Australia and would likely result in slaughter of many pigs and immediate closure of markets for Australian livestock.

Feeding swill to wild pigs is believed to have caused the outbreak of African swine fever in Belgium in 2018. While China estimates that 62% of the African swine fever outbreaks since August 2018 have been caused by swill feeding of contaminated products to pigs, how would you feel if you caused an outbreak of African swine fever in Australia?

What is Prohibited Pig Feed?

A national definition for Prohibited Pig Feed has now been developed that applies across Australia.

Prohibited Pig Feed is defined as: material of mammalian origin, or any substance that has come in contact with this material.

Put simply, pigs must not be fed or be allowed to eat meat or meat products, or anything that has been in contact with meat or meat products.

This includes food scraps, bakery waste, waste from restaurants and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

These feeding restrictions apply to all pigs including pet pigs and pigs kept on your property for your own consumption.

Prohibited Pig Feed does not include:

- Milk or milk products that are of Australian origin or have been legally imported for stock-feed use in Australia
- Rendered and commercially manufactured meat meals produced in accordance with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Rendering of Animal Products
- Other feed that has been approved in writing by the relevant authority within the State or Territory Government. If you are unsure what you can and can't feed your pigs, ask your state or territory DPI for guidance.



What are the penalties?

Strong penalties apply if you are caught doing any of the following:

1. Feeding Prohibited Pig Feed to pigs
2. Allowing pigs to access Prohibited Pig Feed
3. Storing Prohibited Pig Feed at a place where one or more pigs are kept
4. Collecting and or supplying Prohibited Pig Feed to be fed to pigs. Penalties may extend to anyone who is aware that pigs are being fed Prohibited Pig Feed.

These rules apply to all pigs including pet pigs and pigs raised for your own consumption.

If you suspect pigs are being fed Prohibited Pig Feed, call your State DPI or the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

What is safe to feed to pigs?

Look for quality assured feed. When purchasing feed, look for feeds that have been prepared under a quality assurance program such as FeedSafe[®]. For a list of FeedSafe[®] accredited feed suppliers see the Stock Feed Manufacturers Council of Australia (SFMCA) website: www.sfmca.com.au, or ask your feed supplier if they are accredited.

Ask for a vendor declaration. Ask for a vendor declaration from your feed supplier and/or your feed ingredient supplier when you purchase feed, so you have documentation to show that your pigs have not been fed anything illegal.

If you notice any unusual clinical signs in your pigs that you think could be an emergency animal disease, report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Further information

For more information on livestock disease control regulations in your state, contact your State's DPI. See also the State DPI information on swill feeding available at the following links:

- NSW DPI – Ph: 1800 680 244 <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/pigs/pig-nutrition/swill-feeding>
- VIC DPI – Ph: 136 186 <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animals-andlivestock/pigs/pig-health-and-welfare/swill-feedingbanned>
- DAF (QLD) - Ph: 13 25 23 <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/livestock/pigs/swill-laws>
- DPIPWE (TAS) - Ph: (03) 6336 5306 <https://dpi.pwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/pigs/swill-feeding>
- NT DPI - Ph: (08) 8999 5511 http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Content/File/p/Anim_Man/602.pdf
- DAFWA (WA) - Ph: (08) 9368 3333 <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/pig-feed-why-it-illegal-feed-food-scraps-swill-pigs>
- PIRSA (SA) - Ph: (08) 8226 0995 http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/pigs/swill_feed
- See also the Farm Biosecurity website: <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/livestock/pigs/feeding-your-pigs/>

Acknowledgements

Information on swill feeding published by each state or territory's DPI was considered in the development of this factsheet.

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