



FACT SHEET

SWILL FEEDING – IT'S ILLEGAL

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

Last reviewed: September 2013

Key Points

- Swill is the traditional name for food scraps or food waste that contains or has come into contact with meat or meat products.
- Swill is a “Prohibited Pig Feed” which means it is illegal to feed it to pigs in all states and territories.
- Swill feeding is illegal because swill can carry exotic diseases that could devastate our livestock industries.
- Feeding food scraps, bakery waste, restaurant waste and untreated used cooking oils is not allowed.
- These rules apply to all pigs including pet pigs and pigs kept on your property for your own consumption.
- To be on the safe side look for quality assured feed and ask your feed supplier for a vendor declaration.
- If you are unsure what you can and can't feed your pigs, ask your State Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for guidance.

What is Prohibited Pig Feed?

A national definition for Prohibited Pig Feed has now been developed that will apply 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.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes. The definition of 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 Department of Primary Industries for guidance.

If in doubt, don't feed any food waste to your pigs.

Why is it illegal?

Meat and mammalian material can contain viruses that are not found in Australian livestock. Diseases like Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Classical and African Swine Fever and Transmissible Gastroenteritis can be carried and transmitted by feeding swill to pigs.

An outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease would be disastrous and would likely result in slaughter of many pigs and immediate closure of markets for Australian livestock.

Feeding swill to pigs is believed to have caused the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in the UK in 2001. Think about how you would feel if you caused an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in Australia.



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 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, be on the safe side and 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 SFMCA website: www.sfmca.com.au, or ask your feed supplier if they are accredited.

Ask for a vendor declaration

Be sure to request 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 contaminated with substances that may be of concern to markets for pigs.

If you notice any unusual symptoms in your pigs that you think could be an emergency animal disease, be on the safe side and report it immediately to: **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline: 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 808 095
http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/163414/Swill-feeding-637.pdf
- VIC DPI – Ph: 136 186
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animals-and-livestock/pigs/pig-health-and-welfare/swill-feeding-banned>
- DAFF QLD - Ph: 13 25 23
<http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/animal-health-and-diseases/protect-your-animals/swill-feeding>
- DPIPWE (TAS) - Ph: (03) 6336 5306
<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/EGIL-5FDUNS?open>
- 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
http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_92819.html
- PIRSA (SA) - Ph: (08) 8226 0995
http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/animalhealth/cattle/health_and_disease_management/controls_on_feeding_livestock
- See also the Farm Biosecurity website:
<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/swill-feeding-is-banned-for-good-reason-time-to-check-your-compliance/>

Acknowledgements

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

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