



# R&D Snapshot

## Human food waste – a potential source of pig feed?

**Investigator:** GHD Consulting

**Purpose:**

Does recycled food waste used as pig feed reduce feed costs?

**Take home messages:**

Recycled food waste can be a good source of safe and practical pig feed depending on its origin:

- Manufacturing (food processing): high economic return; an expanding sector
- Commercial food waste (supermarkets etc.): positive (though reduced) economic returns; high volumes, but increased disease risk
- Household waste: uncertain returns and high disease risk.

To use food waste in current systems, producers must weigh up:

- Disease transmission risks
- Waste type (bulk loads vs individual packages, nutrient and mineral/salt content)
- Quantity and quality variations make feed budgeting harder compared with buying a regular milled feed
- Transport costs associated with the waste
- Feeding systems may need converting to handle the food waste. Conversions tend to be more expensive and difficult compared to new site installations.

**Additional information:**

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**APL Project 2016/2243** – To investigate the practicalities and regulatory requirements of utilising food waste as a feed source for pigs.

