

# ANAEMIA

## What is the condition?

Anaemia is a condition associated with either a reduction in the number of red cells in the blood or a lack of haemoglobin, which transports oxygen throughout the body in blood. This can be due to loss of blood or a reduction in the level of haemoglobin in red blood cells. Anaemia can have wider implications on pig health, including a suppressed immune system, slower growth, and increased mortality and morbidity.

## Cause of the condition

While iron deficiency anaemia occurs as a syndrome in suckler pigs, this is not the cause of anaemia in slaughter age pigs. In slaughter age pigs, anaemia usually occurs through blood loss which can be brought on by severe trauma or diseases e.g. gastric ulcers, ileitis, swine dysentery, or severe whipworm and lice infestations.

## Carcass impact

Anaemia associated with systemic conditions or marked anaemia and poor carcass condition will lead to the carcass, being entirely condemned. If there is no active generalised condition, then the carcass may be used for animal food. If the anaemia is slight and there are no other signs of disease, then the carcass may be passed for consumption.

## Treatment

Consult with your veterinarian on the cause of the anaemia in the herd before instituting any treatment.

## Prevention

Managing any of the diseases mentioned above, as well as ensuring there is enough iron in the diet is key to prevention.



Source: MINTRAC