

Swill feeding is dangerous and illegal

Information for small scale pig farmers, hobby farmers and those that have pigs as pets

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

Swill is the traditional name for food scraps or food waste that contains meat or has been in contact with meat.

Swill feeding is illegal in Australia because meat can be infected with serious diseases that can be passed on to pigs. Swill feeding is considered the cause of the devastating 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the UK.

The viruses that can cause serious diseases such as FMD cannot be destroyed by chilling, freezing, curing or cooking.

Australia is free from FMD. It is estimated that an outbreak of FMD in Australia would impact the national economy by up to \$50 billion over a ten year period. During the 2001 UK outbreak, thousands of animals had to be destroyed to stop the spread of FMD.

What foods are banned?

Meat, meat products and any food that is served on the same plate or that has come into contact with meat is prohibited feed and must not be fed or supplied for feeding to pigs. Dairy products from overseas are also banned.

Food that cannot be fed to pigs includes:

- salad and vegetables that has been served with meat
- butcher's shop waste
- pies, pasties, deli foods - including bacon and cheese from overseas, and salads that contain meat.



What foods can be fed to pigs?

For information on what you can feed your pigs and the detail on what you cannot feed your pigs, visit the DEPI website at www.depi.vic.gov.au/pigs.

If in doubt, do not feed leftover food to your pigs.

For the health of your pigs it is best to have a planned diet. There are specific feeds available that are designed to meet the nutritional needs of pigs and keep them in the best condition. Information on the best diet for your pigs, along with a range of pig care information, is on the DEPI website.

Responsible disposal of food waste

Businesses that prepare and sell food (e.g. restaurants, bakeries, hotels, fast food outlets, hospitals), have a legal responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately.

You must report the following activities to DEPI immediately on 136 186 to help ensure Australia's disease free status if you know someone who may be:

- feeding prohibited food waste to pigs;
- supplying prohibited food waste to feed pigs; or
- collecting prohibited food waste from food premises to provide to a piggery.

Help protect our animals from serious diseases

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries Melbourne, July 2014.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment and Primary Industries Melbourne.

ISBN 978-1-74146-143-5 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-74146-144-2 (pdf)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.