

Contingency planning



Aims

1. Ensure staff are aware of what needs to be done if you need to house more pigs than usual; for example, due to a contract change.
2. Create a clear, documented emergency plan including all potential risks.
3. Provide practical advice on the actions that should be taken.
4. Ensure the plan maintains health and welfare standards and is compliant with your assurance scheme.

General guidance

- Contact your processor for advice on the current situation and any contract changes
- Liaise with your vet and farm assurance scheme
- Contact your AHDB knowledge exchange manager for additional guidance
- Ensure staff have access to, and are familiar with, the contingency plan

Rare breeds

Keeping rare breed pigs does not guarantee a derogation from culling, in the event of a notifiable disease. Visit the government's [Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee \(FAnGR\)](#) website for guidelines on developing a contingency plan for 'breeds at risk'.

Many situations have the potential to pose uncertainty to producers. This could include changes to contracts or being placed in a restriction zone, resulting in pigs being on farm for longer periods, and/or changes in the availability of supplies or staff cover.

If you notice something unusual, contact a pig vet who will be able to advise you. Do not move your pigs, as this can spread disease. If you suspect a notifiable disease, you must contact Defra Rural Services on 03000 200 301.

It is important to consider how possible situations could affect your unit and any measures you can implement or organise now to minimise disruption. This guide will help you avoid panicking later by taking you through the process of preparing a contingency plan. If you are Red Tractor-assured, check the **Red Tractor** guidance for disaster recovery and interruptions to pig movements off farm.

Each of the grey boxes throughout this guide contains links to useful documents and websites.

Plan

Plan how you would manage each stage of production if there were a change to your contract or the availability of supplies. You may wish to consider alternative sources of feed, bedding and enrichment, as well as planning how daily

Stage of production	Feed	Water	Housing	Bedding
Breeding				
Farrowing				
Weaning				
Nursery				
Growing				
Finishing				

Key contacts

Keep a list of key contacts in an easily accessible place. A template is provided at the end of this document for you to complete and print off. Some suggestions of key contacts include:

- Local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office
- Vet
 - Pig vet and an emergency 24hr vet
- Feed supplier
 - Ensure supplies to manage an emergency
 - Forward orders and any adjustments required
 - Alternatives if you are going to have restricted access or availability
- Abattoir
- Haulier
- Bedding supplier
 - Ensure supplies in an emergency
- Nutritionist/consultant
- Fallen stock collector
 - Confirm procedure
- Other, e.g. neighbours
 - Agree temporary housing

Compliance

Ensure you comply with legal and, where relevant, assurance scheme requirements, e.g. space allowance, movement licences, etc. Check your scheme's guidance on contingency planning. If in doubt, check details and keep a copy with your contingency plan to avoid compliance issues later. More information can be found via the links to the right.

Defra

- Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: pigs
- Guidance Caring for pigs April 2013
- Register land you use to keep livestock

Red Tractor

- Pig Standards

RSPCA

- Welfare standards for pigs

Movement restrictions

Red Tractor provides guidance on producing a contingency plan for movement restrictions. The information below provides additional tips and resources for key areas you should consider while preparing your plan.

1. What is the plan if movements on/off your farm are restricted?

- Keep your key contacts list in an accessible place and ensure all staff know where to find it
- Make sure your farm map (flow and buildings) is up to date, and keep with your key contacts list
- Consider deadstock management and contact your fallen stock collector

Emergencies on livestock farms (Defra)

Casualty Pig Document (PVS)

Work instruction for euthanasia (Red Tractor)

2. How to manage stocking densities

- Ensure you remain compliant with stocking density limits
- Calculate estimated growth rates and requirements within pens; include space, water and feed
- Different-sized pigs will have different needs, e.g. smaller pigs are less destructive and require less robust pens; slot/beam regulations will vary depending on the age of the pigs

Emergency Plan Template (Red Tractor)

Code of recommendations for the welfare of livestock: pigs (Defra)

Caring for pigs (Defra)

Red Tractor Assurance: Pigs Standards

RSPCA welfare standards for pigs: welfare standards for pigs

3. Alternative accommodation: indoors

- Consider using any spare livestock accommodation, e.g. cattle sheds/yards, corn stores/dryers, barns, tractor sheds, etc.



- Clean and disinfect buildings and spaces before using to house pigs and make sure they are set up correctly:
 - Check bedding and consider using drum fans and supplementary heat, e.g. lamps
 - Follow electrical safety guidance and ensure there is sufficient distance from combustible materials
 - Create kennels with a plywood/stock board roof
 - Cover slats with stock board/comfort mats
 - Monitor temporary races and loading ramps and help pigs adjust to new buildings/spaces

4. Alternative accommodation: outdoors

- Where available, use farrowing or dry sow arcs as shelters
- Identify any concrete areas that can be hurdled off; deep bed to reduce moisture levels from the concrete floor
- Create temporary pens using materials such as straw bales, stock fencing, electric fencing, etc.
- Where possible, position the temporary accommodation in a dry area, away from drains and areas affected by run-off from roofs and gutters
- Check ventilation and try to ensure lying areas are draught-free
- Create smaller kennels within a large pen/yard using straw bales, sheets of plywood, stock board, painted tin, etc.
- Use bales or hurdles to create external runs; hurdles will need to be solid to prevent pigs escaping:
 - Use net/mesh in pens to prevent escape routes; place on the inside, bend under the bales and use to fill gaps and attach/wire to bale strings
- Update your soil management plan to reflect any changes

Plan for extreme weather

- Put measures in place to avoid heat stress, e.g. shades, fans, wallows/areas of wet concrete
- Prepare for cold weather, e.g. supplementary heating and deep bedding
- Ensure consideration is given to transporting pigs during extreme conditions, especially for long journey

Long journey emergency contingency plan (Red Tractor)

Pigs: Solving the problem of heat stress (Defra)

5. Are supplies for temporary accommodation readily available?

- Have a four-week supply on hand for emergencies; this should include bedding, feed, extra gates, straw bales, etc.
- Consider what else you could use for bedding if straw is scarce, as well as where you can get it from, e.g. shredded paper, woodchips/course wood shavings, rape straw, etc.

Bedding options (AHDB)

Feeders and feed

Contact your feed supplier/nutritionist as soon as possible to adjust your requirements and ensure a continued supply.

- Discuss rations and alternative diets
- Calculate how much feed you will need during the movement restrictions, including potential wastage
- Avoid drastic changes to feed and do not restrict feed to stop pigs becoming overweight:
 - Initially, do not feed piglets ad lib. Instead, provide feed in troughs or hoppers several times a day to allow ready and easy access, especially in the first few days after moving
 - Clean containers used for feed/water before use and ensure troughs are kept clean
 - Avoid floor feeding and fix lightweight troughs to the floor, this will reduce waste and fouling
 - Check feeders are protected from rain
- Alternative feeders can be made from plastic drums and sheep troughs:
 - Cut off the bases to approximately 4–6 inches deep

Water and drinkers

- Check water supplies are plentiful, easily accessible, clean and available at all times
 - Contact your water supplier(s) to ensure your supply is prioritised and ensure your backup supply is sufficient, especially in extreme weather
- Adapt temporary water supplies:
 - Fit nipple drinkers into plastic drums
 - Check fittings are at the correct height

- Provide water in troughs for the first 3–5 days
 - Position drinkers so lying areas aren't affected if there is a spillage or leak
- 6. Can manure and effluent be controlled within temporary accommodation?**
- Amend your farm Manure Management Plan, if needed:
 - Review the plan before spreading
 - Check you have at least 4 months' slurry capacity; if nearing this limit, seek alternative arrangements as soon as possible

Manure Management Plan (Red Tractor)

7. Can pigs be legally be moved off farm?

- Ensure transporters have an emergency plan, especially in the event of longer journeys
 - Make extra checks if pigs are being moved further than usual or during extreme weather
 - Review and record health and safety plans
 - Make sure plans consider biosecurity best practice
- a. Is there a slaughter outlet for pigs, even at a financial loss?**
- Before moving your pigs, check:
 - Can the abattoir accept your pigs and, if so, how many?
 - Have you booked pig movements onto eAML2?
 - Are there any restrictions on your contract?
 - Does the abattoir make any emergency overweight pig allowances?
 - Identify how pigs will be chosen for slaughter if your abattoir has limited capacity
 - Remember, pigs may be more stressed if they have been recently moved into temporary accommodation

b. Is there capacity on a different farm?

- If pigs are being moved to another unit with a County Parish Holding number (CPH), already registered with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for pigs, you can set up a normal farm-to-farm movement. Standstill will be triggered. If pigs are being moved within a pyramid, with or without registering movements on eAML2, you cannot move finisher pigs back to nursery sites under any circumstances
- If pigs are being moved to neighbouring farms or land, you need to apply for a temporary CPH number (tCPH) or a temporary land association (TLA)
- Rather than retaining 8 kg or 30 kg pigs for finishing, you may be able to move them offsite; speak to the National Pig Association (NPA), who may know of producers with capacity

Temporary CPH number

- Movements onto a tCPH will trigger standstill restrictions
- Pigs must be kept separately from other animals
- Once you have a tCPH number, it can be registered on Pig Hub and eAML2 as one of your holdings
- A tCPH lasts up to 1 year
- Full details about tCPHs can be found on the gov.uk website

Temporary land association

- You can apply for a temporary land association (TLA) if the land or building you plan to use is within 10 miles of the permanent CPH and the pigs will not mix with livestock kept by someone else
- The land or building will be treated as part of your main holding
- You don't need to record or report livestock movements between the TLA and your main holding registered on eAML2 (CPH), and standstill restrictions will not apply
- You must record and report any livestock movements to the TLA from a different CPH against your permanent CPH
- A TLA lasts for up to 1 year
- Full details about TLAs can be found on the gov.uk website

Register land you use to keep livestock (Defra)

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