**Introduction**

* All permitted pig and poultry farms are required to have a Climate Change Adaptation Risk Assessment as part of their management system. This should detail both the risks and outline potential mitigations.
* This model template provides an example of a completed risk assessment for a poultry farm. There is a separate example for a pig farm. It includes risk scoring for before and after mitigation, but this is optional. If you choose to include risk scoring this will help to prioritise what mitigation actions need to be considered first.
* Guidance on how to produce this risk assessment is available at [Climate change: risk assessment and adaptation planning in your management system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-risk-assessment-and-adaptation-planning-in-your-management-system)
* Intensive farming specific examples of climate related risks and possible mitigations are available at [Intensive farming: examples for your adapting to climate change risk assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adapting-to-climate-change-industry-sector-examples-for-your-risk-assessment/intensive-farming-examples-for-your-adapting-to-climate-change-risk-assessment)
* Keep your completed risk assessment with your management system records on farm and this will be checked as part of an Environment Agency compliance inspection.
* By 31 October 2026 all permitted farms should have appropriate climate change adaptation planning embedded into their management system. As part of this process, you’ll need to look at the mitigation options you’ve identified in this risk assessment and plan for how you are going to implement them. It will be site specific depending on the risks e.g. of flooding. Further guidance on this will be available soon.
* Note that the examples below are not exhaustive, there may be additional risks and mitigation options relevant for your farm.

**Risk scoring**

* You can score the likelihood and impact for each climate change scenario - multiply the likelihood by the impact, both before mitigation and then after mitigation, to give a risk score. The higher the score, the higher the risk.
* Use the following suggested risk scoring:
  + Likelihood score – rare = 1, unlikely = 2, moderate = 3, likely = 4, almost certain = 5
  + Impact score – insignificant = 1, minor = 2, moderate = 3, major = 4, severe = 5
* When you consider how and when to implement mitigation measures, focus initially on the scenarios with the highest risk scores.
* The risk scores in the examples below are for illustrative purposes – change the scoring for your farm depending on the local environment and site specific features.

**Poultry farm example**

| **Potential changing climate variable** | **A Impact** | **B Likelihood** | **C Impact** | **D Risk** (B x C) | **E Mitigation** (what you'll do to mitigate this risk) | **F Likelihood** (after mitigation) | **G Impact** (after mitigation) | **H**  **Residual risk**  (F x G) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Summer daily maximum temperature**  This may be around 7°C higher compared to average summer temperatures now, with the potential to reach extreme temperatures as high as over 40°C with increasing frequency based on today’s values. | Poultry may experience heat stress | e.g. 3 | e.g. 4 | e.g. 12 | Where possible, reduce shed stocking density in summer months in higher risk sheds  Adjust ventilation programme to maximise air flow and consult with specialist advisor if needed  Install misting systems and/or tunnel ventilation to mitigate extreme heat  Provide electrolytes to help with hydration  Plan any activities such as catching, transport or vaccinating to avoid the hottest part of the day  Consult with poultry vet | e.g. 3 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 6 |
| **2. Winter daily temperatures**  This could be 4°C more than the current average with the potential for more extreme temperatures, both warmer and colder than present. | No negative impact expected for warmer average temperatures. | N/A | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Increased risk of snow and ice, affecting site access. | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 | Have adequate feed storage in case deliveries are delayed, have equipment to clear snow and ice from the site | e.g. 2 | e.g. 1 | e.g. 2 |
| **3. Daily extreme rainfall**  Daily rainfall intensity could increase by up to 20% on today’s values. | Surface water drainage system overloaded. Wash water lagoon overloaded. | e.g. 3 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 6 | Drains and lagoon managed and monitored to avoid overflow | e.g. 2 | e.g. 1 | e.g. 2 |
| Increased risk of flooding | e.g. 4 | e.g.3 | e.g. 12 | Flood barriers/defences, installation of pumps, back-up power supply. Prepare a [flood plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-flooding-a-guide-for-regulated-sites). | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 |
| **4. Average winter rainfall**  Average winter rainfall may increase by over 40% on today’s averages. | Surface water drainage system overloaded.  Water ingress into sheds  Increased risk of water-borne pathogens such as avian influenza circulating in the environment | e.g. 3 | e.g.4 | e.g. 12 | Increase surface water storage capacity  Ensure sheds are well maintained, gutters cleared and moss removed from roofs to prevent water ingress  Maintain drainage system, consider installing drains to prevent water pooling around areas  Seal cracks and gaps, use weather stripping to seal any gaps water could penetrate to prevent any leaks  Review biosecurity standards and ensure a robust biosecure boundary around the site perimeter and each individual poultry shed | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 |
| **5. Sea level rise**  Sea level rise which could be as much as 0.6m higher compared to today’s level. | Inland site. Low impact expected.  Or  Coastal site at risk of potential flooding due to sea level rise | N/A  e.g. 2 | -  e.g. 5 | -  e.g. 10 | -  Or  Install flood barriers/defences. back-up power supply. Prepare a [flood plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-flooding-a-guide-for-regulated-sites) | -  e.g. 2 | -  e.g. 3 | -  e.g. 6 |
| **6. Drier summers**  Summers could see potentially up to 40% less rain than now. | Stress on borehole water supply/water shortage | e.g. 3 | e.g. 3 | e.g. 9 | Water storage and conservation, water recycling and reuse through rainwater harvesting  Ensure mains supply or suitable contingency as a backup | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 |
| **7. River flow**  The flow in the watercourses could be 50% more than now at its peak, and 80% less than now at its lowest. | Risk of farm flooding if river level rises above the discharge point | e.g. 3 | e.g. 4 | e.g. 12 | Install non-return valve, raise height of discharge pipe, maintain drains and ditches | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 |
| **8. Storms**  Storms could see a change in frequency and intensity. The unique combination of increased wind speeds, increased rainfall, and lightning during these events provides the potential for more extreme storm impacts. | Storms and high winds could damage building structures | e.g. 3 | e.g. 3 | e.g. 9 | Identify and reinforce any vulnerable structures  Keep site tidy to avoid damage from objects being blown around  Well maintained emergency back-up power source | e.g. 2 | e.g. 2 | e.g. 4 |

