

Real Welfare

Sampling / visits

- Real Welfare data can be collected in 3 or 4 visits across the year (your choice with unit manager) or 2 visits if visiting a batch finisher with fewer than 3 batches per year reaching 50Kg.
- Ideally data should be collected from pigs 50kg or higher; if there are not enough pigs for the sample, 30kg+ pigs can be included.
- If no eligible pigs are present on the unit at a visit, enter 0 in “Number of pigs” – no further data has to be entered.

The number of pigs to be sampled depends on the number of finisher places for pigs >50kg

Finisher places	<100	100 -300	300-900	>900
Total per year	All pigs	All pigs	As number of finisher places	900
Total for each of 2 visits (<i>calculate as per 3 visits 2/3 of annual total</i>)	All Pigs present	100	Number of finisher places / 3	300
Total for each of 3 visits	All Pigs present	100	Number of finisher places / 3	300
Total for each of 4 visits	All Pigs present	75	Number of finisher places / 4	225

Buildings: Divide the visit sample representatively between the buildings available

Pens: Select pens at random before entering the building;

- Sample pen types representatively.
- Where pens have 25 or fewer pigs, count all as “sample” pigs,
- Where pens have 25 – 100 pigs count 25 pigs (from all areas of the pen) as “sample” pigs,
- Where there are more than 100 pigs per pen, count 50 pigs (from all areas of the pen) as “sample” pigs,
- Where sampling only 50 pigs will not reach the visit sample, divide the visit sample (or proportion of the sample needed) between the number of available pen.
- “Sample” pigs are the ones to record for body marks and tail lesions.
- All pigs in the pen need to be assessed for lameness and need of hospital pen.

- All sitting or standing pigs in the pen should be assessed for enrichment use category.

Measures

Hospital pigs

- applies to all pigs in sampled pens

- Score any animals within mainstream pens that would benefit from removal to hospital accommodation – any justifiable reason e.g. injury, non-thriving, behaviour of other pigs.

Lameness

- applies to all pigs in sampled pens

Ensure that all pigs are made to stand and walk (unless there is obvious reason that pig is lame)

- Score as present - any pig that when standing will not bear full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes. When moving there is a shortened stride with minimum or no weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hind quarters. The pig may still be able to trot and gallop. Not - pigs that are showing stiffness or uneven gait.
- Consider for hospital pig category

Tail lesions

- applies to sample pigs in sampled pens

- Record **tails docked/undocked and proportion of tail remaining** of docked tails in sampled pens.
- **Mild (optional)** Score as present if tail has any linear lesion 1cm or more e.g. scratches and scrapes, or scabs or lesions greater than 0.5cm diameter. Fresh blood and scabs count, scar tissue does not.
- **Dirty (only if mild lesions are being recorded)**– too dirty to record standard lesions
- **Severe** - at least a proportion of the tail removed, lesions + tail swollen or held oddly, scab covering whole tip.
- Consider for hospital pig category

Body marks

- applies to sample pigs in sampled pens

- **Mild (Optional)** - Score as present if on one side of the body there is a lesion longer than 10cm, or 3 or more 3cm lesions or a circular area larger than 1cm diameter. Marks include raised, reddened areas (likely to scab), grazed/broken skin, fresh (i.e. bleeding) wounds and healing lesions (scabs). Scar tissue does not count.
- **Dirty (only if mild marks are being scored)**– too dirty to record standard marks
- **Severe** - larger than 5x5cm diameter, extends into deeper layers of skin, or if pattern of (small) lesions are present over a large percentage (>25%) of the skin.
- Consider for hospital pig category

Enrichment (Optional)

– applies to sitting or standing pigs in sampled pens

- Score from outside pen; aim to carry out scoring as quickly as possible - scan and assign the behaviours of all sitting or standing pigs into one of 3 categories:
- Enrichment use – mouth or snout in contact with enrichment substrate or object provided as such, in contact with clean turf or soil
- Other; mouth or snout in contact with other objects or pen mates (including pen floor, pen fittings, dung)
- Active; any standing or sitting pig not covered by the previous categories e.g. feeding, drinking, dunging, or standing/sitting doing nothing with its mouth/snout.

