



more than meat

Kepak Group Pork Animal Welfare Policy

HIGHEST LEVELS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

INTRODUCTION

Kepak Group is committed to providing the highest levels of quality and animal welfare. At Kepak Group, we work a small group of Pig farmers in Ireland to source the highest quality, best tasting Pork for our customer base. Animal welfare on our supplier farms is paramount and better management and care for livestock can improve livestock productivity and food quality, which benefits all parties in the supply chain.



IT IS OUR POLICY



To insist that high standards of farm animal welfare are met and maintained at all stages of the animals life – on the farm, during transportation and in our lairages and abattoirs, to encourage best practice amongst our farmer suppliers and Kepak employees.



To only work with dedicated suppliers who share our commitments on animal welfare.



Day to day management of the animal welfare policy and its implementation is the responsibility of our animal welfare working group and our procurement team.



OUR ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARD

- All Pigs sourced by Kepak will be produced according to the Kepak Group livestock specifications and Codes of Practice that include specific animal welfare requirements.
- We do not permit the use of animal welfare or husbandry systems that are illegal
- We ensure all live animal transportation is kept to a minimum and long distances are avoided. Maximum transport time from farm to abattoir is 8 hours.
- No Pigs will be supplied to Kepak from cloned animals or 1st generation progeny of cloned animals.
- There must be a trained welfare officer on duty in abattoirs when animals are on site or being killed who is responsible for ensuring good animal welfare and an effective slaughter process.

LIVESTOCK STANDARDS

Five Freedoms

All farms should follow the 5 freedoms concept that underpins animal welfare practices at farm level:

- 1 Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- 2 Freedom from discomfort
- 3 Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- 4 Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour
- 5 Freedom from fear & distress

Good Stockmanship

Farmers must take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals under their care at all times. The husbandry system that is used, and the number of pigs kept at any one time, should depend on:

- Suitability of the farm environment;
- How many pigs the farm can accommodate at one time;
- Competence of the stock-keeper; and
- How long the stock-keepers have to carry out their duties

No changes should be made to husbandry, equipment or production until the possible effects on pig animal welfare have been considered. Systems involving a high degree of control over the environment should only be installed where conscientious staff in both pig husbandry and the use of equipment will always be available.

Stock-keepers should be knowledgeable and competent in a wide range of animal health and welfare skills, which should include:

- Handling skills;
- Preventing and treating lameness;
- Preventing and treating internal and external parasites;
- Giving medicines by injection;
- Providing appropriate care to sick and injured pigs;
- Management of pigs to minimise aggression; and
- Care of the sow and her litter.

If stock keepers are expected to perform specific tasks on farm (eg. Artificial insemination, teeth clipping etc.) they should be trained, competent and licensed where appropriate and have suitable equipment for carrying out the procedures.

Daily inspection

- All pigs should be inspected once per day
- All equipment should be checked once per day

Stock keepers should always look out for signs of ill health in pigs, which include:

- Separation from the group;
- Listlessness;
- Poor appetite;
- Increased temperature;
- Vomiting;
- Constipation;
- Diarrhoea;
- Discoloration or blistering of the skin;
- Loss of body condition;
- Shivering;
- Sneezing;
- Rapid or irregular breathing;
- Persistent coughing or panting;
- Swollen navel, udder or joints;
- Lameness (inspection of the feet and legs is particularly important); and
- Lack of co-ordination.

Handling

- Pigs should be moved at their own pace. They should be encouraged gently, especially around corners and where it is slippery underfoot.
- Stock keepers should ensure that obstacles are removed and avoid using too much noise, excitement or force
- Stock keepers must not hit pigs. Pig boards and flat slap sticks should only be used for that purpose and should not have sharp or pointed edges.
- All floors and walkways should be well maintained and have a non slip surface
- Floors should not slope too steeply as steeper slopes can cause leg problems.

Transport

- All necessary arrangements must be made in advance to minimise the length of journey and meet the pig's needs during the journey.
- The pigs must be fit for the journey
- Loading and unloading facilities must be adequately designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of pigs.
- Driving techniques must be safe.
- All hauliers travelling over 65km must have completed a DAfM approved transport course.



Health

- Measures to protect health include good hygiene, good husbandry and effective ventilation. Vaccinations may be appropriate for certain diseases. Stock keepers should ensure that only authorised veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, are used.
- Stock keepers should draw up a written health and welfare plan with the herd's veterinary practitioner and where necessary, with other technical advisors
- Health plan should be reviewed and updated once per year
- Health plan should set out health and husbandry activities that cover the cycle of production, and include strategies to treat or limit existing disease problems.
- Health plan should include following:
 - Biosecurity arrangements on farm and during transport
 - Purchased stock procedures
 - Specific disease programmes such as salmonella, erysipelas, E-Coli
 - Mycoplasma and parvo virus
 - Vaccination policy and timing
 - Isolation procedures
 - Mixing and grouping of pigs
 - External and internal parasite controls
 - Lameness monitoring and foot care
 - Routine procedures such as ear tagging
 - Prevention and control of vices such as tail biting
 - Monitoring and recording the mortality and culling rates and the reason for culling
 - Monitoring and recording of medicines usage
 - Animal Health Incident records
- Paints, preservatives and other chemicals must not be used on surfaces accessible to pigs. All chemicals must be stored and locked away from animals and feed to prevent contamination.



Castration

Male pigs may be castrated provided the means employed do not involve the tearing of tissues. However, stock-keepers should consider carefully whether castration is necessary. Castration is a mutilation and should be avoided whenever possible. If it cannot be avoided, it must be carried out in accordance with the law, with appropriate use of anaesthesia and pain relief, by a veterinary practitioner or by a competent, trained operator.

If castration is carried out it may only take place within 72 hours of birth and anaesthetic or pain relief must be used.

Tail Docking/Teeth Clipping

Under EU legislation, neither tail docking nor reduction of corner teeth must be carried out routinely, but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails have occurred. Before carrying out these procedures, a veterinary practitioner must be consulted and, other measures must be taken to prevent tail biting and other vices, taking into account environment and stocking densities. For this reason inadequate environmental conditions or management systems must be changed as a first response and progress should be documented.

Biosecurity

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Biosecurity

If stock keepers take correct precautions when moving within the farm or when moving pigs and equipment, they can greatly reduce the chance of spreading disease. Incoming stock presents the greatest risk to the health of the herd as regards infectious disease.

Biosecurity means:

- Establishing the health/disease status of the herd
- Improving where necessary and maintaining a good animal health status
- Avoiding introduction of disease
- Good management practices
- Good hygiene
- Reducing stress in the herd
- Effective disease control systems such as vaccination and worming programmes

Stock keepers should:

- Before purchasing stock, ask the vendor to provide them with information on the health status of the herd and routine vaccination and other treatments or disease prevention methods.
- Stock keepers should have isolation facilities so that they can isolate and observe/test incoming stock for a suitable period when they arrive, before they can join the rest of the herd.
- A visitor's policy must be in place. Provision of farm boots and protective clothing for visitors is essential.
- Vehicles that visit other pig units should be kept off the unit wherever possible but where entry is essential, wheels and footwear must be cleansed and disinfected thoroughly. A unit should be encouraged to have and maintain its own feed hoses and utility contractor's tools.
- A pest control programme should be in place eg. For rodents. Every effort should be made to make housing bird proof. Under no circumstances should domestic pets, feral cats and other wild animals have access to the pig unit.

Notifiable Diseases:

If stock keepers suspect that any animal is suffering from a notifiable disease, they have the legal duty to notify a local DVO as soon as possible. The following are the main notifiable diseases that affect pigs:

- Foot & Mouth disease
- African Swine fever
- Rabies
- Anthrax
- Swine vesicular disease
- Aujeszky's disease
- Teschen disease
- Classical Swine fever
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Salmonella
- Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)

Condition Scoring

Body condition scoring can contribute greatly to good husbandry and help to avoid costly welfare problems. Feeding should be adjusted as necessary for pigs that have become too fat or too thin. Adequate nutrition at appropriate stages must be ensured in order to avoid the occurrence of sores on shoulders. Body score condition should range between 2.5 and 4.5 and optimum body scores must be maintained. The absence of pressure sores on shoulders indicates a reasonable body condition.

Lameness

Lameness in any animal is usually a sign they are in pain. Lameness clearly affects the pig's welfare, as well as its performance and production.

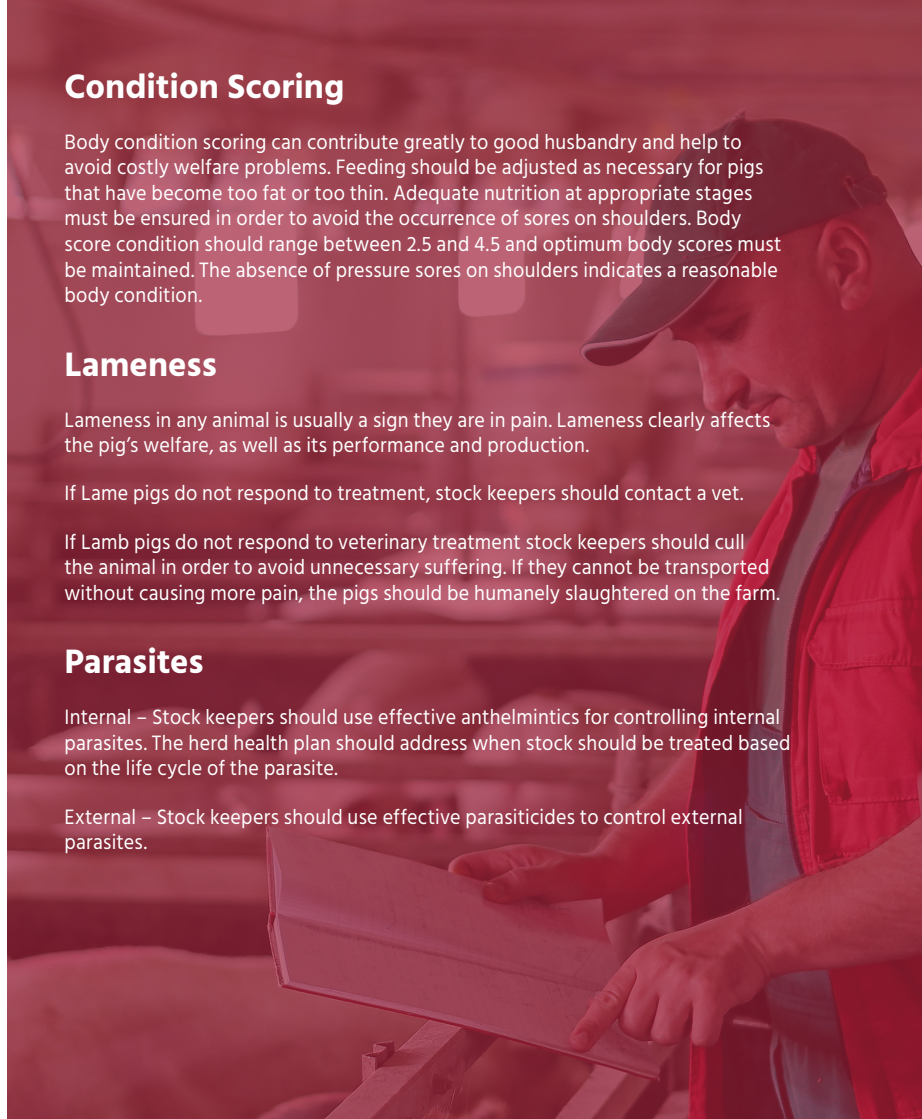
If Lamé pigs do not respond to treatment, stock keepers should contact a vet.

If Lamb pigs do not respond to veterinary treatment stock keepers should cull the animal in order to avoid unnecessary suffering. If they cannot be transported without causing more pain, the pigs should be humanely slaughtered on the farm.

Parasites

Internal – Stock keepers should use effective anthelmintics for controlling internal parasites. The herd health plan should address when stock should be treated based on the life cycle of the parasite.

External – Stock keepers should use effective parasiticides to control external parasites.



Minimum Floor Space requirements for growing pigs:

Average Live Weight (KG) of Pigs in Group	M ²
10kg or less	0.15
More than 10kg but less than or equal to 20kg	0.20
More than 10kg but less than or equal to 20kg	0.30
More than 10kg but less than or equal to 20kg	0.40
More than 10kg but less than or equal to 20kg	0.55
More than 10kg but less than or equal to 20kg	0.65
More than 110kg	1.00

Min Feed space requirements:

Weight of Pig (KG)	Trough Space (CMS)
5	10
10	13
15	15
35	20
60	23
90	28
120	30

Floor design & Stocking Density

Lying areas must be clean, dry and comfortable. Only sites with free draining soil may be used for outdoor/free range where pigs are kept in a building, floors must:

- be smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to the pigs;
- be so designed, constructed and maintained as not to cause injury or suffering to pigs while standing or lying on them; and
- be suitable for the size and weight of the pigs.

When concrete slatted floors are used for pigs kept in groups:

(a) the maximum width of the openings must be -

- 11 mm for piglets;
- 14 mm for weaners;
- 18 mm for growing pigs;
- 20 mm for gilts after service and sows; and

(b) the minimum slat width must be -

- 50mm for piglets and weaners; and
- 80mm for growing pigs, gilts after service and sows.

Good floor design and adequate maintenance is essential. Poorly constructed floors and slats that are not properly matched to the weight/size of pig and surfaces that are worn and/or damaged, can cause injury to the feet and legs of pigs. Excessive gaps should be avoided as they can trap the feet/claws and may cause physical damage. Damaged floors must be repaired immediately and broken and chipped slats must be replaced immediately.

The lying area should always be kept dry, and pen floors, including the dunging area, should be drained effectively. Where bedding is provided this must be clean and dry, regularly topped up or changed, and not pose a risk to the health of the pigs. Storage areas for bedding must be bird and vermin proof.

Electric fencing must only be used where it can easily be avoided and does not trap animals. It should not prevent pigs from undertaking natural behaviours.

Lighting & Noise Levels

- Where pigs are kept in a building, adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) must be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
- Pigs kept in buildings must not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.
- Where pigs are kept in an artificially lit building then lighting with an intensity of at least 40 lux must be provided for a minimum period of 8 hours per day (Rule of thumb – sufficient light to read a newspaper in the corner of the pen).
- Pigs must not be exposed to constant or sudden noise. Noise levels above 85dBA must be avoided in that part of any building where pigs are kept.
- Stock-keepers should have enough fixed or portable lighting available at any time should animals need to be inspected, for example - during farrowing.
- The siting of machinery such as feed milling units should be appropriate to minimise the noise impact on housed stock.



Automated & Mechanical Equipment

A preventative maintenance programme must be in place for all automated equipment. All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well being of the pigs must be inspected at least once a day to ensure that there are no defects, and that no parts of the equipment have become seriously worn.

- Where defects or worn parts in automated or mechanical equipment of the type specified in the previous paragraph are discovered, these must be rectified immediately, or if this is impossible, appropriate steps must be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the pigs pending the rectification of such defects, including the use of alternative methods of feeding and watering and, methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment.

Where the health and well being of the pigs is dependent on an artificial ventilation system:

(a) Provision must be made for an appropriate back-up system (for example - electromagnetic

controlled automatic opening flaps/doors)

(b) An alarm system (which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed) must be provided to give warning of any failure of the system.

- The back-up system referred to at (a) of the above paragraph must be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to at (b) of the above paragraph must each be tested at least once every seven days in order to ensure that there is no defect in the system. If any defect is found (whether as the system is inspected or tested in accordance with this paragraph or at any other time), it must be rectified immediately.
- All mains electrical equipment should meet relevant standards and be properly earthed, safeguarded from rodents and out of the reach of the pigs.
- All equipment, including feed hoppers, drinkers, ventilation equipment, heating and lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, should be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order.

Outcome measures:

Tracking outcome measures enables Kepak Group to track performance. Outcome measures and metrics which are tracked by our technical team at each of our abattoirs. These outcome measures drive continuous improvement and ensure that we remain committed to improving the health and welfare of each animal in our supply chain.

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