

# THE BIG BAD WOLF?



**In fact, the biggest threat to your pigs health is another pig**

Years of hard work and patient breeding of your cherished pigs can be jeopardised with one innocent mistake. Just like humans, **pigs easily spread health problems when in contact with each other**. There are several other routes of infection which we will consider in this publication.

## AVOIDING THE SPREAD OF INFECTION BETWEEN PIGS

Also known as **BIOSECURITY**, this is crucial to the health of your pigs, the long term survival of individual pig keepers, big or small and the pig industry as a whole.

### “A HEALTHY PIG IS A HAPPY PIG”

A few simple actions can considerably reduce the chances of introducing health problems to your pigs and, equally as important, avoid spreading any disease to someone else's pigs.

**This leaflet will outline the main areas of risk and help you to protect your pigs from them.**

[www.pighealth.org.uk](http://www.pighealth.org.uk)

Pig Health Schemes



BPEX is running health schemes in the Yorkshire/Humberside and Eastern regions which aims to help pig keepers of all sizes protect the health of their own pigs and those around them. Registration is simple and free.

- A mapping system enables all pig keepers to view the location and health status of their nearest registered neighbours.
- This enables everyone to make more informed choices about their businesses and create areas of high health status. Visit [www.pighealth.org.uk](http://www.pighealth.org.uk) or call 02476 478793 to register and for access to further helpful information on health and biosecurity.

#### Useful contacts

[www.bpex.org.uk](http://www.bpex.org.uk) • 02476 478793

One-stop shop for information on all pig-related topics including butchery, marketing, recipes, health, environment and biosecurity. Follow the links to 2TS to access a library of practical tips and resources.

[www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm) • 08459 335577

The website contains all of the legislation surrounding pig keeping, as well as offering helpful advice on management.

[www.britishpigs.org.uk](http://www.britishpigs.org.uk) • 01223 845100

Official breed society representing the interests of pedigree breeders and small scale producers.

[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk) • 0845 4040506

Body which enforces legislative rules on health and welfare.

[www.npa-uk.org.uk](http://www.npa-uk.org.uk) • 02476 858780

Political representative body for the UK pig industry.

**BPEX**



# Who is a pig's worst enemy?



## A guide to protecting the health of your pigs and others nearby

Funded through the Rural Development Programme for England and BPEX

**BPEX**



**EEDA**  
East of England Development Agency

**defra**  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas.



## BIRDS AND VERMIN

Pest species can easily spread disease on a holding and more importantly, can travel between farms. Use appropriate pest control products as required and ensure that your holding is kept clean and tidy – simply sweeping up spilt food and securing storage bins can help discourage rats, mice and birds from making a home on your farm.



## KITCHEN WASTE

Organisms can be carried in many food products; although not dangerous to humans they can be devastating to pigs. Foot and Mouth Disease and Swine Fever can both be spread to pigs through contaminated food products. Consequently strict laws have been developed; information on these is available from Defra. Meat products are banned from being fed to pigs and care should also be taken over the feeding of vegetable scraps – they must never be sourced from any kind of kitchen.



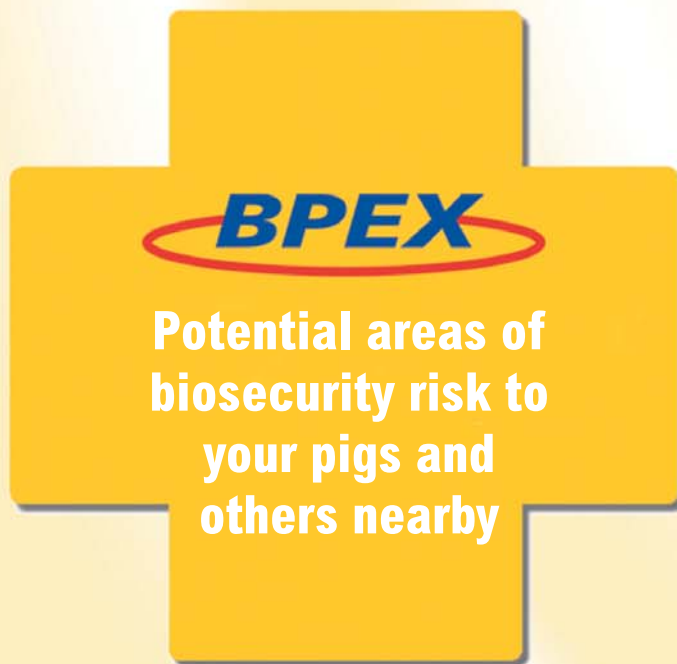
## VISITORS

Discourage visitors if they have been near pigs within the previous 2 days. Supply clean overalls and boots for visitors and wash and disinfect after use. Ensure visitors know the guidelines over feeding scraps to pigs. Disinfectant foot dips for everyone's use are advisable. Follow the guidelines on dilution and keep them fresh. Consider displaying 'keep out' or 'do not feed the pigs' signs.



## DELIVERIES

If a supplier is delivering pig related items to you, the chances are they have been to another pig unit. Keep the vehicle and driver away from your pigs by creating designated "clean" and "dirty" vehicle areas.



## MOVING AND SELLING YOUR PIGS

When taking your pigs to market, livestock shows, slaughterhouses or any other location, ensure that your trailer is cleaned and disinfected. Defra states that vehicles must be cleaned within 24 hours of unloading stock. Wheels, wheel arches and mud flaps must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving markets.

## FARM SECURITY

It is a good idea to secure your premises with fencing and lockable gateways to ensure no unauthorised entry to your animals. This will help to protect against theft and the introduction of new disease. You will also be protecting others from the potential escape of your pigs!



## WIND

Organisms can travel several kilometres in air currents. Discover the location of pigs in your area by registering with [www.pighealth.org.uk](http://www.pighealth.org.uk) and viewing the interactive map. This will enable you to make more informed choices about the sourcing of stock, where you house your pigs and the preventative veterinary measures you should consider.

## INTRODUCING NEW PIGS

Make sure you know the health status of any new pigs, including borrowed boars and bought in weaners. Ensure that health status is compatible with your own pigs (your vet can assist with this). Suitable transport must be cleaned and disinfected before and after use. Quarantine any new pigs away from your own for at least 30 days, looking for any signs of ill health. Use separate equipment for the quarantine area. Do not return to the resident pigs without having a shower and changing clothes. Remember to keep floor mats clean in the car/truck.



## DISPOSAL OF FALLEN STOCK

It is illegal to bury or burn fallen stock due to the risk of spreading disease spread through the air or groundwater. Collection or delivery to an approved knackerman, incinerator or renderer, or through the National Fallen Stock Scheme, must be arranged. Afterbirth and stillborn piglets must also be disposed of in this way.



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The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.