

Biosecurity Guidelines for the rearing of pigs in Samoa



**Pacific Horticultural &
Agricultural Market Access
Plus Program**

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Introduction

Keeping your pigs in accordance with sound biosecurity practices will assist to significantly:

- protect your pigs by reducing the risks of introducing diseases into your farm/property;
- improve the health of your pigs with benefits in better production (e.g., better growth rates for commercial farms), increasing the number of piglets born and reducing deaths in young pigs; and
- reduce the risk of spreading diseases to/ between other people's pigs/pig farms.

Good biosecurity involves following 6 simple steps to protect your pigs:

1. Control things entering your farm/property that could introduce disease into your pigs (pigs, people, pig food and equipment used with pigs).
2. Confine your pigs in pens or behind fences to minimise their contact with other people's pigs and feral pigs.
3. Allocate a separate isolated pen for sick or diseased pigs.
4. Keep pens and pig keeping areas as clean as possible, and use appropriate disinfectant protocols.
5. Do not feed food scraps that contain or that have been in contact with meat, to your pigs .
6. Check your pigs regularly and report unusual sickness or deaths.
7. Keep records of:
 - pigs, people, pig feed and equipment that come into pig keeping areas
 - pigs or pig meat that are sent elsewhere, and
 - equipment that is shared with other farms.

These practices apply to all properties keeping pigs, whether they be commercial piggeries, semi-commercial piggeries, or household/village situations.

In commercial piggeries that keep large numbers of pigs in intensive housing, enhanced biosecurity procedures must be applied to each of these key elements of good biosecurity and set out in a Biosecurity Plan or Manual.

For household pig keeping situations, these key measures can be applied in simple and practical ways to protect pig health and help prevent the spread of pests and diseases.

An example of a simple card or poster that might be used to promote awareness of these 'six steps to protect your pigs' is at Annex 1.

Biosecurity Guidelines

1. Introducing new pigs (including pigs returning from markets, cultural events, etc)

- 1.1. All introduced pigs should be checked for signs of ill health on arrival, and should not be brought into the property if they are sick.
- 1.2. At all times, new pigs should be held in a separate pen or area away from existing pigs for two weeks minimum and observed closely for signs of illness.
- 1.3. If illness is observed, sick pigs should be isolated in a pen away from healthy pigs and animal health advice sought where possible.
- 1.4. Records should be kept of:
 - all pigs introduced, including their origin and previous owner; and
 - the name and location of the market, cultural event, show etc when your own pigs are taken somewhere else and then returned to the property.
- 1.5. Make sure your pigs are identified by an ear tag or marking and that a record is kept.

2. Entry of People and Equipment

- 2.1. People from outside (for example buyers or intermediate sellers) should not enter areas where pigs are being kept without the permission of the pig owner/producer, and they should follow any requirements or conditions of entry set out by the pig owner/producer.
 - 2.1.1. Animals for sale should be kept separately close to the entrance so that people can visit without having contact with the rest of herd.

2.1.2. Wherever possible, the pig holding areas should be located in such a way that people visiting the property are kept away from contact with pigs, except where this is necessary and with the owner's approval. This is particularly important for people who have been in contact with or near other pigs.

2.2. The movement of people, equipment and vehicles onto the farm/property, particularly into pig holding areas, should be kept to the minimum as necessary for the farm's operation and should only occur with the knowledge of the pig owner/producer.

2.2.1. Equipment and vehicles used or in contact with other people's pigs should be cleaned and disinfected before coming into the pig keeping areas of the farm/property.

2.2.2. On large farms/properties, separate workers should be kept for separate sections of the farm/property to avoid cross contamination between groups of pigs.

2.3. People entering pig keeping areas should wear suitable outer clothing and footwear which have not been worn on other pig farms from the time they were last cleaned.

2.3.1. Visitors who enter pig holding areas must be provided with adequate farm PPE which must remain on the farm when they leave and must not be taken outside the farm/property.

2.3.2. All used PPE must be disposed of in accordance with required biosecurity rules.

2.4. Records must be kept of all people, vehicles and equipment that have entered the farm/property and that may have come in contact with the pigs or entered areas where pigs are kept.

3. Feeding safe food to pigs / swill management

- 3.1. Food scraps or kitchen waste containing (or that has been in contact with) meat should not be fed to pigs. If these are used, it is recommended that they are heated by boiling for at least 15 minutes.
- 3.2. Food scraps or waste containing or in contact with meat should not be collected (for example from restaurants, hotels etc) for the purpose of feeding to pigs. However, if collected from these establishments the scraps should be boiled for at least 15 minutes.

4. Contain your pigs in pens or inside fences.

- 4.1. Pigs should be contained in pens or in fenced areas to minimise contact with other people's pigs, and with free roaming or feral pigs.
 - 4.1.1. Pens and fences should be checked regularly to minimise pigs straying onto neighbouring properties or public areas as well as to prevent feral pigs entering pig rearing areas.
- 4.2. The best pens or fences to protect your pigs are those designed to prevent nose to nose contact with other pigs not from the same farm or household.
 - 4.2.1. While expensive, double fencing is the most effective approach, particularly for commercial farms.
 - 4.2.2. Village level piggeries should have a fence on the boundaries and should not encourage pigs to roam freely.
- 4.3. Pigs should be fed within the pen/enclosure and have fresh water available within the pen/ enclosure.
- 4.4. Pens should be located and designed to ensure that environmental regulations are met for drainage and run off.
- 4.5. Feral pigs including piglets should not be kept in captive conditions in contact with domesticated pigs or herds.

5. General husbandry and health management

- 5.1. Pig pens and enclosures should be cleaned regularly and must have an adequate drainage system.
- 5.2. Pigs should be observed daily for signs of illness.
- 5.3. A Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Animal Production and Health (APHD) officer, should be notified as soon as possible if unusual illness or disease, or unusual mortality is observed (See contacts below).
- 5.4. Records should be kept of any:
 - 5.4.1. pig deaths.
 - 5.4.2. disease or condition from which pigs have suffered.
 - 5.4.3. treatments applied.
- 5.5. The farm/property should have a method or plan for safe disposal of dead pigs that ensures that carcasses are disposed of appropriately and in accordance with relevant health and environmental laws.
 - 5.5.1. Most importantly, other pigs should not have any access to dead pigs.
 - 5.5.2. The carcasses of pigs that have died due to infection with some diseases (for example African Swine Fever (ASF) are a source of infection to other pigs and prompt disposal by a method approved by MAF is important for disease control and to protect the environment.
 - 5.5.3. The recommended disposal method of these carcasses under most circumstances is by burial or burning.

6. Sending Pigs from the Property

- 6.1. Records of pigs sent or taken elsewhere from the farm/property should be kept. Records should include the date, the number of pigs and their destination.
- 6.2. Pig movements should be controlled in case of a suspected case of ASF or confirmed case and MUST be reported to the nearest Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries team/office (See contacts below).

7. Farm biosecurity plan

- 7.1. Each property, or village, should (be encouraged to) have a Farm Biosecurity Plan which sets out how these guidelines will be met.
 - 7.1.1. This should be mandatory for a commercial pig farm.

Annex 1 : Example of ‘Six Easy Steps to Protect your Pigs’ poster



Protect your pigs

Remember these steps. Make the call if you see unusual signs of disease or death in your pigs

 <p>Control things entering your farm or property that could introduce disease into your pigs (pigs, people, pig food and equipment used with pigs)</p>	 <p>Do not feed food scraps containing or in contact with meat to your pigs</p>
 <p>Confine your pigs in pens or behind fences to minimise their contact with other people's pigs and feral pigs. Allocate a separate isolated pen for sick or diseased pigs.</p>	 <p>Keep pens and pig areas as clean as possible, and use appropriate disinfectant protocols</p>
 <p>Check your pigs regularly and report unusual sickness or deaths</p>	 <p>Keep records of pigs, people, pig feed and equipment that come into pig keeping areas, and pigs or pig meat that are sent elsewhere, or equipment that is shared with other farms</p>

If you notice unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in your pigs, immediately call your local Authority or the Ministry of Agriculture





SEE REPORT PROTECT



**BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR THE REARING OF PIGS
IN SAMOA**

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