

Prohibited pig feed: don't feed swill to pigs

What is prohibited pig feed?

Foods that should not be fed to pigs include all meat, meat products and any food that has come in contact with meat – traditionally called swill.

Swill feeding is illegal

Swill feeding can carry exotic diseases that could devastate our livestock industries. Meat and mammalian material can contain viruses not found in Australian livestock. Diseases like foot and mouth disease, classical and African swine fever, and transmissible gastroenteritis can be carried and transmitted by feeding swill to pigs.

It is illegal to feed swill to pigs in all states and territories in Australia. These rules apply to all pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept on your property for your own consumption. Under the Northern Territory's *Livestock Act 2008* and Regulations, individuals could be liable for heavy penalties for allowing pigs to eat prohibited pig feed. Illegal activities include:

- feeding or allowing or directing another person to feed prohibited pig feed to a pig
- allowing a pig to have access to prohibited pig feed
- collection and storage or possession of prohibited pig feed on premises where pigs are kept
- supplying to another person prohibited pig feed that the supplier knows will be used for feeding pigs.

Prohibited pig feeds

Food products that are prohibited for feeding to pigs include:

- meat and meat products
- dairy products from overseas
- pies, sausage rolls, bacon and cheese rolls, pizza, deli meats and table scraps
- household, commercial or industrial waste, including restaurant food and discarded cooking oils
- anything that has been in contact with prohibited pig feed via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers (such as meat trays and take-away food containers).

You also cannot remove meat from a sandwich or salad and then feed the rest to a pig.

Figure 1: Leftover pizza and quiche may contain, or have been in contact with, meat products and are examples of human food that must not be fed to pigs



What can I feed pigs?

Food products not prohibited for feeding to pigs include:

- commercially prepared pig feeds
- grains
- milk, milk products and milk by-products of Australian origin
- eggs
- dry meal made from meat, blood or bone (processed by commercial hot rendering and purchased from a reputable produce store or feed merchant)
- non-meat bakery food substances
- fruit, vegetables and cereals that have not been in contact with swill.

Food premises

Any business that prepares and sells food has a legal responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. This includes kitchens, restaurants, hotels, airports, hospitals and market stalls.

Prohibited food waste should be placed in an appropriate garbage bin for collection by the council, or commercial waste service for disposal in a landfill, or for composting at an appropriate recycling facility.

Report swill feeding

To maintain Australia's disease free status, you must immediately report the following activities to the Territory Government's Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, Livestock Biosecurity Branch. All reports will be treated confidentially.

- Feeding swill to pigs
- Allowing a pig to have access to swill
- Collecting swill waste from a food premises to provide to pigs

Livestock Biosecurity Branch contacts

Darwin Region

Veterinary Officer

P: 08 8999 2035, M: 0427 003 600

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8999 2034, M: 0401 115 802

Katherine Region

Veterinary Officer

P: 08 8973 9716, M: 0437 527 372

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8973 9767, M: 0467 740 233

Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8973 9765, M: 0427 604 002

Tennant Creek Region

Principal Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8962 4458, M: 0401 113 445

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8962 4492, M: 0457 517 347

Alice Springs Region

Veterinary Officer

P: 08 8951 8181, M: 0401 118 181

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

P: 08 8951 8125, M: 0401 118 125