



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LIVESTOCK RESEARCH SECTION
GUIDELINES FOR PIG BREEDING



The applicant should be a registered farmer, having no less than a 1000 metre square of land.

LOCATION

The chosen site should:

- not be in a flood-prone area
- be more than 15m away from any water source (flowing river, seasonal stream)
- be 30m away from any dwelling house other than a designated agricultural area
- have enough space for the requested project
- not have too many boulders (big stones) on the project area
- not in a valley
- have tall bushy plants at the boundary
- be able to accommodate:
 - a pig pen with its necessary compartments (boar pen, sow pen, farrowing pen, weaners pen, replacement pen, fattening pen & sick/quarantine pen)
 - a standard manure shed
 - a feed store
 - a water storage facility
 - a tools' store
 - a staff toilet & shower
 - if staff is to reside on farm, a staff accommodation or a watchman shed
 - sewage system facilities
 - a fence if necessary
- The distance between pig pens should be at least 3 meters apart.
- have 30m from each type of animal pens (ruminant/poultry/others) on the land for a better hygiene & biosecurity system.

N.B: It's advisable to consider extra acreage for any possible future expansion, SAA should be informed prior to the pig breeding project in case there are other plans by the applicant for other types of projects in the future on the same parcel number or adjacent to it.

HOUSING FACILITIES

FLOORS

- To be constructed with concrete, slats or other impervious materials
- Must be designed to allow for proper drainage and cleaning
- The surface should be coarse enough to prevent slipping but must not be pitted
- For a pig pen, there should be a corridor in the middle and at the side, for movement of feed and animals.

WALLS

- May be constructed with concrete blocks (plastered on both sides) and must be easily cleaned
- May be constructed with expanded metal or pipe railing which have smooth surface and not injurious to the animals
- Wooden walls/barriers are not allowed
- The wall should be at least (1.5m high in blocks and topping up to 1.75m with horizontal iron bars) for the pigs not to jump over, especially for the boars.

ROOF

- Should be of corrugated iron sheets or an approved material
- Must have adequate overlap to protect from rain and sun
- Overhang should not be less than 2.5m from ground level to allow for adequate ventilation
- Rain gutter should be installed with the roof to collect rain water for cleaning.

DOORS

- Pens must have proper doors to allow easy access for movement of animals and cleaning purposes
- The doors must be made of non-wooden materials.

FEEDERS

- Proper and adequate feeding system must be provided for hygiene and disease prevention

- Separate small feeders should be available for piglets to consume pig creep
- Floor feeding should not be practiced
- Feeding system should be constructed in a manner for easy and proper cleaning.

WATER

- Clean drinking water from appropriate drinking systems must be made available at all times especially at the maternity.

DRAINAGE

- All solid excreta should be collected and dispose in manure shed to prevent blocking and overflow of the sewage system
- All pens must be constructed to ensure adequate outflow of urine, excreta and wash water
- All pens must have proper external drains to channel urine, excreta and waste water
- All external drains must be properly connected to a slurry disposal system
- An adequate and functional slurry disposal system must be put in place.

SEPTIC TANKS AND SOAK AWAY PIT

- The size of septic tank and soak away pit will depend on the total number of pigs being reared. For example; for 60 pigs the dimensions of;
 - o Septic tank must be of a length of 3.8m and width of 1m and a depth of 2m
 - o Soak away pit must be a diameter of 8.6m and a depth 3m.

HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

BOARS

- A boar pen should be large to allow exercise and mating 3m x 3m (or 3m x 2.5m)
- Boar pens should be in between sows and facing sows for their smell to stimulate heat in the female
- Boars must kept individual pens (9m² per animal in close proximity to dry sows pens)

- Boar to sow is 1:20. Two boars (one as replacement) may be kept from a minimum 25 sows
- All breeding boars must be purchased from the Pig Genetic Centre, unless otherwise authorized Pig Breeders.

SOWS

- The farrowing crate has to be only 70cm (0.7m). If it is too wide the sow can turn around and defecate in the feeder or sleep on its piglets
- Dry sow may be kept in stalls but if in open pens, the minimum stocking density is 3m² per animal
- Proper facilities must be made available to farrowing sows
- Replacement gilts can be obtained only from the Pig Genetic Centre
- For the dry sows the space is 0.7m wide and 2m long and demarcated by iron bars with no walls
- A maternity pen should be 1.8m wide and 2.7m long
- To reduce stress at weaning remove sows and not piglets from the farrowing pen
- Deworm piglets before weaning
- Record weaning weight and number of piglets weaned.

PIGLETS

- All piglets must be ear notched with the specific identification number allocated to the farm
- Avoid wetting piglets as much as possible while cleaning the pen as this may lead to hypothermia (lowered body temperature) leading to mortality
- Weigh piglets and record weight at birth
- Teeth clipping can done one day after farrowing
- Piglets must be sold only to fatteners permit holders fatteners
- Give piglets small quantities of pig creep feed (10 days onwards).

RECORD KEEPING

- All purchase of breeding stock must be recorded
- All sales of weaners and culled stock must be recorded
- Proper litter records must be kept
- Weaners can only be sold to permit holding fatteners or as authorized by the Principal Livestock Officer.

VETERINARY TREATMENTS

- No animals should be treated with any drugs without the interventions or authorization of the Veterinary Services.

FEED

- Animals must have access to clean and fresh food
- Appropriate feeding regime must be established
- No growth promoters (drugs, hormones, chemicals) must be given to the animals
- Swill, kitchen waste and other left over feeds should not be given
- It is advisable to feed pigs their daily portion in the morning and evening, especially at maternity to prevent vermin & wastage.

BIOSECURITY

This is a series of measures necessary to prevent diseases from entering the farm. It is often neglected but vital to avoiding farm production losses.

- Fence the farm and restricting access to authorized personal only
- Place a vehicle dip at the entrance of the farm (the disinfectant used should be broad spectrum antibacterial/antifungal/virucidal and should be changed daily)
- Place a footbath at the entrance of each pig sty
- Maintaining an effective rodent eradication program
- Maintaining an effective fly control program using baits or insecticide sprays
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of tools, equipment
- All pens must be kept in a good state of repair and do not pose a risk of injury to the pigs

- Feed stores should be rat /bird proofed with proper ceiling
- Feed should be stored on pallet and not directly on floor and arrangement of feed should be such that will be rotated on a first come first serve basis
- Manure must be stored in a properly covered manure shed with a concrete floor slopping to an outside drain that is connected to the waste water disposal system or soak away pit depending on accessibility of either. Must be stacked at least 10 meters from the main pen.
- Soak away pit must be stacked at least 10m away from the main pen
- All drains must be kept in a good state of repair and cleaned out regularly
- Slurry disposal system must be kept functional at all times and scum should be removed from the surface/top layer and disposed in the manure stack/shed daily
- All animals must be kept clean and in a healthy state at all times
- Excess feed must not be allowed to decompose in the feed troughs
- The tool store should be kept clean & tidy with shelves to store pesticides and disinfectant
- All medications should be stored in a fridge in a secure safe place under lock and key
- All pigs should be de-worm and give extra supplements under the guidance of the Veterinary Services
- After each batch of pigs has been removed from the sty, disinfect the entire compartment(s), inside and outside, from the walls to the surrounding fence, then allow for 2 weeks rest period before re-stocking. This helps break any cycle of microbes from the previous batch from passing on to the new one
- Clean all piping system and water tanks
- Workers should start working with younger piglets before going to older pigs and never the other way around
- Careful daily (especially every morning) visualization of the entire stock should be able to detect any unthrifty (unwell) animals
- Prompt notification of the Veterinary Services should be done upon detection of any suspicious sickness or deaths

- Sick animals should be isolated from the rest and the entire area be disinfected with broad spectrum disinfectant
- Disposal of dead animals should be done by deep burying
- For human safety and to prevent any spread of animal diseases, it is always advisable to wear a separate set of protective clothing on the farm.
- The farm house or watchman room should consist of toilet, shower, small cooking area, resting room and a place to store their personal belonging like bags, overalls and boots.

N.B: If any abnormal deaths occur, Veterinary Services should be contacted prior to disposal of the pig as there might need to conduct further examinations and sampling of infectious tissues from the pig.

BACK YARD

Keeping of pigs in back yard is strictly forbidden due to health and environment issues.

For More Information

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