

BIOCHECK PIGS

Pigs



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~. Farm characteristics

Ia. Are there, besides the pigs, any other farm animals present at your farm?

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question II.

Ib. What other farm animal(s) is (are) present at your farm?

.....

II. What is the number of sows on your farm?

.....

III. What is the number of weaned piglets on your farm?

.....

IV. What is the number of finishing pigs on your farm?

.....

V. What is the number of boars on your farm?

.....

VI. How many years of experience in keeping pigs does the person in charge have?

.....

VII. How many people are working on the farm?

.....

VIII. How old (in years) is the oldest building in which pigs are being kept?

.....

IX. How old (in years) is the newest building in which pigs are being kept?

.....

A. Purchase of breeding pigs, piglets and semen

1. Are breeding pigs (sows/gilts/boars) being purchased? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 10.

2. Are your breeding pigs (during the past 2 years) always bought from the same original source? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always the same supplier
- Sometimes a different supplier

3. Whenever breeding pigs are bought from another farm, is proof requested to ensure that the sanitary statute and health management of the farm of origin are equal or higher than your own farm? *(required)*

A herd with a known health status is a herd that is free of a number of important diseases (e.g. Scabies, PRRS, ...) and therefore guarantees that the delivered products (animals / sperm) originating from this herd are also free of these diseases.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

4. Are hygienic criteria (e.g. cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle) posed on the transport vehicle that brings the breeding pigs to the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

5. How often a year are breeding pigs delivered to your farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- 2 times or less a year
- Between 3 and 6 times a year
- Between 6 and 12 times a year
- More than 12 times a year

6. Are all new breeding pigs put into a quarantine room separate from the rest of the herd? (required)

The quarantine room can be in the same building but should have a separate entrance for animals and personnel, separate walls, a separate manure pit and separate air ventilation.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 10.

7. Is a strict all-in/all-out (AI/AO) management practised in the quarantine room? (required)

AI/AO means that all the animals that have to be quarantined are put into the quarantine at the same moment and that all the quarantined animals are removed simultaneously. It's crucial that new animals are never put into the quarantine room if there are still animals inside.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

8. What is the minimum duration (in days) of the quarantine period? (required)

.....

9. Is there a separate hygiene lock for the quarantine room? (required)

A hygiene lock is a room, where among others, you can change into specific clothes/boots and clean/disinfect your hands.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

10. Are piglets being purchased? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 15.

11. Are your piglets (during the past 2 years) always bought from the same original source? (required)

Select one option.

- Always same supplier
- Sometimes a different supplier

12. Whenever piglets are bought from another farm, is proof requested to ensure that the sanitary statute and health management of the farm of origin are equal or higher than your own farm? *(required)*

A herd with a known health status is a herd that is free of a number of important diseases (e.g. Scabies, PRRS, ...) and therefore guarantees that the delivered products (animals / sperm) originating from this herd are also free of these diseases.

Select one option.

- Yes, always higher or equal
- No
- I don't know

13. Are hygienic criteria (e.g. cleaning and disinfection) posed on the transport vehicle that brings the piglets to the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

14. How often a year are piglets delivered to your farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Twice or less per year
- Between 3 to 6 times per year
- Between 6 to 12 times per year
- More than 12 times per year

15. Is semen purchased? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 17.

16. Whenever semen is bought from a farm/boar station, is proof requested to ensure that the sanitary statute and health management of the farm/boar station of origin are equal or higher than your own farm? *(required)*

A herd with a known health status is a herd that is free of a number of important diseases (e.g. Scabies, PRRS, ...) and therefore guarantees that the delivered products (animals / sperm) originating from this herd are also free of these diseases.

Select one option.

- Yes, always higher or equal
- No
- I don't know

B. Transport of animals, removal of carcasses and manure

17. Are **finishing pigs** being transported from your farm to the slaughterhouse? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 20.

18. Is the transport vehicle for the **finishing pigs** empty on arrival at the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

If an option **different** from "Always" is chosen, go to question 20

19. Is the transport vehicle for the **finishing pigs** cleaned and disinfected before entering the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

20. Are **sows** being transported from your farm to either other farms or the slaughterhouse? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 23.

21. Is the transport vehicle for the **sows** empty on arrival at the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

If an option **different** from "Always" is chosen, go to question 23.

22. Is the transport vehicle for the **sows** cleaned and disinfected before entering the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

23. Are **piglets** being transported from your farm to other farms? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 26.

24. Is the transport vehicle for the **piglets** empty on arrival at the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

If an option **different** from "Always" is chosen, go to question 26.

25. Is the transport vehicle for **piglets** cleaned and disinfected on arrival at the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- I don't know

26. Does the driver have access to the stables when loading the animals (finishing pigs, sows, piglets)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 28.

27. Does the driver receive and wear farm-specific clothing and shoes? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

28. Are the pigs loaded from a separate loading area or directly from the stable / central corridor? *(required)*

The separate loading area (or loading bay) is a physically separated location where the animals are brought to during loading.

Select one option.

- Separate loading area
- Central corridor or stable

If "Separate loading area" is chosen, go to question 30.

29. Is it possible for the pigs to return to the stables (e.g. by walking back or by being placed back in) after they have been in the transport vehicle? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

30. Is the manure removed and disposed of appropriately through the dirty road? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

31. Are farm-specific hoses for the removal of manure from the manure pit available on the farm (i.e. are there hoses for the removal of manure that always stay at the farm)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

32. Is a dedicated carcass storage space, which is physically separated from the animal facilities, present on the farm premises? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 38.

33. Is this carcass storage space located in the dirty area of the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

34. Can the carcasses be removed by the rendering company without them entering the premises of the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

35. Is the carcass storage space protected from vermin, cats and/or dogs? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

36. Is this carcass storage space cleaned and disinfected after each pick-up? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

37. Is the carcass storage cooled? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

38. Are carcasses manipulated with gloves, or are hands cleaned and disinfected after manipulation of carcasses? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

C. Feed, water and equipment supply

39. Can the feeding company fill up the silos without entering the clean area/road? *(required)*

The clean road/area is the area of the production site with restricted access, i.e. this is the area where only animals from the farm, persons after they have applied the hygienic measures in the hygiene lock, and farm-specific materials and vehicles are allowed. The dirty area comprises all other parts of the farm where visitors, external vehicles, ... have access to. The dirty area also includes the carcass storage facility.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

40. Does the feed supplier have access to the stables? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

41. Does the feed originate from a feeding company where it needs to meet certain hygienic requirements (e.g. *Salmonella*-free, heat treatment)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

42. Is the quality of the drinking water checked every year at the source or at the storage tank by means of a bacteriological analysis? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

43. Is the quality of the drinking water checked every year at the main outlets (i.e. where the pigs drink) by means of a bacteriological analysis? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

44. Is there a specific pass-through for materials to enter the buildings of the farm (e.g. a UV-cabinet for foreign materials)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

45. Are specific measures taken for the introduction of material (e.g. cleaning and disinfection, quarantine period at a specific location)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

D. Visitors and farmworkers

46. Are visitors obliged to notify you of their presence before entering the stables (e.g. visitor's register)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

47. Is a pig-free period (longer than 12 hours) expected of all visitors before they are allowed to enter the stables? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

48. Is there a hygiene lock available and is it always used by visitors when they enter the stables? *(required)*

The hygiene lock is a room where, among others, you can change into farm-specific clothes/footwear and where you can wash/disinfect your hands.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 51.

49. Are all stables only accessible for visitors through a hygiene lock? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

50. Is there a strict separation between the clean and the dirty area of the hygiene lock? *(required)*

*The **dirty area** of the hygiene lock is where the farmworkers/visitors enter the room, and store their clothes/footwear and clean/disinfect their hands. In the **clean area** of the hygiene lock, they can put on farm-specific clothing and footwear.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

51. Do visitors have to wear farm-specific clothes? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

52. Do visitors have to wear farm-specific shoes? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

53. Do visitors and farmworkers have to wash and disinfect their hands before they are allowed to enter the stables? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

54. Do all the farmworkers always carry out these hygienic measures? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

E. Vermin and bird control

55. Are vermin (i.e. rats, mice, etc.) considered to be a problem at the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

56. Is the outside of the farm buildings (around the walls) paved and clean (i.e. the removal of weeds, waste, ...) so that there are no hiding places for vermin? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

57. Is a rodent control programme present on the farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes (farmer, staff or professional company)
- No

58. Do pets have access to the stables (including the storage for feed and bedding material)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

59. Do birds have access to the stables? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

60. Are grids placed on the air inlets? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

F. Location of the farm

61. Is the farm located in an area with a high density of pigs or a low density of pigs? *(required)*

A region with a high density of pigs has an average pig density of > 300 pigs/km² at municipality level.

Select one option.

- Low density
- High density

62. Are there any other pig farms within a 500-metres radius (0.3 miles) of your farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

63. Is manure from other farms being spread on farmlands within a 500-metres radius (0.3 miles) of your farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

64. Do transport vehicles carrying animals from other farms often (i.e. minimum once a day) pass on a road less than 100 metres (328 feet) from your farm (e.g. due to the location of a slaughterhouse in the neighbourhood, ...)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

65. Have wild boars been spotted within a 10-kilometres radius (6.2 miles) of your farm? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 67.

66. Is the farm enclosed by fences, wire, ...? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

G. Disease management

67. Do you make use of a prelisted vaccination scheme and a protocol for strategic treatments (e.g. additives, pre- or probiotics)? If so, do you always abide by it? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

68. Is a regular (i.e. at least once a year) evaluation made of the disease status of the farm (e.g. serology, trends in slaughterhouse findings, etc.)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

69. Are stay-behinds (due to unclear causes) and/or diseased pigs isolated from the healthy ones (in physically separated hospital pens or by euthanasia)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

70. Are diseased pigs consistently handled/visited after the healthy ones? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

H. Farrowing and suckling period

71. Are there sows present in the herd? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 79.

72. Are the sows washed before they are moved into the farrowing unit? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

73. Are suckling piglets transferred between sows (i.e. cross-fostering)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 76.

74. Does cross-fostering of suckling piglets between different sows occur once or more than once (per piglet)? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Once
- More than once

75. Does cross-fostering sometimes occur after 4 days post-farrowing? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

76. How many times are the piglets manipulated (e.g. vaccination, castration, clipping of the teeth, ...) between birth and weaning? *(required)*

.....

77. Are materials/tools for treatment (e.g. castration blade, tail-docker, ear-tagger, iron injection needles) regularly cleaned and disinfected between litters? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

78. Do you work with two blades and a small box containing a disinfectant when castrating the piglets? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes/No castration/I use a different blade per pen
- No

I. Nursery unit

79. Is there a nursery unit present on the farm? *(required)*

The nursery unit is where all weaned piglets are housed together.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 85.

80. Is a strict all-in/all-out (AI/AO) management practised in each compartment of the nursery unit? *(required)*

AI/AO means that the compartments are filled up and emptied in one single time. The most important point is that new animals are never placed in a compartment where animals from the previous production cycle are still present.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

81. Are older piglets sometimes mixed with younger piglets? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

82. What is the maximal stocking density of a pen in the nursery? *(required)*

Select one option.

- 3 piglets or less per m²
- 4 piglets per m²
- 5 piglets per m²
- 6 or more piglets per m²

83. Is the nursery unit physically separated (i.e. no direct contact or access with sows through the door of the nursery, preferably separate stable) from the sow unit? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

84. Is there a separate hygiene lock for the nursery unit? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

J. Finishing unit

85. Are there finishing pigs present in the herd? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 91.

86. Is a strict all-in/all-out (AI/AO) management practised in all compartments of the finishing unit? *(required)*

AI/AO means that the compartments are filled up and emptied in one single time. The most important point is that new animals are never placed in a compartment where animals from the previous production cycle are still present.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

87. Is a strict all-in/all-out (AI/AO) management practised in each pen per compartment of the finishing unit? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

88. Are the different age groups strictly separated into different (i.e. physically separated) compartments? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

89. Are older finishing pigs sometimes mixed with younger pigs? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

90. What is the maximal pig density in a pen in the finishing unit? (required)

"Regular" finishing pigs are kept until they are between 90 and 115 kilograms (between 200 and 250 pounds). Heavy finishing pigs are those that weigh more than 115 kilograms (more than 250 pounds).

Select one option.

- 1 or more m² per finishing pig (1.5 m² or more per heavy finishing pig)
- Between 0.7 and 0.9 m² per finishing pig (Between 1.1 and 1.4 m² per heavy finishing pig)
- Between 0.6 and 0.7 m² per finishing pig (Between 0.8 and 1.1 m² per heavy finishing pig)
- Less than 0.6 m² per finishing pig (Less than 0.8 m² per heavy finishing pig)

K. Measures between compartments, working lines and use of equipment

91. Is compartment-specific clothing and footwear available and changed between each compartment? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

92. Are hands washed and/or disinfected between different compartments/units? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

93. Are either disinfection baths and/or boot washers used between different compartments/units or are boots changed between compartments? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

94. Is all the farm work performed from younger pigs to older pigs? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

95. Is the equipment that is needed for a specific animal category placed according to the working lines to avoid that the equipment is used in any other age categories? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

96. Is there a protocol for the cleaning and disinfection of equipment (such as brooms, spades) after their use and is this protocol abided by? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

97. Has clearly recognisable, separate material (e.g. by colours) been foreseen for each unit or age group? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

98. Are the pig driving boards easy to clean and are they regularly (i.e. after every use or at least after every production cycle during the sanitary break) cleaned and disinfected? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

99. Is there any material being shared with other farms that enters the stables and/or has contact with your pigs? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

100. Are dedicated injection syringes that are specific to each age group available? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

101. Are dedicated injection needles that are specific to each age group available? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

102. After how many pigs is the injection needle changed? *(required)*

If this differs per compartment/age category, please fill in the worst-case scenario.

.....

L. Cleaning and disinfection

103. Are the different stages in the cleaning and disinfection process respected and is there sufficient time (according to the used product specifications) provided for each stage? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

104. Is the efficacy of cleaning and disinfection checked with for example a hygienogram? *(required)*

A hygienogram is a quantification of the bacterial status of the environment with a contact plate.

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

105. Are the stables/compartments cleaned and disinfected after each production cycle? *(required)*

This question concerns all stables: farrowing crates, nursery unit and fattening unit.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

106. Is the sanitary break long enough, i.e. is there sufficient time for drying and adjusting the temperature before pigs enter the stable? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

107. Are the corridors and the loading area cleaned and disinfected after pigs are moved? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

108. Are disinfection baths/boot washers present at the entrance of the farm and are they used? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to the end of the questionnaire.

109. Is the fluid of the disinfection baths immediately changed when visually contaminated? *(required)*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No