
**Yukon Livestock
Guide**

SWINE



**YUKON
LIVESTOCK
GUIDES**

 Cattle, Yak + Bison

 Equine

 Poultry

 Sheep + Goat

 Swine

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PURPOSE

The Government of Yukon's role is to support the Yukon's agriculture sector and create conditions for a thriving agricultural industry.

This booklet supports livestock farmers with guidance on raising and caring for their animals as well as managing their farm operations. The content is a summary of the applicable Codes of Practice for raising and caring for livestock and information on addressing or preventing common issues that can impact livestock farmers in the Yukon.



STANDARDS OF CARE

The Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals are nationally developed guidelines that are scientifically informed, practical and reflect societal expectations for responsible farm animal care. We encourage you to consult the [Codes of Practice on the National Farm and Animal Care Council's website](http://nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice) (nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice).

Increasing your understanding and adopting best management practices for raising and caring for livestock can increase production, reduce overall costs, reduce injuries and illness as well as reduce loss of profits.

The Five Freedoms

The Five Freedoms are internationally accepted standards for the care of living beings and their right to humane treatment. When producers safeguard these freedoms, they ensure an animal's primary welfare.

The Five Freedoms are the basis for animal care protocols.

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst.
2. Freedom from discomfort.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour.
5. Freedom from fear and distress.

NOMENCLATURE

Groups of pigs are commonly referred to as a herd. Some older terminology includes “drift” (because of how they move) or “sounder” (because when in the bush, swine grunt back and forth to keep track of each other).

- **Piglet:** A baby pig that is still nursing.
- **Weaner or shoat:** A recently weaned piglet.
- **Feeder pig:** Bigger than a weaner, but smaller than a hog.
- **Hog:** Weighs 120 pounds (55 kilograms) or more.
- **Barrow:** A castrated male pig.
- **Gilt:** A young female pig.
- **Sows and boars:** Female and male breeding stock.
- **Invasive wild pig (feral hog):** Any type of pig (domestic swine, farmed Eurasian wild boar or hybrid of both) that is not under the care or control of humans and may have the capacity to establish a sustained population in the wild. Feral animals are not considered wildlife.
- **Farmed (Eurasian) wild boar:** A pig from wild lineage that is raised as livestock under the care and control of humans.

Note: A farmed Eurasian wild boar can be an invasive wild pig (feral hog) but not all invasive wild pigs (feral hogs) are Eurasian wild boars.

BASIC NEEDS

Housing and environment

Housing and living environment must provide for an animal's basic needs and be as stress free as possible. Stressed livestock do not thrive and are more susceptible to illnesses.

Common stress factors for swine include overcrowding, mixing groups or adding new pigs, empty feeders or waterers, dirty pens, poor ventilation, drafts and severe or rapid change of weather.

Facilities

Access to equipment or facilities that allows for the safe handling, restraint, treatment, segregation, loading and unloading of pigs reduces stress for the handler and the animal. A pig board is an essential tool for moving pigs.

Dry and elevate resting/bedding areas. Make the resting/bedding areas available at all times for all pigs in all locations (pasture, pens and segregation pens). All animals in a pen should be able to lie down and rest comfortably at the same time.

Keep bedding dry and free of mold. Regularly clean and replace the bedding. Fully replace the bedding between batches of pigs.

Swine are prone to respiratory diseases if confined indoors without proper ventilation. Access to fresh air and outdoor exercise areas is recommended at all times of the year, weather permitting.

BASIC NEEDS

Pigs are happiest when housed in groups of at least three. Pigs spend up to 75 per cent of their time exploring (nosing, chewing and rooting). Ensure there is at least one square metre (10 square feet) of space per pig and use plenty of bedding. Other materials such as tree bark and branches or chopped root vegetables added to the straw will keep pigs occupied and prevent the development of more destructive behaviours.

The housing area should allow enough space for separating the dunging area from the lying and eating areas.

For indoor facilities, manage the indoor environment for temperature, air quality and hygienic conditions to promote health and welfare for pigs and newborns. This includes the following.

- **Lighting:** Provide light for a minimum of eight hours per day, and darkness for a minimum of six consecutive hours per day in indoor facilities.
- **Flooring:** Flooring should contribute to pigs' comfort and not cause injury or suffering to pigs when standing or lying.
- **Hygiene:** Scrape, wash, disinfect and dry each pen between batches of pigs, or at minimum yearly, to prevent pathogen load buildup.

For pigs kept outdoors, rotate their pastures as a pig's aggressive foraging can damage vegetation rapidly. Rotating pastures reduces the spread of disease and parasites. Paired with manure management, it also allows for fresh soil supplies for swine.

Shade and protection from sunburn is needed – especially for white (pink) pigs.

Fencing

Perimeter fences must be well constructed and regularly maintained to protect pigs from predators and to prevent escape.

Installing electric wires is ideal for keeping pigs from rooting near enclosure walls. An electric wire positioned 30 centimetres (one foot) from the ground will keep pigs from rooting too close.

Keep pastures and fencing free of loose wire or anything with sharp edges that can cause injury.

Refer to the containment requirements for raising farmed Eurasian wild boar in the Yukon ([Yukon.ca/eurasian-pig-wild-boar-fencing-guidelines-yukon-territory](https://www.yukon.ca/eurasian-pig-wild-boar-fencing-guidelines-yukon-territory)). These guidelines apply to building fences, paddocks, abattoirs or other containment facilities.

Government funding is available for protecting livestock, pasture or crops from wildlife. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://www.yukon.ca/funding-agriculture).

There is also compensation available for damage caused by wildlife. Learn more at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://www.yukon.ca/funding-agriculture).

Contact the Agriculture Branch's Livestock Extension Services Unit for more information on agricultural funding programs. (See "Contact" section.)

Weather conditions

Manage your swine in relation to adverse weather conditions.

- Relocate to sheltered areas.
- Provide additional bedding when appropriate.
- Provide additional feed to increase energy, especially during excessive cold periods.

Outdoors, provide your pigs with access to areas that are either natural (hills, gullies, thickets of trees, shelterbelts) or artificial (windbreaks, three-sided sheds) for protection and relief from extreme weather (wind chill, heavy rain, ice storm, snowstorm, hail) that poses a serious risk to their welfare.

Feed and nutrition

Correct feed management is necessary to ensure pigs' varying nutritional needs are met throughout the production process (e.g., maintenance, growth, reproduction or lactation).

Distribute feed and water in a way that avoids provoking excessive competition between pigs.

To determine a balanced feed ration, take into account:

- age, species, body condition and reproductive status;
- health status and physiological requirements;
- required vitamins, minerals and amino acids;
- competition; and
- weather.

Pigs are omnivores. Milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables are good supplements and treats for pigs but do not provide adequate nutrients. A grain ration is still needed to feed pigs. Avoid feeding pigs meat or table scraps as this increases the chances of pigs developing parasites and diseases such as African swine fever.

Provide gestating sows with continuous access to straw or other high fibre/roughage to satisfy hunger, the need to chew, and to allow for natural foraging behaviour.

Provide sows with higher fibre diets before farrowing and with very high-energy diets during lactation to avoid weight loss while producing milk.

Pigs can get additional iron from rooting in the soil. As noted under the "Facilities" section, pasture rotation and manure management allow for fresh soil supplies and for pigs to access iron in the soil. Note that a sow's milk is low in iron and piglets are born with low iron reserves.

BASIC NEEDS

When born indoors, piglets can be at risk for anemia as they are unable to access iron in the soil. We recommend to orally administer or inject supplemental iron for indoor piglets.

Provide newly weaned pigs with a palatable and digestible diet to ensure a healthy transition to solid food and to minimize diarrhea. Transition over the course of a week from the same feed used at the farm where you sourced your weaner pigs to minimize digestive upset.

Younger pigs and boars benefit from a bulkier diet and forage. A concentrated diet can leave pigs feeling constantly hungry and lead to behavioural problems.

Make provisions for additional feed to meet your pigs' increased energy requirements during extreme weather conditions.

Medicated feed contains antibiotics. If you choose medicated feed, it is important that you know the type of antibiotic, its uses and withdrawal times for slaughter.

Feeding in troughs or tubs increases feed utilization and reduces cost due to lost feed on the ground and spoilage.

Check the quality of your feed. Ask your supplier for a feed analysis. Yukon feed suppliers can get their feed tested through the Agriculture Branch. (See "Contact" section.)

Water

Provide pigs with access to adequate and clean sources of water at all times. Swine require 12 to 30 litres per head per day depending on weather conditions and life stage. Water requirements are less in cold temperatures.

You can use clean, loose snow as a supplemental water source temporarily. Ice is not an adequate source of water. Note that it takes more calories for the pig to convert snow to water and will slow the pig's growth.

Avoid giving snow as a water source if:

- animals are lactating;
- animals are newly weaned;
- an animal's Body Condition Score is BCS 2 or lower; or
- animals are unable to access feed resources.

In these cases, you must provide another source of water for the pigs.

Continuously monitor water troughs and other water sources in warmer weather to prevent heat stress.

BODY CONDITION SCORE

The Body Condition Score (BCS) system is a useful tool to evaluate the health and welfare, assess the nutritional status, and optimize production of your animals. Typically, a five-point BCS scale is used with a score of BCS 1 meaning “too thin” and a score of BCS 5 meaning “too fat.” Generally, a score of BCS 3 is ideal. (Refer to the “Body Condition Score” table and images.)

BCS can depend on breed, age and environment.

You must take corrective actions to improve a pig’s Body Condition Score when it is BCS 2 or lower and when it is BCS 4 or higher.

Factors that can cause a low BCS include:

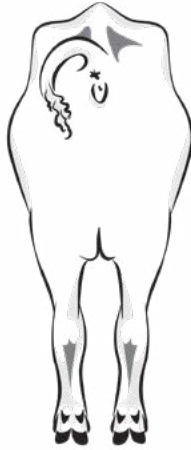
- insufficient nutritional content in feed;
- excessive competition for feed;
- health conditions causing increased nutritional requirements;
- parasitism; or
- old age.

You must consult with a veterinarian or nutritionist when a Body Condition Score is below the minimum of BCS 2 and if corrective actions (isolation, improved feeding rations, etc.) are ineffective at improving a BCS 2 score.

Contact the Agriculture Branch’s livestock health technicians who can connect you with veterinarians and nutritionists specialized in livestock. (See “Contact” section.)

The Veterinary Services Program helps farmers get veterinary care for livestock. Learn more at Yukon.ca/livestock-health. Contact the Animal Health Unit about this program. (See “Contact” section.)

SWINE – BCS 1



WHOLE BODY

emaciated

PELVIC BONES

very prominent deep cavity around tail head

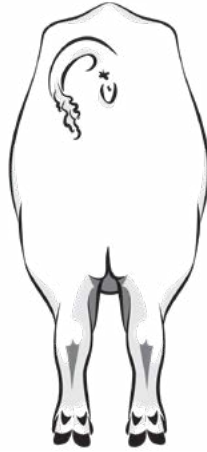
LOIN

vertebrae are prominent and sharp

very narrow loin and hollow flank

RIBS

individual ribs are very prominent

SWINE – BCS 2**WHOLE BODY**

thin

PELVIC BONES

obvious with slight cover

LOIN

narrow loin and hollow flank

slight cover on spine, but prominent vertebrae

RIBS

rib cage less apparent

individual ribs easily detected with slight pressure

SWINE – BCS 3**WHOLE BODY**

ideal

PELVIC BONES

covered but felt with pressure

LOIN

spine covered and rounded

RIBS

ribs are covered but can be felt with pressure

SWINE – BCS 4**WHOLE BODY**

fat

PELVIC BONES

only felt with firm pressure

no cavity around tail

LOIN

difficult to feel vertebrae

flank filled

RIBS

rib cage not visible and difficult to feel

SWINE – BCS 5**WHOLE BODY**

obese

PELVIC BONES

impossible to feel

huge fat deposits (hanging skin and fat)

LOIN

thick fat cover, impossible to feel bones

flank full and rounded

RIBS

thick fat cover, not possible to feel ribs

ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGIES

An effective Herd Health Management Program contributes to animal well-being by focusing on disease prevention, rapid diagnosis and effective treatment. Here are a few strategies for ensuring your animals' welfare and well-being.

Managing boars

Boars can be kept individually, in small groups (if young or no gilts nearby), or with breeding gilts. Ensure that boars housed in groups are compatible.

Provide boars that are housed individually with social enrichment through interactions with breeding gilts several times per week.

Breeding

We recommend that breeding occurs exclusively with a predetermined purpose or market. Avoid accidental or indiscriminate breeding of swine.

For your breeding program, select for sows with good mothering abilities. First litters are not an accurate way of assessing a sow's mothering abilities. Allow an additional litter to determine mothering abilities.

Do not breed gilts before they achieve adequate maturity (body weight, condition, age).

A sow's Body Condition Score will fluctuate throughout the production cycle. It is important to reassess the body condition score at service, mid-gestation, farrowing and weaning.

A sow benefits from being at the proper BCS during the lactation phase. Raising BCS during gestation phase is easier to achieve in preparation for the lactation phase.

Farrowing

When farrowing:

- intervention is not recommended unless absolutely necessary;
- personnel in charge must be trained and able to recognize and deal with distressed sows or piglets; and
- consult with veterinarians prior to farrowing season and have a plan in case of emergency.

Settle sows in clean, comfortable farrowing quarters before piglets are born.

Sows are strongly motivated to build a nest at farrowing. It is important to address a sow's innate behavioural and biological needs to avoid health and welfare issues.

Add materials such as grass or straw to the farrowing pens to allow sows to build a nest. The size will be determined by the size of the sow and the litter.

Piglets are at greatest risk of getting crushed in the first 24 hours after birth.

Sows need space to maneuver to avoid crushing their piglets. The recommended size of a farrowing pen is three by three meters (10 feet by 10 feet).

ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGIES

Sows will use pen walls to lie down. Add bumper boards to at least three-quarters of the pen walls. Bumper boards prevent piglets from getting trapped when the sow slides down the wall. Install 15 to 20 centimetre (6 to 8 inch) wide boards at about 25 to 30 centimetres (10 to 12 inches) high from the floor.

If a sow is unable to leave the farrowing nest, she will frequently retain urine and feces to avoid soiling the nest. This will cause her stress. Ensure there is an available area for the sow to relieve herself.

Provide a “creep” or protected area in the farrowing pen that has sufficient space to allow all piglets to lie together and move around without difficulty. The recommended size of the “creep” or protected area must be at least 0.8 square metres (8.6 square feet). Provide creep area with supplementary heating to ensure piglets are thermally comfortable. Add an easily accessible, separate water source in the creep area for the piglets.

It is most common for sows to develop health issues during the first few days after farrowing. It is important to increase routine checks of the sows during this time.

Piglet care

For nursing piglets, monitor whether they have consumed colostrum from the sow, or provide a commercial colostrum substitute as soon as possible after birth if they have not suckled and within the first 12 hours.

At-risk piglets should be cross-fostered, split suckled, hand-reared or euthanized.

Castration

Intact males can increase the risk of fighting and of boar taint in meat later in life.

Use pain control medication when castrating livestock to reduce pain and stress.

If castrating, the procedure should be done before piglets reach two weeks of age.

When castrating pigs at older ages, anesthetics in addition to pain medication must be used.

Consult a veterinarian to discuss safe and effective castration practices and appropriate pain control medication.

Disease prevention

Importing new pigs is the most common way that disease is introduced into a herd and parasites are introduced into your soil.

- When purchasing new pigs, ask the sellers about their disease and parasite management programs.
- Quarantine new pigs for 30 days in a dedicated location separate from all other livestock currently on your farm.
- Boost the new pigs' immunity by updating their external and internal parasite treatments and vaccinations while they are quarantined.
- Consult with the Agriculture Branch's livestock health technicians or a licensed veterinarian about disease and parasites common in the territory.

ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGIES

When choosing piglets, avoid the ones that:

- look droopy and tired;
- are asleep while littermates are awake and active;
- have a dull, listless look; or
- have eyes that lack curiosity and sparkle as those piglets are unlikely to be healthy.

Keep your herd's vaccination and parasite control status up to date and on a schedule. This will aid in these treatments' effectiveness.

Research and understand the life cycle of the parasites that pose problems in livestock in the Yukon. Controlling internal parasites can prevent health and welfare issues.

Refer to the [Government of Yukon's Swine Health Handbook](http://Yukon.ca/swine-health-handbook) (Yukon.ca/swine-health-handbook) to review common diseases and parasites for swine in the Yukon.

Do a routine check of your herd to identify issues or disease quickly.

Reportable diseases

If an animal is displaying signs of aggression, poor health or welfare, it is your responsibility to investigate those problems or vices to determine the cause.

Reportable diseases in swine include: classical swine fever (CSF), african swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, and vesicular stomatitis. Refer to [Canadian Food Inspections Agency's list of reportable diseases](http://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eng/1303768471142/1303768544412) (inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/eng/1303768471142/1303768544412).

If you suspect that an animal has a reportable disease, you must advise a veterinarian or the Animal Health Unit. (See “Contact” section.) This is required by law.

Caring for sick or injured animals

Provide immediate care, convalescence or treatment for sick or injured animals. Have sick pens on site and use them to isolate sick, injured or compromised pigs. Ensure the area allows for easy access to resting, food and water areas.

An animal should not suffer due to lack of action on herd health, nutrition, handling or facility design. It is your responsibility to consult a professional and implement any necessary actions to ensure an animal’s welfare.

Build an ongoing working relationship with the Agriculture Branch’s livestock health technicians or a veterinarian and determine a strategy for disease/parasite prevention and herd health. (See “Contact” section.)

The Veterinary Services Program helps farmers get veterinary care for livestock. Learn more at Yukon.ca/livestock-health. Contact the Animal Health Unit about this program. (See “Contact” section.)

Euthanasia

Euthanize, without delay, pigs that:

- are unlikely to recover from illness or injury;
- fail to respond to treatments;
- are in chronic, severe or debilitating pain and distress;
- are unable to get to or consume feed or water; or
- show continuous weight loss or emaciation.

Prior to euthanasia, pigs should not be dragged, prodded, forced to move on broken limbs or made to move when in pain or suffering.

Methods and approach

Whenever possible, ensure no other animals are present when euthanasia is being performed.

The person performing euthanasia must be experienced and confident.

Acceptable methods of euthanasia include gunshot or penetrating captive bolt directly to the brain. Death by veterinary assistance is also available.

Non-penetrating captive bolt and anesthetic overdose are the only accepted methods for pigs under nine kilograms.

For confirmation of death, check for insensibility by touching the eyeball and noting if the animal blinks (corneal reflex). Do so only when safe. An insensible animal will not blink.

Be ready to immediately deliver a second application should the first attempt fail.

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

Handling

Even docile swine can be unpredictable. Be vigilant and do not leave children or other vulnerable people unattended with swine.

Personnel and animal handlers of pigs should be familiar with swine behaviour and handling techniques. This includes being able to recognize indicators of aggression, poor health or welfare.

Government funding is available for training, mentorship and internship projects. Learn more at Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture and contact the Agriculture Branch for more information. (See “Contact” section.)

Quiet handling techniques are recommended and preferred to move pigs. Use a push-board tool to gently move pigs of all ages. Rough handling leads to frightened and aggressive pigs.

Handling can cause stress to swine. Watch the herd closely for signs of illness during and after any stressful event.

Pigs move best when handled in a group and following a leader or at least walking side-by-side with other pigs. Crowding with a solid partition is a better way to move pigs than chasing. Use a pig’s flight zone to your advantage when moving.

Never use electric prods as the primary driving device for moving of pigs. Prodding causes a pig’s heart rate to increase, and excessive prodding can kill pigs.

ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES

Electric prods can be used on the back and hind quarters on the lead pig of a group, only when there is a clear path ahead for the leader to run forward.

Electric prods must only be used as a last resort when moving animals, and do not use electric prods on:

- genitals;
- face;
- udder;
- anal areas;
- repeatedly on the same animal; or
- downed, sick or injured animals.

Electric prods should never be used on:

- finishing pen pigs;
- piglets/nursery pigs; and
- distressed, sick or injured pigs.

It is unacceptable to mistreat or cause intentional harm to animals. This includes and is not limited to: beating, slamming gates on animals, allowing herd dogs to continuously bite or push animals who have nowhere to go, dragging or pushing animals with machinery, excessive use of electric prods, etc.

Exemptions apply when a reasonable and measured defense action is required to protect other animals or humans.

Transportation

Do not transport pigs who are in the last 10 per cent of their gestation period or who have given birth within the preceding 48 hours, unless seeking veterinary attention.

Provide feed and water to pigs within five hours prior to loading for transportation if the transport will exceed 24 hours. Maximum transport time for mature swine is 28 hours, with a minimum feed, water and rest time of uninterrupted eight hours before handling or reloading.

Do not transport unfit swine per the federal [Health of Animals Regulations](https://canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-296/latest/crc-c-296.html) (canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-296/latest/crc-c-296.html) that falls under the *Health of Animals Act*. Unfit animals are not to be transported unless being transported to receive care recommended by a veterinarian. If transported, the unfit animal must be loaded, confined, transported and unloaded in accordance with the provisions under the regulations (see section 139) to prevent suffering, injury or death.

Do not mix swine that are incompatible for any duration of transportation.

Provide adequate dry bedding during transport per current weather and transport conditions (add extra bedding if exceedingly cold).

Provide adequate ventilation during transport (extra ventilation if exceedingly warm, or limited ventilation if exceedingly cold).

Slaughter

Slaughter only healthy pigs. Only healthy pigs can be transported to a slaughter facility.

Some exceptions can be made for emergency slaughter of an injured animal if the animal can be killed humanely. Contact a veterinarian if you need advice. You must get a veterinarian to approve the injured animal for slaughter if you plan on selling the meat for retail.

Withdraw feed from the animal from six to 24 hours prior to slaughter. Continue to allow access to water prior to slaughter.

Pigs that have received a veterinary drug cannot be slaughtered to be sold or used for food until the withdrawal time specified on the drug's label has passed.

Selling meat for human consumption

The Yukon's *Meat Inspection and Abattoir Regulations* apply to the slaughter of animals and sale of meat in the Yukon. According to the regulations, no person shall slaughter animals, sell or offer meat for sale to any person unless the animal has been slaughtered and inspected in accordance with regulations.

To sell meat or advertise meat for sale, you must meet all the requirements in the regulations, including:

- slaughtering the animal in a licensed abattoir;
- having the meat inspected and approved fit for consumption by a government meat inspector; and
- transporting and storing meat from an abattoir in an approved containment that is both temperature-controlled and equipped for the care of meat.

If one of these requirements occurs in a non-inspected setting, the meat product loses its inspected status and can no longer be sold.

For the sale of uninspected (also known as “farm gate”) meat, an animal must be sold whole and alive directly from the producer to the purchaser prior to slaughter. The purchaser must be able to provide proof of a purchase agreement date before the slaughter date. The purchaser agrees that the meat will not be used or sold commercially and will only be consumed by themselves, their immediate family and non-paying guests. Each meat package should be stamped with “uninspected” or “not for sale.”

MANAGING FARM OPERATIONS

Identification

It is the producer's responsibility to comply with PigTRACE. Breeding sows and boars require the 15-digit PigTRACE Individual Identification ear tag when moving pigs from farm to farm. Pigs going to slaughter must have either a five-digit herd mark number via commercial tattoo, spray paint or stencil or the five or 15-digit ear tag.

Yukon farmers are encouraged to enrol in the Premises Identification and Traceability Program. The program is a bridge between local farms and the National Livestock and Poultry Traceability System. Get more information on how to enrol at Yukon.ca/premises-identification. Enrolment is free.

You are also required to have the premises identification number to register for the Government of Yukon's Veterinary Services Program. (See "Government support" section.)

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is critical to minimizing the spread of diseases among swine and within the swine industry.

A biosecurity plan puts measures and procedures in place to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading disease agents (pathogens).

- External biosecurity means keeping disease agents from getting onto the farm and keeping them from getting out into other farms.
- Internal biosecurity means containing the spread of disease within the farm or system and is managed by individual farms.

Biocontainment means preventing the spread of pathogens to other populations of swine.

Biosecurity is critical to minimizing the spread of multiple diseases in the swine industry. The list of diseases is long and can be very devastating for the barns and the industry. Some example of diseases are: porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS), porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED), African swine fever (ASF) or foot and mouth disease.

MANAGING FARM OPERATIONS

Integrate the following actions into your daily farm practices and routines.

- Segregate diseased or infected pigs to limit the risk of pathogens entering uninfected areas or groups of pigs.
- Sanitize areas (especially segregation pens) to reduce or inactivate pathogens. Clean and wash to remove visible organic materials. Then disinfect and dry the area, especially in livestock trailers.
- Apply flow management practices and guidelines to reduce cross-contamination by people, material (equipment) and other pigs. A good practice is to divide your farm into zones to control and organize movements (of people, livestock and equipment). Designate areas for parking spots, signage, boots and equipment, cleaning/changing areas, and fencing. These are good tools to limit contacts between designated zones.
- Keep records. Record keeping helps with origin tracking if there is an outbreak within your herd. It also helps you mitigate an outbreak and reduce the spread to other producers. It can also be used to train new staff. (See “Record keeping” section.)

We recommend that you stay up to date on the [National Swine Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard from the Canadian Pork Council](https://www.cpc-ccp.com) (cpc-ccp.com).

Record keeping

Keeping good records helps producers with their genetic performance, biosecurity and profitability.

Animal ID records: Tracks an animal's place of origin, date of birth, health, vaccination records and treatment records. This is valuable in determining withdrawal periods for slaughter.

Biosecurity records: Tracks farm visitors, pest management and cleaning protocols.

Breeding records for individual sows: Tracks the number of litters and how many piglets per litter a sow has had and due dates for farrowing.

Cost records: Helps producers plan for the future by evaluating the expenses versus revenues associated with swine production (e.g., feed cost, vaccination cost, maintenance, income from selling/butchering).

Health records: Tracks treatments, types of medications and vaccinations per animal and withdrawal times.

Inventory records: Tracks and determines the number of swine that have been bought, sold, born and died over a one-year period.

Traceability records: Tracks transportation of livestock and deadstock.

Emergency planning

It is important to prepare an emergency plan for unexpected events such as fires or wildfires, flooding, limited feed supply, utility failure or extreme weather. This can also include serious illness or death of main caretaker, transportation accidents, or evacuating and relocating livestock.

Refer to these emergency preparedness documents specific for farms and livestock.

- [Government of Canada's Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals](https://getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/frm-nmls/index-en.aspx) (getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/frm-nmls/index-en.aspx).
- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Emergency planning is for producers too](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/canadas-agriculture-sectors/animal-industry/agriculture-emergency-management/emergency-planning-producers-too) (agriculture.canada.ca/en/canadas-agriculture-sectors/animal-industry/agriculture-emergency-management/emergency-planning-producers-too).

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Agricultural funding programs

The Government of Yukon's Agriculture Branch, in partnership with the Government of Canada, provides funding to the Yukon's agriculture sector to:

- increase competitiveness, productivity or profitability;
- increase environmental sustainability;
- expand domestic and international markets; and
- improve anticipating, mitigating and responding to risks.

Learn more about the programs at [Yukon.ca/funding-agriculture](https://yukon.ca/funding-agriculture) or contact the Agriculture Branch. (See "Contact" section.)

Veterinary Services Program

The Government of Yukon's Animal Health Unit coordinates the Veterinary Services Program.

- It's free for farmers to enrol.
- Producers must have a premise ID to enrol.
- It helps with consultations, animal care, management plans, biosecurity assessments, drugs, vaccines and treatments, laboratory analysis.
- It offers funding for private veterinarian costs.

Learn more at [Yukon.ca/livestock-health](https://yukon.ca/livestock-health) to access the Veterinary Services Program for farmers or contact the Animal Health Unit. (See "Contact" section.)

RESOURCES

Standards

National Farm Animal Care Council's Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals
(nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice)

Yukon Swine Health Handbook
(Yukon.ca/swine-health-handbook)

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada's Guidance for Organic Pig Production: Animal Welfare on Organic Farms (cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en/livestock/Welfare/awtf_guidance_pigs08.pdf)

Swine organizations

Canadian Pork Council (cpc-ccp.com)

Canadian Swine Breeders Association
(72.143.32.2/canswine)

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada – Animal Welfare Task Force (dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/oacc/en-home/resources/livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-task-force.html)

Better Farming's Better Pork Magazine
(betterfarming.com/search-betterpork-magazine-archive)

CONTACTS

Agriculture Branch, Livestock Extension Services Unit

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon

Phone: 867-667-5838 or toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
(ask to be transferred)

Fax: 867-393-6222

Email: agriculture-livestock@yukon.ca

Website: Yukon.ca/support-agriculture

Location: 300 Main Street, Suite 320, Elijah Smith Building in Whitehorse

Mail: PO Box 2703 (K-320A) Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Animal Health Unit

Department of Environment
Government of Yukon

Phone: 867-667-5600 or toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
(ask to be transferred)

Fax: 867-393-6263

Email: animalhealth@yukon.ca

Website: Yukon.ca/support-agriculture

Location: 10 Burns Road in Whitehorse

Mail: PO Box 2703 (V7) Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

DISCLAIMERS

French version

This document is available in French. A digital version is available online at [Yukon.ca/livestock-health](https://www.yukon.ca/livestock-health).

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