



Protect New Zealand, don't feed pigs untreated meat waste

Under the **Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005**, it is illegal to feed untreated meat, or food that has been in contact with untreated meat, to any pig in New Zealand.

Feeding untreated meat waste (often known as “swill”) to pigs, could introduce serious animal diseases, costing billions of dollars to New Zealand's economy.

Our layered biosecurity system works to prevent the introduction of diseases, and we have strict rules that control the importation of meat. Untreated meat waste presents a risk for spreading potentially serious exotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and African swine fever (ASF). Feeding this to pigs can spread these diseases. Untreated meat waste being fed to pigs is believed to be the cause of the 2001 FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom.

Feeding your pigs

Commercial and household food waste that contains meat or has come into contact with meat, must be treated by heating it to 100°C for one hour before it can be fed to pigs.

Heating food waste or “pig swill” will destroy any disease-causing bacteria and viruses present in raw and cooked meat.

Food waste can be treated by:



Boiling it for an hour.



Stirring frequently.



Keeping it at boiling point the whole hour.

Food waste from commercial sources

If you collect food waste from a commercial source (such as a cafe, supermarket or a food business) the supplier may ask for written confirmation that you will use any food waste they supply you according to the regulations. This protects both of you and ensures both parties are aware of their obligations. You can ask your supplier for a declaration about the food waste and details on how it follows the regulations.

The supplier may pass on your contact details to Biosecurity New Zealand. Recording all parties involved in the food waste supply chain allows Biosecurity New Zealand to keep everyone up to date and helps protect New Zealand.

What is “meat”?

Any material taken or derived from an animal is defined as meat by the regulations.

This excludes eggs and egg products, milk and milk products, and rendered material (such as tallow, blood meal, meat and bone meal) – these don't need to be heat treated before being fed to pigs.

Not 100% sure? Heat it

If you're not certain what is in the food waste or if it's been heat treated, don't risk it. Dispose of it or heat it according to the regulations.

Individuals that fail to comply can be fined up to \$5,000, and corporations can be fined up to \$15,000.

It is against the law to allow untreated meat waste to be fed to pigs.

For more information go to
biosecurity.govt.nz/foodwaste

Or email
foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz