



Ontario Pig Health Check-up

CONSULTATION BOOKLET



This booklet provides a template for veterinarians to work through when conducting an Ontario Pig Health Check-up. The completed booklet can be left with the pig owner and/or the consulting veterinarian may keep a copy in their files for future reference.

It is understood not all topics may be applicable to the pig owner and also that one consultation may not be sufficient to cover all the topics listed. Participants should **strive to cover at least 70% of the relevant topics. Sections 1 through 4 are mandatory** with the exception being Reproduction Management if not applicable to the pig herd.

Name of Pig Owner: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Date of consultation: _____

Number of pigs owned: Breeding sows: _____ Breeding boars: _____ Piglets/weanlings: _____

Market hogs: _____ Pet pigs: _____

Name of Consulting Veterinarian: _____

The Canadian Small Scale Pig Farming Manual is a good companion resource for the topics listed below.



1. SWINE HEALTH, WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR - MANDATORY

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment protocols and withdrawal times• Husbandry procedures and pain mitigation – castration, tail docking and tail biting, teeth and tusks• Proactive herd health – vaccines, parasite control, pest control• Injection procedures• Medical equipment/ first aid supplies• Discuss signs, prevention and significance of reportable animal diseases such as PRRS, PED, ASF	

2. BIOSECURITY AND DISEASE PREVENTION - MANDATORY

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visitors and workflow• Cleaning and disinfection• Introduction of new animals• Hospital pens	

3. REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT – MANDATORY IF APPLICABLE

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body condition scoring for breeding stock• Boar care and breeding• Gestation and complications• Farrowing and lactation	

4. FEED, PASTURE MANAGEMENT, AND WATER - MANDATORY

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition based on growth/life stage• Feed quantity and quality• Feed safety – Concerns around feeding food waste• Feeders• Nutrition on pasture• Water quantity and quality	

5. HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing systems – gilts, sows, piglets, grower/finisher, boars• Space allowances• Temperature, ventilation, and air quality• Lighting• Flooring and bedding• Feeding and watering areas• Enrichment• Outdoor housing – fencing, shade, and wallows	

6. HANDLING

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pig handling concepts• Behaviour and signs of stress• Handling and restraint systems	

7. TRANSPORTATION

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fitness for transport• Handling during loading or unloading• Loading/unloading facilities• Identification methods	

NOTE: All pigs require an identifying, approved herd mark (tattoo, ear tag, stencil) when leaving the farm to go to an abattoir, fair, or show. PigTRACE is mandated by federal law. Tags can be ordered online at www.cpc-ccp.com/purchasing-tags or through Ontario Pork <https://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Producers/PigTrace>. Order tags in advance, provincial abattoirs will not slaughter pigs that do not have the proper identification.

8. MARKETING AND SLAUGHTER

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market weight• Withdrawal times• Biosecurity at abattoir	

9. EUTHANASIA AND DEADSTOCK

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision-making around euthanasia• Methods• Deadstock disposal	

10. OTHER

TOPICS TO DISCUSS	OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROPOSED ACTIONS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other topics not covered above	



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