

FOOD WASTE

Can I feed it to my pigs?

Food waste is a growing problem in Australia with millions of tonnes of food discarded in landfill annually. Increased community interest in local food recycling includes the suggestion that more waste could be used to feed animals. What could go wrong?

Food that must not be fed to pigs

Swill (also known as prohibited pig feed) is any material that contains, or has been in contact with meat (from a mammal).

Swill includes table scraps, meat pies, bacon and cheese rolls, salad with bacon pieces, or untreated used cooking oils or fats.

It is illegal to feed swill to pigs in all states and territories of Australia.

Swill must not be fed to any pig – this includes pet pigs and pigs kept in backyards or hobby farms.

What are the risks of feeding swill?

The feeding of swill to pigs could introduce and spread serious diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, African swine fever or classical swine fever. This may lead to the death of many thousands of animals, and severe impacts on Australia's livestock industries.

What can I feed my pig?

Feeding your pig commercially-prepared pig rations is the easiest way to ensure they receive all they need to grow and flourish.

Commercial diets may contain meat meal that has been rendered according to Australian standards – this is safe and legal.

Grass or pasture does not provide enough nutrition on its own to sustain a pig, especially one that is growing, lactating or pregnant.



Fruit or vegetable waste that is not contaminated with even a small amount of meat (i.e. not scraps that have been on a plate with meat) may be fed. Fruit and vegetables are generally not an adequate diet for a pig on their own.

Milk and milk by-products of Australian origin may be fed to pigs.

For more information visit our website at: www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity

If you think you have an Emergency Animal Disease - call immediately (all hours and leave a message):

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE

☎ 1800 675 888