



**Your complete
feeding and
care guide
for Pigs**



keeping guide

Before making a decision on the type of breed you choose, you would be wise to get some knowledge of the different sectors of pig keeping.

Pig buying checklist

- ▶ Use the internet, agricultural newspapers, smallholder magazines for reputable pig contacts
- ▶ Buy in early or late spring
- ▶ Where possible buy from a breeder
- ▶ Avoid buying “over the telephone”
- ▶ Always view litters before many piglets have been sold
- ▶ Assess the current environment of the pig/piglets
- ▶ Check for good health and temperament
- ▶ Check the pig's earmarks, documentation and registration
- ▶ Go with your initial impression when selecting your pigs

Housing

Pigs need to be in well ventilated, draught free housing. As most of the heat is lost through the roof, housing should be well insulated.

Pigs like to nest, so straw on the floor will make for a warm and comfortable sleeping area and it will also avoid damage to their hocks (ankle joints).

Good exercise area with drainage that runs away from the house. There are many different ways of housing your pigs: arks, stys, sheds or stables all make for adequate housing.

Sweep out the house approx every 4 weeks and replenish with fresh straw.

Care

Pigs need comfort and shelter, access to fresh water and a healthy diet to maintain their health.

Pigs will often turn their water over in favour of a roll in the water. A dug out “wallow” is an ideal way of keeping pigs cool in the summer but if this is not possible the pigs must have access to a well shaded area and plenty of drinking water especially in hot weather.

Approach pigs with caution as they scare easily. A stressed pig can die of a heart attack.

Feeding

Young weaners and growing pigs should be offered unlimited (ad-lib) feed wherever possible. Special feed troughs are designed to do this. Older animals not being fed ad-lib should be fed twice a day at regular intervals am and pm.

Health

A healthy pig can be identified by its curly tail, clean skin, bright eyes and silky coat exempt from red and roughness.



Additional information

Owners of pet pigs must notify the Animal Health Authority (AHO) or the Trading Standards Office.

It is illegal to feed any catering waste or meat to pigs since the outbreak of Foot & Mouth in 2001.

Once you have brought your pigs home, they will be under a 20 day standstill rule. This is to protect the outbreak of disease, acting as an incubation period.

Meat categories

Suckling pig	Usually a very young pig still on the sow
Weaner	A newly weaned pig, usually between 8-10 weeks old and weighing around 20kg
Porker	A pig around 4-5 months old, weighing around 60kg
Cutter	Kept longer than a porker, anything up to 6 months, weighing around 75kg
Baconer	Grown specifically for bacon, between 7-8 months old, weighing around 90kg
Sausage pigs	Specifically for sausages, older sows or pigs that are no longer required



About the Farmgate range

The Farmgate range has been specifically designed to meet the demands of the smallholder market, but with the security of coming from the largest animal feeds manufacturer in Europe.

We pride ourselves on delivering:

- ▶ **Nutritional excellence**
- ▶ **Well-balanced ingredients**
- ▶ **Quality assured**
- ▶ **Exceptional customer service**

Our philosophy on quality assurance and requirement to conform to exceptional standards is underpinned by our nutritional and bio-security responsibilities.

Our quality policy involves all employees engaged in the production of Farmgate Feed.

All our Farmgate products are formulated using only the highest quality raw materials, with feed safety a main priority.

We ensure:

- ▶ **Integrated bio-security processes**
- ▶ **Rigorously tested raw materials**
- ▶ **Nutritional and physical quality testing of finished products**
- ▶ **Full traceability**
- ▶ **Extensive auditing procedures**

The Farmgate Feeds range comes in different physical forms for both indoor and outdoor environments and various feeding regimes for poultry, pig, cattle, sheep and goats.





The Farmgate Pig range:

Sow and Weaner Nuts & Rolls

Pig Rearer

Traditional Grader

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