

What do pigs eat?

It is important that pigs are fed the right food so that they can grow strong and healthy and reproduce.

What is in pig feed?

Pigs need to eat a balanced diet just like us. This includes carbohydrates, fat, protein (amino acids), minerals and vitamins.

Pig feed usually includes ingredients such as wheat, barley, oats, rye and beans. The feed is given to pigs as pellets or meal – meal is finer than pellets.



By-products from human food production, e.g. dairies, distilleries and bakeries, can be used in some pig feed.

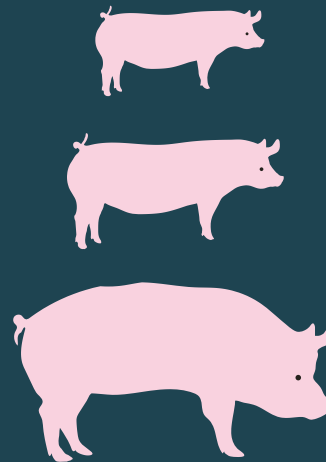
It is essential that no meat or processed food from catering or household kitchens is included in pig feed as this can be harmful to pigs and can also spread diseases like African swine fever.



Diets for pigs of different ages

Just like humans, pigs need different types and amounts of food depending on their age.

Sows: cereal-based feed designed to maintain body condition and support healthy litters of piglets through good milk production.



Piglets: mainly milk from their mums and a milk-based feed as they get older – it is important that piglets' guts are ready for their next diet when they are weaned.

Weaners: cereal-based feed, some of which may be cooked, supplemented with milk powder to continue helping the piglets' guts to develop and to support their growth.

Finishers: cereal-based feed that is designed to support efficient growth and development.

Did you know?

- Some feed systems are controlled by computers so that each sow is fed the right amount of food
- The cost of feed accounts for at least 70% of a pig farm's total production costs

