Title | Describe disease management and the effect of disease on pig herd productivity, and plan a pork unit health programme
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Level | 5
Credits | 10

### Purpose

This unit standard is for people who wish to specialise in pork production.

People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the factors that affect pig herd health, methods to prevent disease or improve herd health status, and medications and vaccinations; describe the procedures to be followed for disease outbreaks in a pig herd; describe the effects of disease outbreaks in a pig herd on productivity and pig performance; describe the methods for managing endemic, exotic, and new and emerging diseases in the pork production unit; and plan a health programme for the pork production unit.

### Classification

Pork Production > Pig Health and Nutrition

### Available grade

Achieved

### Guidance Information


2. Definitions
   - **Biosecurity on-farm** – methods taken for maintaining biosecurity from sources within the farm.
   - **On-farm procedures** – the verbal or written instructions to staff on procedures for disease outbreak.
   - **Pork production unit** – collective term for several pork production sections. For example, a farrowing section, a grower section, and a dry sow section together make up a pork production unit.
   - **Veterinary guidelines** – advice received directly from veterinarians, or literature recommended by veterinarians or providers accredited to assess against this unit standard.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the factors that affect pig herd health, methods to prevent disease or improve herd health status, and medications and vaccinations.

Performance criteria

1.1 Optimum pig herd health is described in terms of the effect of contributing factors.

Range contributing factors – nutrition, housing, biosecurity, facility hygiene, vaccination, planned medication, presence of rodents and other disease vectors, colostrum at birth, herd immunity level.

1.2 The presence of disease in pig herds is explained in terms of the effect of contributing factors.

Range level of resistance, infectious agents, level of nutrition.

1.3 Husbandry management practices, and their timing, are described in terms of how they prevent disease or improve health of a pig herd.

Range husbandry management practices – availability of colostrum for piglets, biosecurity on-farm, strategic medication, vaccination, parasite control or elimination, facility upgrade, environmental condition improvement, quarantine and acclimatisation of new stock, treating sick pigs, cleaning and disinfection, equipment sterilisation, spelling, age segregation, all-in all-out systems, multi-site production, disease elimination, depopulating, repopulating, medication at early weaning, removal and disposal of fallen stock.

1.4 Medications and vaccinations are described in terms of their classes, uses, storage, safety, handling, residues, and implications of withholding times.

Range evidence is required for at least three medications and three vaccinations.

Outcome 2

Describe the procedures to be followed for disease outbreaks in a pig herd.

Performance criteria

2.1 Disease outbreaks in a pig herd are described in terms of the observable signs, timing and procedures for detection, and in-house recording requirements.

Range signs of diseases – scouring, coughing, rubbing, lameness, discharges; detection – abattoir monitoring, blood tests.
2.2 Procedures to be followed during outbreaks of disease in a pig herd are described in accordance with on-farm procedures and the pork production unit’s biosecurity plan.

Outcome 3

Describe the effects of disease outbreaks in a pig herd on productivity and pig performance.

Performance criteria

3.1 Disease outbreaks in a pig herd are described in terms of the costs to the producer and implications for productivity.

Range evidence is required for at least one digestive disease, and at least one other disease.

3.2 Sub-clinical disease is described in terms of the effects on pig performance in accordance with veterinary guidelines.

Range sub-clinical disease – respiratory, scour, reproductive.

Outcome 4

Describe the methods for managing endemic, exotic, and new and emerging diseases in a pork production unit.

Performance criteria

4.1 Endemic diseases are described in terms of the methods of identification and management in the pork production unit in accordance with the pork production unit’s health and biosecurity plan.

Range evidence is required for at least two diseases affecting each of – respiratory system, digestive system, reproductive systems.

4.2 New and emerging diseases are described in terms of the methods of identification and methods of management in the pork production unit in accordance with the pork production unit’s health and biosecurity plan.

Range includes but is not limited to – Post Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS), Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS).

4.3 Exotic diseases are described in terms of the methods of identification, national response, biosecurity implications, producer responsibilities, and response and management in the pork production unit in accordance with the pork production unit’s health and biosecurity plan.

Range includes but is not limited to – foot and mouth disease, swine vesicular disease.
Outcome 5

Plan a health programme for a pork production unit.

Range  preventative health; endemic, new, and exotic disease management.

Performance criteria

5.1  The health programme is planned in accordance with on-farm procedures and the welfare code.

5.2  The health programme specifies emergency management procedures in the presence of notifiable diseases in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

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Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference 0052