

Possible Risks Resulting In Welfare Issues

Pigs (Intensive and Extensive)

The following is a list of possible common risks that pig producers may face;

- Fire (rodents chewing wiring, faulty gas lines, bush fire)
- Electrocutation (rodents chewing wiring)
- Changing shed air quality (e.g. Loss of power, toxic gas and heat build-up)
- Disease outbreak (slaughter and standstill issues, including overcrowding)
- Sudden loss of management or operational staff and stock supervision
- Accidents in transport – truck roll-overs.
- Sudden loss of access to water (Loss of power or water supply or changing water quality)
- Sudden loss of access to feed (e.g. loss of credit, loss of power, mechanical breakdown)
- Overcrowding (intensive), overstocking (extensive)
- Toxicity (e.g. from feed or water, poor animal health products treatment technique, plant toxicity etc.)
- Maltreatment from poor husbandry and handling
- Lack of, or breakdown of automated monitoring and alarm
- Emergency disease outbreak and response
- Parasites and predation (extensive systems)
- Lack of preparedness for appropriate animal euthanasia
- Malicious animal harm, infrastructure damage and stock release
- Issues following routine procedures (e.g. infection following tail docking & castration)
- Movement or transport of poor or sick animals

Risks with slower onset

- Inability to implement management changes due to age, isolation, family crisis, illness, financial difficulty etc.
- Lack of supervision/observation/husbandry (e.g. manager sick, pigs lose condition, stress, disease developing etc.)
- Sudden drop in market price and overcrowding
- Lack of staff training and poor animal handling and husbandry outcomes
- Nutritional disorders and deficiencies
- Endemic diseases
- Lack of accurate records and trend identification
- Lack of ability to forecast or predict extreme events (e.g. fire or flood danger)
- Introducing disease or carrier animals (e.g. lack of; vendor declarations on feed and pigs; biosecurity)
- High staff turnover and poor access to training
- Pig owners have a small herd or own pigs as pets and do not fully understand the management skills required

Seek assistance if necessary to define risks, through;

- Local council
- Industry Organisations
- State Government, Departments of Primary industries (DPI, DAF)