

## List of questions Initiative Tierwohl pig production

**Note:** The List of questions Initiative Tierwohl Pig production are written in German and translated into English. In case of discrepancies between the translation and the German version, the German original is valid.

Frequently asked questions and the corresponding answers regarding participation in the Initiative Tierwohl for pig owners are compiled below.

### *What do I have to consider when participating as a piglet rearer?*

Piglet rearers are divided into two groups:

1. Original piglet rearers: Piglet rearers who already participated in the Initiative Tierwohl before November 1, 2022.
2. Identity piglet rearers: Piglet rearers who have participated in the Initiative Tierwohl since November 1, 2022 and are registering to participate again or piglet rearers who are registering to participate for the first time.

For these, the requirements for marketing to ITW fatteners differ.

### *What criteria do I have to comply with?*

The requirements for livestock owners are described in the respective catalog of criteria and associated explanatory notes (see [download area](#)). There is a separate catalog of criteria and explanatory notes for each production scope.

For piglet rearers, there are also requirements for the identity marketing of ITW animals - depending on whether the piglet rearers are original piglet rearers or identity piglet rearers.

Important to know: The higher space allowance is only reviewed in pig production and sow production. As piglet rearers and sow owners are seen as a unit, the reduction in the number of animals in sow production also reduces the number of rearing piglets in the subsequent company. Piglet rearers, on the other hand, are obliged to purchase piglets exclusively from ITW-eligible sow owners.

### *When will the revised criteria apply and when will they be checked?*

Several criteria have been added for pig production. These include crate structuring elements and a higher space allowance of 12.5% more space. The criteria for piglet rearers remain unchanged. In sow production, the criterion "piglet castration" has been added. The new criteria catalogs can be viewed in [the download area](#) of our website.

**Please note: The new catalog of criteria will apply from January 1, 2025. The new criteria for pig production apply to all livestock that were housed from January 1, 2025.** The criteria do not yet have to be implemented for all livestock housed before January 1, 2025. **All criteria must** be implemented **throughout the company and for all livestock** by **April 1, 2025** at the latest. The criteria will be inspected in the next regular audit from January 1, 2025, considering whether or not the criteria must already be implemented throughout the company before April 1, 2025.

The new criterion "piglet castration" in sow production must be complied with from January 1, 2025 and will be inspected in the follow-up audit.

### ***What does the ITW have to do with the animal husbandry label of the German government and in which level are ITW pig fattening companies classified?***

From 2025, the ITW criteria will be adapted to the requirements of the "Stall plus Platz" category of the German government's animal husbandry label. As a result, ITW pig fatteners can be classified in the "Stall plus Platz" category of the animal husbandry label of the German government with proof of a passed ITW audit. Further information on the animal husbandry label of the German government can be found on the BMEL [website](#). Unfortunately, we **cannot** take over the registration for the animal husbandry label of the German government for you. Every owner of a livestock farming company that keeps fattening pigs aged ten weeks to slaughter must register their form of husbandry with the competent authority. The competent authority will assign an indefinite identification number with the specified form of husbandry. Your coordinator can then enter this number in the ITW database.

### ***When can foreign companies also participate in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

For the expansion of identity and as a requirement of the Federal Cartel Office, foreign pig farming companies will also be able to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl from 2025. These must meet the same requirements as German companies and are audited by ITW-approved certification bodies.

### ***How can I register to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

Registration for the Initiative Tierwohl must always be made via a coordinator. This requires the declaration of participation including annexes, which can be found in [the download area](#) of our website. The coordinator will then register the livestock owner in the database. The basic prerequisite for participation is successful participation in the QS scheme or a comparable recognized quality assurance system.

### ***Is there a list of coordinators participating in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

Yes, all coordinators who have registered for the Initiative Tierwohl are published on a list in the [download area](#). A coordinator can then be selected from the list. The companies are free to choose whether they want to work with the same coordinator as for QS scheme participation or whether they choose a different coordinator.

### ***Must companies that are already participating register again?***

No, in 2024 an unlimited term was introduced for participating companies. It is no longer necessary to re-register. It is also not necessary to sign a new agreement; the previous agreement will continue to run automatically. The termination of agreement by the livestock owner is possible at any time with a notice period of three months.

However, livestock owners are obliged to keep themselves informed of any changes to the scheme's requirements. A comprehensive revision of the criteria is planned for January 2025. You can view the criteria that must be complied with from 2025 in [the download area](#) of our website.

### ***When can I register to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

Pig fattening companies and sow owners can register at any time.

In order to receive animal welfare payments, sow owners must participate with a piglet rearing company. The joint animal welfare payment for piglet rearing and sow production is paid by the operating company to the piglet rearing company. The piglet rearer must pass on part of the animal welfare payment to the sow owner as a price surcharge (recommendation: at least €1.80 per reared piglet).

Piglet rearers can only be registered during official registration phases, as a budget check is required for registration. A further registration phase is planned for the end of 2024. The budget will be reserved until December 31,

2026. Piglet rearers who register for the first time participate in the ITW as "identity piglet rearers" and therefore only receive animal welfare payments for piglets that are delivered to ITW fatteners. If budget is available for further registration phases, the operating company will communicate this at an early stage.

#### ***When must the criteria be complied with for new registrations?***

When registering for the Initiative Tierwohl, each livestock owner specifies the date from which they will comply with the criteria. This date is the implementation date.

*Note: the criteria do not have to be met yet for registration.*

#### ***Which implementation date can I choose?***

The implementation date can be chosen individually.

For fattening pig and sow owners who are new to the Initiative Tierwohl, the implementation date can be freely chosen. For piglet rearing companies, a period is specified for each registration phase in which the implementation date can be freely selected.

#### ***How many audits are carried out?***

An initial programme audit takes place at the start of participation. After release of the programme audit, the company is approved for the Initiative Tierwohl. The companies are then audited twice per calendar year: one programme audit and one stock check. If a livestock owner does not start participating until July 1 of a calendar year, there will be no stock check in that calendar year, only the programme audit. The twice-yearly audit cycle for the location then begins in the next calendar year.

#### ***Are the audits unannounced?***

Yes, all audits are unannounced (contact is made a maximum of 24 hours in advance). This also applies to the first audit at the beginning of participation, whereby the livestock owner himself indicates when he will comply with the criteria (implementation date) and is therefore ready for the audit. Stock checks are carried out completely unannounced.

#### ***What will happen with the piglet fund? What about the budget of the piglet rearers already participating?***

The ITW bodies have agreed to continue the Piglet Fund until December 31, 2026. Accordingly, the budget will be reserved until this date. The budget of piglet rearers already participating will be automatically extended. A new registration is not necessary.

Piglet production is to be integrated into identity from January 1, 2027. Accordingly, the financing via the piglet fund will end on this date. Piglet production will then also be financed via the market and the price surcharge will be passed on from the abattoir to the piglet rearer via pig production. In the course of 2026, the bodies of the ITW will issue a price recommendation for piglet production.

#### ***How are the animal welfare payment or the animal welfare price surcharge paid out?***

Pig fatteners receive a price surcharge on the market price from the participating abattoir. Fatteners should therefore actively contact their marketers, abattoirs or livestock dealers at an early stage to coordinate the supply of ITW animals. Pig fatteners and abattoirs make bilateral agreements on the supply of ITW fattening pigs, the amount of the price surcharge and delivery conditions. There is no claim for payment against the operating company, nor is the operating company liable for the payment of the price surcharge by the abattoirs and its actual amount.

For the expansion of identity and the inclusion of piglet production in market financing from 2027, a bonus system will also be introduced for pig production - analogous to piglet rearers. The industry stakeholders have agreed on the following price recommendations:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Recommended retail price</b>
<b>January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €5.28 per delivered fattening pig</li> </ul>
<b>April 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €7.50 per fattening pig for pig fatteners who exclusively purchase ITW piglets</li> <li>▪ €6.50 per fattening pig for pig fatteners who (also) purchase non-ITW piglets</li> </ul>
<b>January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €7.50 per fattening pig for pig fatteners who exclusively purchase ITW piglets</li> <li>▪ €6.00 per fattening pig for pig fatteners who (also) purchase non-ITW piglets</li> </ul>

The abattoir must pay an additional €1 in 2025 and €1.5 in 2026 into the piglet fund for each ITW fattening pig that was only kept under ITW conditions in the fattening phase. On the one hand, this fills the piglet fund and, on the other, prevents the supposedly "cheaper" ITW fattening pigs from being in greater demand.

ITW piglet rearers receive an animal welfare payment for implementing the ITW requirements in piglet production from a conversion fund managed by the operating company. The payment guarantee is valid until December 31, 2026.

Piglet rearers are divided into two groups: Identity piglet rearers and identity piglet rearers (see above for definition). The requirements for marketing to ITW fatteners differ for these groups. For piglet rearers, the bonus scheme launched in July 2024 will be further differentiated from 2025 in order to further promote the expansion of identity. The industry stakeholders have agreed on the following remuneration rates:

<b>Period</b>	<b>identity piglet rearers</b>	<b>original piglet rearers</b>
<b>July 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €4.00 per piglet marketed to ITW fatteners</li> <li>▪ No animal welfare payment for piglets delivered to non-ITW fatteners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €4.00 per piglet marketed to ITW fatteners</li> <li>▪ €3.00 per piglet marketed to non-ITW fatteners</li> </ul>
<b>January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €4.50 per piglet marketed to ITW fatteners</li> <li>▪ No animal welfare payment for piglets delivered to non-ITW fatteners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ €4.50 per piglet marketed to ITW fatteners</li> <li>▪ €2.50 per piglet marketed to non-ITW fatteners</li> </ul>

Sow owners receive a price surcharge on the market price from their ITW piglet rearer (recommendation €1.80 per weaned piglet). For this purpose, they come to an agreement with their ITW piglet rearer. There is no claim for payment against the operating company, nor is the operating company liable for the payment of the price surcharge by the piglet rearer.

### ***When does the bonus scheme for pig fatteners apply?***

The higher recommended price per ITW fattening pig of €7.50 or €6.50 will apply from April 2025, meaning that the bonus scheme will also be implemented from April 2025.

The recommended price of € 5.28 per ITW fattening pig applies until 31.03.2025.

### ***Why do sow owners not receive their own invoice from the operating company?***

Sow owners do not receive an animal welfare payment via the operating company, but a price surcharge via their ITW piglet rearer. As there is no cash flow between the operating company and the sow owner, the livestock farmers do not receive an invoice. However, the weaned piglets are still reported to the coordinator.

### ***How long can I participate in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

Participation in the Initiative Tierwohl is unlimited in time. After registration for the programme, participation is automatically extended by one calendar year (until 31 December of the following year), provided the livestock owner does not terminate participation and all audits are successfully passed. Ordinary termination of agreement is possible at any time with a notice period of three months.

### ***What happens if the budget is not sufficient for all the companies registered?***

If more companies register to participate during a registration phase than there are funds available, a random decision must be made regarding approval. There is no waiting list for companies that have received no approval. These companies can register again in the event of a new registration phase. In principle, only companies that receive animal welfare payments via the operating company are affected by a possible selection procedure.

### ***What needs to be considered when participation in the Initiative Tierwohl is terminated?***

To terminate the participation in the Initiative Tierwohl, a final programme audit must be carried out, which confirms compliance with the criteria until the end and thus the payment entitlement until the end of participation. For this audit, the sty climate and drinking water check, the training certificate and, in piglet rearing, the piglet screening must already be available for the current calendar year. The sties must also (still) be occupied. If a company is deregistered without a final programme audit, a contractual penalty may be imposed. The audit must be carried out between three months before the date of deregistration at the earliest and two weeks after the date of deregistration at the latest. If a programme audit with all the necessary evidence has already been carried out during this period, this can be used as the final audit if necessary.

In the event of termination of agreement at the end of the year - especially if, for example, new requirements apply from January 1 of the following year - the audit should be carried out in the current calendar year if possible. In the event of termination of agreement, a notice period of 3 months must be complied with.

### ***What happens if an audit is not passed?***

If a livestock owner does not pass an animal welfare audit, participation in the Initiative Tierwohl is terminated. The claims associated with my participation shall lapse for the future. In addition, the operating company may impose a contractual penalty, the amount of which is based on the animal welfare payment or the price surcharge paid for the implementation of the ITW requirements since the last passed audit in accordance with the ITW inspection system. When determining the contractual penalty, the operating company assumes that the livestock owner has received the animal welfare payment or the recommended price surcharge. The livestock owner has the option of lodging an appeal against both the certification decision (with the certification body) and the contractual penalty (with the operating company), for example if the amount actually received was lower. The operating company will provide written information about the appeal options in the event of a failed audit.

After a failed audit, pig farming companies can register for the Initiative Tierwohl again if necessary.

### ***Corrective actions for QS basic criteria - what needs to be considered?***

Corrective actions with deadlines can be agreed for all basic criteria. If a corrective action is agreed, the company continues to participate in the ITW. The corrective actions must be implemented on time. Nonconformities must be rectified immediately by the livestock owner, which is why a correspondingly short deadline must be set for the implementation of the measures.

Please note: From the time of the release of audit report until the certification body has issued the corrective actions, the location is not eligible for delivery. Piglet rearers do not receive any animal welfare payment from the operating company for this period. If a corrective action is not rectified (within the deadline), the audit will be deemed "failed" after the deadline has expired and the company will lose its approval for the ITW.

### ***What applies to organic companies?***

Piglet rearers who are obliged to comply with the requirements defined in the program manual on the basis of applicable laws or regulations (e.g. EC Eco-Regulation) can participate in the Initiative Tierwohl, but do not receive an animal welfare payment.

### ***Who can carry out the sty climate check?***

External experts who have previously undergone training and registered with the operating company of the Initiative Tierwohl. All experts approved for the sty climate check are published on a list in the [download area](#). Please note that the list also includes sty climate experts for the poultry sector and that you can select sty climate experts for the pig sector.

### ***Who is allowed to carry out the drinking water check?***

External competent persons who have previously registered with the operating company of the Initiative Tierwohl. All samplers approved for the drinking water check are published on a list in the [download area](#). Please note that samplers for drinking water for the poultry sector are also published on the list and that you can select samplers for drinking water for the pig sector.

### ***What happens if the company expands or increases its livestock?***

All criteria must always be complied with for all livestock and all areas of the registered company (location number + production scope), i.e. also for the new sties of the company and the additional livestock. There is no entitlement to payment of animal welfare payments for the additional livestock. If animal welfare payments are made via the operating company, an application to increase the number of animals can be submitted via the coordinator - if there is still budget available, the number of animals can be increased. Such a change may only be made once a year.

If the company receives a price surcharge on the market price (payment by abattoirs or piglet rearers), the changed livestock numbers must be clarified directly with the abattoir or piglet rearer. If the herd increases due to the addition of a new sty/compartments, this must be reported to the coordinator. A new programme audit must be carried out to check whether the ITW requirements are being complied with throughout the company. If, according to the inspection system, a programme audit has to be carried out for the calendar year anyway, this can also be used for the certification of operational changes to livestock farming - if carried out promptly.

### ***What must be done if there is a change of legal representative of a registered company?***

All changes that affect the agreement, the size of the livestock or the criteria must be registered immediately with the coordinator. The coordinator can adjust the data in the database.

If the company is leased or sold, it is possible to transfer participation in the ITW to the next owner. However, the new legal representative must have an audit carried out after the takeover, as the person responsible changes.

### ***What happens if a registered company is divided or two participating companies are merged?***

Farm divisions or mergers can be applied for via the coordinator in the database at the operating company. If the farm division or merger results in changes to the number of animals, these must be applied for separately from the operating company via the coordinator.

### ***Where can the animals be marketed?***

Every livestock owner is free to market their animals. There is no obligation to sell to another ITW company.

Fatteners are under no obligation to deliver to an abattoir that participates in the Initiative Tierwohl. However, a price surcharge is only paid for animals that are delivered to an ITW abattoir with which an agreement has been made to supply ITW animals.

Sow owners are also not obliged to market their weaned piglets to an ITW piglet rearer. However, they will only receive their animal welfare price surcharge via an ITW piglet rearer with whom an agreement has been made for the supply of ITW animals.

Piglet rearers are not obliged to supply ITW fatteners. However, original piglet rearers receive a higher animal welfare payment (€4.00 per piglet, €4.50 from 2025) for piglets delivered to ITW fatteners than for piglets marketed to non-ITW fatteners (€3.00 per piglet, €2.50 from 2025). Identity piglet rearers will only receive animal welfare payments for piglets marketed to ITW fatteners.

### ***Is there a list of abattoirs participating in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

You can find all abattoirs that are eligible to deliver for the Initiative Tierwohl at the time of the query via the [public search function](#) (slaughtering and deboning level) on the start page of the animal welfare database. Here you can either search for specific abattoirs or use the "Search" button to view a list of all abattoirs authorized to deliver without entering search criteria.



### ***What number must be reported to the coordinator on a quarterly basis?***

For each completed quarter, the number of weaned/sold animals must be reported to the coordinator by the 10th of the following month (see report of sow production/piglet rearing livestock movements).

Sow production: all piglets that have been weaned and transferred **to ITW rearing** are reported (animals that died during transport are included).

piglet rearing:

- Original piglet rearers: all piglets that have been reared are reported (animals that died during transport to the fattening company or that were delivered as suckling pigs to an abattoir are included).

From July 1, 2024, a distinction must be made between piglets marketed to ITW fatteners and piglets marketed to non-ITW fatteners. From July 1, 2024, suckling pigs may only be reported as such if they are delivered to an ITW abattoir.

- Identity piglet rearers: only those piglets that were marketed to ITW fatteners are reported (animals that died during transport to the fattening company and animals that were sold as suckling pigs to ITW abattoirs are included).

Pig production: here the livestock owner does not have to submit a quantity report. The animal numbers are transmitted by the abattoir to the operating company.

### ***Do sow owners still have to report the number of weaned piglets to the coordinator and the operating company?***

Yes, even if sow owners no longer receive their own invoice, the animal numbers are forwarded to the coordinator and from there to the operating company. The numbers are required, for example, for the plausibility check and, in the event of a failed audit, to assess the contractual penalty.

### ***How can the animal number reports be tracked?***

Piglet rearers have direct access to the quantity reports, as they still receive payment via the operating company. The quantities reported by the coordinator can be viewed there. To gain access to the database, please contact your coordinator.

### ***How can animal number reports be corrected?***

If there were errors in the collection of animal numbers, these must be corrected. Animal numbers for companies with sow production (weaned piglets) and piglet rearing (reared piglets) must be reported directly to the coordinator, who can correct the animal numbers in the database.

### ***Can gilt rearing farms also participate in the Initiative Tierwohl?***

Livestock owners who rear gilts (more precisely: usually breeding sows) (approx. 30 to 120 kg) are not eligible for payment for breeding animals. However, selected animals, i.e. animals that are not suitable for breeding and are sold as animals for slaughter (such as fattening pigs), can be considered for the Initiative Tierwohl. These livestock owners therefore register under the Initiative Tierwohl with production scope 2001 pig fatteners in order to receive the animal welfare price surcharge.



### *Who can participate in labor-sharing pig production?*

Participation in the Initiative Tierwohl is possible for companies with a separated production. Both already participating locations that are split up, for example through the allocation of new location numbers, can be divided into producer communities, and new companies can be registered directly as a producer community.

The sub-locations of a producer community are collected as a main location with assigned sub-locations. They are considered as a unit in the ITW, must jointly comply with the requirements and are only entitled to receive animal welfare payments or a price surcharge on the market price if they are all jointly entitled to deliver. The producer community must conclude a special participation declaration with its coordinator and is inspected in a joint audit. If a partial location (main or sub-location) cannot be audited (e.g. due to an unoccupied sty), no audit can be carried out for the entire producer community. This is only possible again if all participating locations can be audited together.

The animal welfare payment/animal welfare price surcharge is paid to the main location. The participants are responsible for distribution within the producer community. If necessary, the participants must also regulate other aspects of cooperation (e.g. with regard to liability) among themselves.

### *How is the criterion "marketing to ITW fatteners" checked in the audit?*

It is labeled in the database and in the checklist of the company whether it is an original piglet rearer. For original piglet rearers, the criterion "1.10 Marketing to ITW fatteners for original piglet rearers" is relevant. Criterion "1.11 Marketing to ITW fatteners for identity piglet rearers" is relevant for identity piglet rearers.

#### **Original piglet rearers:**

From July 1, 2024, random checks will be carried out in the programme audit (except in the initial audit) to determine whether the piglets for which animal welfare payments were made were reported correctly - differentiated by delivery to ITW fatteners or non-ITW fatteners. This involves checking whether the increased animal welfare payment was justifiably paid for "identity" piglets. The reported piglets can be traced via the [reporting forms to the coordinator](#) and via [the account statements or quarterly credit notes from ITW](#). The animal payment reports can also be viewed directly via the [livestock owner access in the clearing house portal](#). Alternatively, the coordinator can provide documents. The animal payment reports must be available at the time of the audit.

The auditor can use the public search function of the ITW database to check whether the fattening company to which the animals were marketed is an ITW participant with eligibility of delivery at the time of the audit. It is also possible for the auditor to check the eligibility of delivery in the past in the database. It is important that the piglet rearing company can provide evidence of the location numbers and names of the ITW fatteners supplied, e.g. via the stock book. From 1 July 2024, the piglet rearer must be able to plausibly demonstrate how the eligibility of delivery of the fattener can be checked in the first programme audit.

#### **Identity piglet rearers:**

During the programme audit (except for the initial audit), random checks are carried out to determine whether the piglets for which the animal welfare payment was paid were marketed to an ITW fattening farmer. The piglets reported can be traced via the [reporting forms to the coordinator](#) and via [the account statements or quarterly credit notes of the ITW](#). The animal payment reports can also be viewed directly via the [livestock owner access in the clearing house portal](#). Alternatively, the coordinator can provide documents. The animal payment reports must be available at the time of the audit.

The auditor can use the public search function of the ITW database to check whether the fattening company to which the animals were marketed is an ITW participant with eligibility of delivery at the time of the audit. It is

also possible for the auditor to check the eligibility of delivery in the past in the database. It is important that the piglet rearing company can provide evidence of the location numbers and names of the ITW fatteners supplied, e.g. via the stock book. The piglet rearer must already be able to plausibly demonstrate how the eligibility of delivery of the fatteners can be checked during the program audit.

### ***Which piglets may original piglet rearers report their coordinator from July 1, 2024?***

Original piglet rearers may report all reared piglets to the coordinator. However, from July 1, 2024, they must distinguish between those piglets that were marketed to an ITW fattener and those that were marketed to non-ITW fatteners. A false report - and thus unlawful overpayment of animal welfare payments - can be devalued accordingly in the audit and lead to a sanction procedure. On the day of delivery, it must be checked in the database whether the recipient pig fattener is an authorized ITW participant. This can be checked in the public search function of the animal welfare database (<https://datenbank.initiative-tierwohl.de/QSTierwohl/start/do>). The eligibility of delivery of the fattening farm must also be checked in the case of marketing via a livestock dealer or marketing organization.

### ***Which piglets may identity piglet rearers report to the coordinator?***

Identity piglet rearers may only report piglets that have been marketed to an ITW fattener to the coordinator. Piglets marketed to a non-ITW fattener may not be reported to the coordinator. A false report (and thus unlawfully received animal welfare payment) can be devalued accordingly in the audit and lead to a sanction procedure. On the day of delivery, it must be checked in the database whether the recipient pig farm is an authorized ITW participant. This can be checked in the public search function of the animal welfare database (<https://datenbank.initiative-tierwohl.de/QSTierwohl/start/do>). The eligibility of delivery of the fattening farm must also be checked in the case of marketing via a livestock dealer or marketing organization.

### ***How can a piglet rearer check whether his recipient is participating in the ITW?***

Using the public search function, the location number of a company can be used to check whether a location currently has eligibility of delivery for the ITW (<https://datenbank.initiative-tierwohl.de/QSTierwohl/start/do>). The production scope eligible for delivery ("2001 pig production") is also displayed here.

### ***What happens if the receiving ITW fattening company does not appear in the public search on the day of delivery?***

If the company does not appear in the public search on the day of delivery, the delivery must not initially be reported to the coordinator as an ITW piglet, as the fattening company may no longer be an ITW participant. As a first step, the piglet rearing company should contact its recipient fattening company to clarify whether it is still an ITW participant. If the fattening company is no longer a participant, the delivery must not be reported. If the fattening company is still a participant, a written request can be sent to [anfragen@initiative-tierwohl.de](mailto:anfragen@initiative-tierwohl.de) to clarify whether the animals may be reported despite the lack of eligibility of delivery, e.g. because there is only a short-term blockage on the day of delivery. The request must include the location number of the accepting fattening company and the day of delivery. The delivery may only be reported to the coordinator with the approval of the operating company. This authorization must be able to be presented in the audit. The request can also be made by the livestock dealer or the marketing organization. Confirmation of the approval must then be forwarded to the piglet rearing company.

In the future, there are plans to adapt the public search function to show whether piglets may be reported or not.

***What happens if a piglet rearing company registers animals as "identity piglets" that were not marketed to an ITW fattener?***

If the audit reveals that the piglet rearing company has received too much/contrary to the requirements animal welfare payment for piglets that were not marketed to an ITW fattener, a K.O. evaluation is assigned and participation in the ITW is terminated. As a result, the company must expect a sanction procedure. The company has the opportunity to appeal against the sanction. In the event of a failed audit, the company will be informed in writing by the operating company of its legal options.

***When is the "purchase of ITW piglets" criterion checked for pig fattening farms and for whom is this criterion relevant?***

The criterion will be checked in the audit from April 1, 2025. This is the date from which the bonus scheme for pig production will be implemented. The criterion is checked for every company that has had the status "identity as of birth" at least once. This also applies if it no longer has this status in the audit, but has had it in the past. The auditor has the option of checking the identity status in the past.

***Do fattening companies already have to house only ITW piglets as of April 1, 2025 if the status "identity as of birth" is specified?***

Yes, if the status "identity as of birth" is specified on April 1, 2025, the higher recommended price applies to livestock owners directly from this date. Accordingly, it must be ensured that there are already only ITW piglets in the sty at this time. This means that only ITW piglets must be purchased from around mid-December 2024. The piglet purchase is checked accordingly in the audit.

***How can a pig fattener check whether the piglet suppliers are ITW participants?***

The public search function can be used to check whether a location currently has eligibility of delivery for the ITW using the location number of a company (<https://datenbank.initiative-tierwohl.de/QSTierwohl/start/do>). The production scope eligible for delivery ("2008 piglet rearing") is also displayed here.

***How does an abattoir know whether a pig fattening farm is purchasing ITW piglets and thus receiving the higher price surcharge?***

To ensure that payment at the abattoir runs smoothly, the abattoir will in future be able to use the public search to see whether a pig fattener is receiving ITW piglets or not. To do this, the pig fattening company must inform its coordinator - as soon as the technical requirements have been met in the ITW database - whether its company can be classified as "identity as of birth". A pig fattener is only classified as having an "identity as of birth" if it exclusively purchases ITW piglets. This information is stored by the coordinator in the ITW database. The information must be entered in the database by April 1, 2025 at the latest - when the bonus system comes into force. If no information is entered, the livestock owners are automatically classified as "identity as of fattening". The operating company will inform the coordinators in good time as soon as this information can be entered.

***What happens if the identity status of a pig farm changes?***

If the identity status of a company changes during participation because non-ITW piglets have been housed, the coordinator must be informed of this within 14 days of the non-ITW piglets being housed. The status "identity as of birth" is then removed from the ITW database and the company is no longer entitled to the higher price surcharge. A change of status from "identity as of fattening" to "identity as of birth" can only take place 3.5 months (when the non-ITW piglets have left the company) after the last purchase date of the non-ITW piglets. To do this, the coordinator must enter the reference date of the non-ITW piglets in the database.

***How is it checked in the audit whether the information on the status of a company ("identity as of birth") is correct?***

The criterion "Purchase of ITW piglets" is used in the audit to check whether all piglet suppliers have ITW approval. For this purpose, the pig fattening farm must keep and be able to present a list of its piglet suppliers. This criterion only applies to pig fattening farms that have stated that they exclusively purchase ITW piglets and are therefore classified as "identity as of birth". Even if the company had this status in the past, the information is checked in the audit. The information on the company's Identity status can be viewed in the company's checklist. The identity status in the past can be viewed in the ITW database.

The eligibility of delivery of ITW suppliers in the past is randomly checked on the basis of the delivery notes / invoices. They must have a valid ITW eligibility of delivery at the time of delivery to the pig fattening farm.

***What happens if the ITW piglet supplier does not appear in the public search of the database on the day of delivery?***

If the piglet supplier is not authorized to deliver at the time of delivery, the pig fattening farm loses its "identity as of birth" status. The company must notify its coordinator of the loss of status when the non-ITW piglets are stalled - but no later than 14 days after housing.

***What happens if a pig farm has made a false statement about its Identity status?***

A false statement regarding identity status leads to a K.O. evaluation in the audit and the ITW participation is terminated. As a result, the company must expect a sanction procedure. The company has the opportunity to appeal against the sanction. In the event of a failed audit, the company will be informed in writing by the operating company of its legal options.

***Why was the "piglet castration" criterion introduced for sow owners?***

From January 2025, foreign pig farming companies will also be able to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl. In Europe, however, the legal requirements for piglet castration are not yet uniformly regulated. In most countries, piglets can be castrated without anaesthesia up to the seventh day of life. To ensure that these companies implement the same piglet castration procedures with effective analgesia (general anaesthesia) as required in Germany, the criterion "piglet castration" was introduced as an additional ITW criterion. This criterion must of course be checked in the ITW audit in all domestic and foreign companies.

**Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Tierwohls in der Nutztierhaltung mbH**

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