

# Manual Agriculture

## Catalog of criteria for pig production



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*Note: The Manual Agriculture Catalog of Criteria pig production is written in German and translated into English. In case of discrepancies between the translation and the German version, the German original is valid.*

## Foreword

In the Initiative Tierwohl Pig, companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and food retail have jointly set themselves the goal of promoting more animal-friendly and sustainable meat production.

They want to continue to offer consumers pork of excellent quality and great variety in the future, but at the same time make animal welfare an even stronger basis for their actions.

To this end, the initiators have developed a comprehensive programme to promote animal welfare at the agricultural production level of livestock owners (piglet production, piglet rearing, sow production) with the involvement of industry, science and interest groups and have defined well-founded, measurable and verifiable requirements for livestock farming. Livestock owners who voluntarily decide to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl Pig will implement these requirements.

The Initiative Tierwohl Pig is being continuously developed. Furthermore, the additional promotion of innovative measures is an important part of the programme. The advisory board will continuously deal with the intended further development and make the necessary decisions.

# 1 Requirements


## 1.1 Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health

The livestock owner must comply with basic criteria for animal welfare, hygiene and animal health. The basic criteria are defined in the **QS guideline Agriculture Pig Farming** in the chapters below. In the animal welfare audit, the focus is on the inspection of production in the sty. Records and documents are consulted for support if this makes sense or is necessary to check the criterion.

If abnormalities regarding injuries, lameness or heavy soiling are detected, corrective actions (action plan including deadlines) must be defined with the involvement of the stock care veterinarian. The livestock owner must implement the action plan in a timely manner and document this.


### Animal welfare, hygiene and animal health:

- 3.2.1 Monitoring and care of livestock
- 3.2.2 General farming requirements
- 3.2.3 Handling sick and injured animals
- 3.2.4 Sty floors
- 3.2.5 Sty climate and noise
- 3.2.6 Lighting
- 3.2.7 Space allowances
- 3.2.8 Alarm system
- 3.2.14 Activity material
- 3.3.1 Feed supply
- 3.3.2 Hygiene of the feeding facilities
- 3.3.3 Usage and storage of feed
- 3.4.1 Water supply
- 3.4.2 Hygiene of the drinking facilities
- 3.6.1 Buildings and equipment
- 3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm
- 3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material
- 3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up
- 3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control
- 3.6.6 Special hygiene requirements

 Action plan and its implementation, if applicable

## 1.2 Participation in antibiotics monitoring

The livestock owner must participate in antibiotics monitoring. The requirements are set out in the **QS guideline antibiotics monitoring pigs**.

 Antibiotics monitoring info letter, access to data in antibiotics database

## 1.3 Participation in the indexed slaughter findings data program

The livestock owner must participate in the indexed slaughter findings data program. The diagnostic data is collected in accordance with the requirements of the **QS guidelines on diagnostic data in pig slaughtering**.

 Info letter diagnostic data, access to data in diagnostic database

## 1.4 Sty climate check

A standardized Sty climate check must be carried out before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year and the results documented.

The Sty climate check must be carried out by external experts registered with the Initiative Tierwohl prior to their assignment in accordance with the implementation instructions. The persons registered for the Sty climate check are published on the Internet with their contact details so that every livestock owner can find an expert in their area. Sty climate checks must be carried out in occupied sties.

Procedure and scope of the Sty climate check ⇒ Annex 1.

If deficiencies are identified during this inspection, the technical expert must list the deficiencies in detail. The livestock owner must define corrective actions together with the technical expert (action plan including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement the action plan on time and document this.

The certificate for the Sty climate check (issued by an approved expert) must be shown at the end of the audit; in addition, the list of deficiencies with an action plan and proof that the corrective actions have been implemented on time.

 Certificate for the Sty climate check, action plan and its implementation, if applicable

## 1.5 Drinking water check


A standardized drinking water check must be carried out before the initial audit and then regularly once in each subsequent calendar year and the results documented. The drinking water check consists of sampling and water analysis.

The sample must be taken by external samplers registered with the Initiative Tierwohl prior to their deployment in accordance with the implementation instructions. The persons registered for sampling are published on the Internet with their contact details so that every livestock owner can find an expert in their area. Samples for microbiological testing must be taken in occupied sties.

Procedure and scope of the drinking water check ⇒ Annex 2.


If the guidance values are exceeded, the livestock owner must define corrective actions (action plan including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement the action plan on time and document this.

The certificate for the drinking water analysis (issued by a laboratory) must be shown at the end of the audit, as must the sampler's sampling protocol. The following information must be documented in the sampling protocol: Name, address, location number of the company, sampling point (location of the tap or drinking nipple/drinking basin), name of the sampler, date of sampling. If this information is contained in full in the certificate for drinking water analysis from the laboratories, this can be used as a protocol. In addition, the action plan for remedying defects and proof that the corrective actions were implemented on time must be available.

 Certificate for drinking water check incl. sampling protocol, action plan if applicable and its implementation

## 1.6 Training

Every livestock owner must take part in relevant, specialist training measures at least once per calendar year. Proof of this must be provided. Proof must be provided for the first time for the initial audit.

 Certificate of further training

## 1.7 Daylight

Each compartment must have daylight incidence. The size of the light openings must be at least 3 % of the compartment floor area according to the German Law, exceptions are approved for sties that were put into operation before August 4, 2006 or where the value of 3 % cannot be achieved for reasons of construction technology and design. Therefore, the Initiative Tierwohl also applies to these companies in that the average light-permeable area of the company (location number) must be at least 1.5% of the compartment floor area.

Compensation is only possible across sties within a location number and production scope. For the individual compartment, a maximum of 20% less light-permeable area is permitted.

Proof (documentation of window area, reference area and percentage) must be available.


 Proof of daylight incidence per compartment and on average for the company

## 1.8 12.5 % more space allowance

All animals must be provided with an unrestricted usable area in each crate at least in accordance with the table.

Weight section	space allowance
20-30 kg	0.39 m <sup>2</sup> /animal
30-50 kg	0.563 m <sup>2</sup> /animal
50-110 kg	0.844 m <sup>2</sup> /animal
> 110 kg	1.125 m <sup>2</sup> /animal

A farm plan showing the available net crate area and the maximum possible number of animals per crate must be available at the end of audit.

 Farm plan with net area statement and possible number of animals per crate, delivery notes, slaughter invoices

## 1.9 Roughage

The animals must have access to roughage that is safe for their health. Roughage is feed that is rich in raw fiber and structure. It must be edible, chewable, inspectable, moveable and workable.

Supplementing the normal feed ration by adding e.g. maize silage to the liquid feed or increasing the crude fiber content does not meet the requirements.

In littered sties (straw housing), no additional roughage is necessary, provided the litter is of feed quality.

The roughage must be offered in addition to and separately from the actual feed. The roughage can be presented on the ground, close to the ground, in a trough or in another suitable form (also above the trough). To ensure that the roughage always provides an incentive, it can be fed at intervals by taking short breaks. It must be ensured that it is available day and night and especially during the animals' activity periods.

The roughage must be a different material than the legally required activity material (e.g. straw and hay; different types of straw are considered one material). In addition, the roughage and the activity material must be offered separately (e.g. not via shared hay and straw racks).

The following requirements apply to access to roughage (number of animals per feeding place).

### Fattening pigs up to 60 kg

Width or diameter, cm	Maximum number of animals per object (rack, trough, etc.)				
	a) Racks, troughs, wall-mounted, closed side walls	b) Racks, troughs, wall-mounted, open side walls	c) Racks, troughs, free-standing or suspended, closed side walls	d) Racks, troughs, free-standing or suspended, open side walls	e) Round containers, free-standing, suspended or floor feeding
Up to 20	20	40	40	80	80
> 20 - 30	25	50	50	80	80
> 30 - 40	30	60	60	80	80
> 40 - 50	35	70	70	100	110
> 50 - 60	40	80	80	100	110
> 60 - 70	45	85	90	110	120
> 70 - 80	50	90	100	110	120
> 80 - 90	55	100	110	120	130
> 90 - 100	60	105	120	120	130

## Fattening pigs from 60 kg

Width or diameter, cm	Maximum number of animals per object (rack, trough, etc.)				
	a) Racks, troughs, wall-mounted, closed side walls	b) Racks, troughs, wall-mounted, open side walls	c) Racks, troughs, free-standing or suspended, closed side walls	d) Racks, troughs, free-standing or suspended, open side walls	e) Round contain- ers, free-stand- ing, suspended or floor feeding
Up to 20	20	40	40	70	70
> 20 - 30	20	40	40	70	70
> 30 - 40	25	50	50	70	70
> 40 - 50	30	60	60	90	90
> 50 - 60	35	70	70	90	90
> 60 - 70	40	75	80	100	100
> 70 - 80	45	80	90	100	100
> 80 - 90	50	85	100	110	110
> 90 - 100	55	90	110	110	110

### 1.10 Crate structuring

All animals must be offered at least three of the following crate structuring elements in each crate. The elements can be chosen freely. Different elements may be selected in different crates. A technical device can take on the function of several structural elements at the same time, provided the individual functions do not interfere with each other (see explanatory notes on the pig production catalog of criteria).

#### Contact grids

Contact grids must be provided that allow at least three pigs per group to have contact with fattening pigs from another group at the same time. The contact grids must allow contact with other groups in a normal posture. For the simultaneous contact of three pigs, the contact grids must be at least 99 cm wide per crate. The total width may be divided into individual sections, whereby each individual grid must be at least one pig's width (=33 cm). The contact grids must be designed at least up to the pigs' head height in such a way that all animals can make contact with pigs in another crate at any time.

#### Partition walls

Partition walls must be provided in the crates to separate different functional areas. The areas must be separated by closed, opaque partitions (no grids). They can also be free-standing in the crates. Within each crate, there must be walls of at least 1 m in length for up to 20 animals. The additional walls must be accessible from both sides and each at least 1 m long.

The additional walls were intended to create protected areas or retreats for the animals.

#### Raised levels

The crates must be equipped with one or more raised level(s) above the floor area that is/are safe for the pigs to use and easily accessible via a ramp. The ramps and levels must be secured to prevent animals from falling down. Raised levels (including ramps) must be large enough to allow animals to avoid each other.

The area of raised levels is not counted as unrestricted usable area. The area below raised levels is counted as usable area, provided it can be used without restriction. The area below the ramps does not have to be deducted from the unrestricted usable area of the crates.

### Microclimate area

A microclimate area must be provided to create different temperature zones within the crates. The microclimate area must be at least 0.3 m<sup>2</sup> in size per fattening pig.

### Lighting conditions

Different lighting conditions must be provided within the crates. Different lighting conditions can be created, for example, by varying the intensity of the lighting.

### Scrubbing devices

The animals must be offered sty scrubbing devices with a rough surface, e.g. scrubbing bars. The scrubbing devices must be positioned in the crate in such a way that the animals can also scrub their backs on them (angle of inclination **approx.** 40-60°). Scrubbing devices must be available in a ratio of at least 1:50 animals and be freely accessible.

The scouring pads must be made of materials that are harmless to health.

### Open drinkers

The animals must be able to drink from an open water surface (e.g. bowl or basin drinkers). The open drinkers must be provided in addition to the legally required drinkers and at a ratio of at least 1:24 animals.

### Soft lying area

A soft lying area with a maximum perforation level of 5% must be provided. The lying area must be equipped with a soft pad or litter. The lying area must have at least one area per animal in accordance with the following table:

Average weight	Floor area
< 50 kg	0.3 m <sup>2</sup> /animal
50-110 kg	0.6 m <sup>2</sup> /animal
> 110 kg	0.9 m <sup>2</sup> /animal

### Other elements

Further options for structuring bays can be selected from the options defined below.

#### Selective cooling facility

Each crate must have at least one cooling facility (e.g. pig shower or similar) for up to 50 animals.

#### Different floors

The crates must be structured with different floors. At least two different floor types (e.g. plastic, steel, cast iron or concrete slatted floors or closed floors) with at least 0.3 m<sup>2</sup> per pig must be provided.



## Outdoor area

If the animals are offered an outdoor area that is always accessible, no further crate structuring elements need to be offered in the crates with an outdoor area. The outdoor area must be at least 0.2 m<sup>2</sup> per pig and have a minimum area of 4 m<sup>2</sup>. The sides of the outdoor area must be at least 2 m long. It must be ensured that the animals can also avoid each other in the outdoor area and can turn around unhindered at any time.

The time during which the animals have access to the outdoor area may be reduced for the required duration of cleaning or in individual cases for reasons of animal welfare. If access to the outdoor area is restricted, this must be documented, stating the duration of the restriction and the respective reason.

 Documentation when the outlet is restricted


### 1.11 Purchase of ITW piglets

The criterion is mandatory from April 1, 2025.

From April 1, 2025, pig fatteners who can prove that they purchase their animals exclusively from ITW piglet rearing farms ("identity as of birth") will receive a higher price surcharge for their fattening pigs than those who do not purchase their animals exclusively from ITW piglet rearing farms. For ITW fatteners there is no obligation to purchase ITW piglets, but the animal welfare payment per marketed fattening pig will be reduced from the point at which non-ITW piglets are purchased.

The livestock owner registers with his coordinator whether he exclusively purchases ITW piglets and is therefore continuously in possession of ITW piglets. If the piglet supply changes so that non-ITW piglets are (also) purchased, this must be reported to the coordinator within 14 days of the first purchase of non-ITW piglets. The status that a company is (again) identity as of birth - i.e. that there are no more non-ITW piglets in stock- can be obtained by a livestock owner at the earliest 3.5 months after the last purchase date of non-ITW piglets. The information on piglet purchase is filed in the animal welfare database by the coordinator in accordance with the livestock owner's notification.

The audit must include a list of all piglet suppliers (if purchased from piglet rearing company dealers) from whom the company has purchased piglets since the last ITW audit. The individual piglet deliveries are randomly checked at the end of the audit.

 Notification to the coordinator, supplier list, animal welfare database, delivery notes

## 2 Definitions and related documents

### Definition:

The location is always considered: epidemiological unit per location number in combination with production scope, regardless of the number of sties

### Related documents:

QS Guideline Agriculture Pig farming

QS guideline on antibiotics monitoring in pigs

QS guideline diagnostic data in pig slaughtering

Initiative Tierwohl programme manual

## 3 Annexes

### 3.1 Annex 1 - Sty climate check

#### Scope and procedure of the Sty climate check

#### The Sty climate check includes

##### 1. Function test of the technology

- a. Actuators and fans: damper position, direction of rotation
- b. Air ducting: cross-sections and cleanliness
- c. Installation and adjustment of the temperature sensors: Position,  $\Delta\theta$  max.  $\pm 2$  °K
- d. Air cooling device (if 2.4 was selected)
- e. Ventilation computer
  1. Set temperature (possibly curve)
  2. Minimum and maximum air rate
  3. Control range
  4. Alarm values

##### 2. Test alarm

- a. Functionality of the emergency systems: Battery status, actuators, etc.
- b. Forwarding of the alarm to horn, light, telephone, cell phone, etc.

##### 3. Sensory testing of the Sty climate

If required (e.g. in the event of sensory detection of nonconformities in the concentration of harmful gases or temperature):

- Checking the dimensioning of the ventilation system
- Carrying out further tests (fog sample, pollutant gas measurements, etc.)

##### 4. If defects are identified, draw up a list of defects and an action plan including deadlines for remedying the defects

#### The minimum number of checks to be carried out per sty is as follows:

- for conspicuous Sty compartments, detected by visual inspection of all Sty areas/compartments with sensory testing, a Sty climate check must always be carried out and
- at least one check per sty (i.e. one building envelope) and at the same time
  - at least one check per functional area (mating area, waiting area, farrowing area)
  - at least one check per compartment/functional area if compartments/functional areas are equipped with different ventilation technology
  - at least two checks if up to eight compartments/functional areas are equipped with the same ventilation technology
  - at least three checks if more than eight compartments/functional areas are equipped with the same ventilation technology

## 3.2 Annex 2 - Drinking water check

### Scope and procedure of the drinking water check

The drinking water check comprises a physical-chemical and a microbiological examination. At least the parameters listed in the following two tables must be examined. The values must not exceed or fall below the reference values. If the analysis reveals nonconformities with the assessment values, an action plan must be drawn up to rectify the problem (including deadlines). Once the measures have been implemented, a new water sample does not have to be taken to check the effectiveness of the measures.

#### a) Physical-chemical examination

When using your own well, at least one sample per water source (respective well) must be physically/chemically analyzed.

No physical/chemical analysis is required when using water from the public water supply.

**Table 1: Assessment values for drinking water (physico-chemical parameters)**

Parameters	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
pH value		5-9
Electrical conductivity	µS/cm	< 3000
Iron (Fe)	(mg/l)	< 3
Nitrates (NO <sub>3</sub> -)	(mg/l)	< 200
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> )	(mg/l)	< 500

Source: Based on BMEL orientation framework for the assessment of the hygienic quality of drinking water under feed law, as of 19.07.2019; selection

#### b) Microbiological examination

The sample size must include one sample for up to 1,500 fattening places and one additional sample for each additional 5,000 places or part thereof. The water samples must be taken at the last drinkers of a fattening area. In the case of a ring main, the sample can be taken at any point in the ring main.

**Table 2: Assessment values for drinking water (microbiological parameters)**

Parameters	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
Colony count at 20°C	in 1 ml	≤ 10.000
Colony count at 36°C	in 1 ml	≤ 1.000
Escherichia coli	in 100 ml	0

Source: Based on BMEL orientation framework for the assessment of the hygienic quality of drinking water under feed law, as of 19.07.2019; selection

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