

Manual Agriculture Pig

Conditions of participation

1 Introduction

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 pork of excellent quality and great variety in the future but continue to make animal welfare the basis of their actions. To this end, a comprehensive programme to promote animal welfare on agricultural companies (piglet production and pig production) has been developed together with industry, science and interest groups.

This manual contains the conditions of participation in the Initiative Tierwohl Pig for livestock owners.

2 Conditions of participation for livestock owners

2.1 Participants, participation

Admission to the Initiative Tierwohl Pig is open to all domestic and foreign pig companies. Only livestock owners who participate in the QS scheme (status "eligible to deliver" in the QS database) or in a comparable quality assurance scheme recognized by ITW can participate.

Participation is only possible with one entire operating location. Stys that are officially registered under one location number can only participate in the ITW together. With regard to piglet rearers, a distinction is made between *Original piglet rearers* and *Identity piglet rearers*.

1. *Original piglet rearers* - Piglet rearers who have already participated in the Initiative Tierwohl before November 1, 2022 and have already registered for the programme from 2024.
2. *Identity piglet rearers* - piglet rearers who have been participating in the Initiative Tierwohl since November 1, 2022, and piglet rearers who register for participation for the first time

Piglet rearing companies that are obliged to comply with the requirements defined in the programme manual due to applicable laws or regulations (e.g. EU eco-regulation) can participate in the Initiative Tierwohl, but do not receive an animal welfare payment for implementing these requirements.

Livestock owners who are obliged to comply with higher requirements due to applicable laws or regulations must also comply with these for participation in the ITW.

Participation in the initiative is voluntary.

2.2 Registration and admission procedure

Livestock owners, who decide to participate in the initiative, participate via a coordinator. The following procedure applies to registration for participation:

- a) Livestock owners commission a coordinator of their choice to register them for participation in the Initiative Tierwohl. When they commission the coordinator, they provide the following data:

- Master data of the company (including location number, optional: registration number according to TierHaltKennzG (pig production), production scope, address, operations Manager).
- Date, from which the animal welfare requirements can be fulfilled (implementation date).
As from the stated date, livestock owners must implement the current requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl and be able to prove this at any time in the audit.
- Identity status of the pig fattening company: If an ITW pig fattening company exclusively obtains ITW piglets, it is classified as "identity as of birth".

In addition, the following reporting obligations apply:

- **Sow productions** also register how many piglets are weaned or sold to piglet rearing companies per year.
- **Piglet rearing** additionally reports
 - Bank details for the payment of animal welfare payments
 - Original piglet rearers only: indicate how many piglets are reared or delivered to pig fattening companies per year.
 - Identity piglet rearers only: register only those piglets that are delivered to an ITW pig fattening companies per year.
- **Pig producers** also report how many pigs are delivered for slaughter each year.

The information on the number of weaned or delivered animals is verified using the data available from QS or a comparable quality assurance system. If the data reported by the coordinator with the registration does not match the available data, the livestock owner's registration is rejected or the data must be corrected by the livestock owner.

The implementation date can be freely chosen for sow production and pig production. Piglet rearing companies can choose the implementation date within the set time period for each registration phase.

- b) The coordinator forwards this information to the operating company. The operating company informs the coordinator whether the livestock owner is approved for the Initiative Tierwohl.

New pig productions and sow productions can be registered for participation at any time. New piglet rearing companies can only be registered during defined registration phases, as a budget check is required. New registration phases will be announced in good time.

- c) Livestock owners only receive admission for the Initiative Tierwohl once they have successfully passed the programme audit. The piglet rearing company only acquires an entitlement to an animal welfare payment with the release of the audit report in the database.

2.3 Term and termination

Participation in the Initiative Tierwohl Pig is unlimited in time. Participation can be terminated with three months' notice to the end of the month. The right to extraordinary termination of agreement for good cause remains unaffected.

2.4 Implementation of requirements, monitoring, inspection

2.4.1 Implementation of the requirements/programme manual

By submitting the declaration of participation, the livestock owner recognizes the current version of the Initiative Tierwohl programme manual, including the conditions of participation in the Manual Agriculture Pig for Livestock Owners.

The requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl, the conditions of participation in the manual agriculture Pig for livestock owners, the catalog of criteria, the explanatory notes, the inspection system and all other documents relevant to the implementation of the programme, are published on the website of the Initiative Tierwohl at www.initiative-tierwohl.de in their current version. In their entirety, they form the programme manual of the Initiative Tierwohl and apply to livestock owners.

This programme manual can be continuously developed and amended by the bodies of the operating company. This applies in particular if circumstances arise that make it urgently necessary to adapt the programme manual and the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl (e.g. incidents and crises affecting the public image and reputation of the Initiative Tierwohl, changes in the legal situation).

Irrespective of any other regulations, the Expert Committee of the Initiative Tierwohl is entitled to make these adjustments during the term of the contract for which the livestock owner has acquired admission or entitlement to remuneration. In this case, the livestock owner is obliged to implement the adjustments. If he does not wish to do so, he is entitled to terminate its participation in the Initiative Tierwohl by ordinary termination.

The livestock owner is obliged to inform himself regularly about the currently valid requirements. Changes will be communicated in due time.

2.4.2 Auditing and inspection

The certification bodies approved by the operating company regularly monitor the implementation of the requirements.

The livestock owner is obliged to provide evidence of implementation of the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl from the implementation date specified by it in an audit in accordance with the ITW inspection system. An independent certification body carries out this first programme audit as well as other audits provided for in the ITW programme manual.

Their auditors are authorized to

- a) document the conditions found at the livestock owner's location, in particular with regard to the implementation of the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl, in all audits by taking photos or copies of the relevant documents.

Certification bodies and auditors are authorized to forward the documents to the responsible bodies within the Initiative Tierwohl. Irrespective of this, certification bodies and auditors are obliged to handle documents and data from this company confidentially.

- b) audit reports of the quality assurance scheme(s) (QS scheme or comparable quality assurance scheme recognized by the operating company) in which the livestock owner participates with the location.
- c) audit reports for certification in accordance with the EU eco- regulation (or organic programmes based on it) in which the livestock owner participates with the location.

Refusal to inspect documents, make copies or provide photographic documentation may result in a general K.O., loss of eligibility of delivery in the Initiative Tierwohl and sanctions.

The certification body will confirm implementation of the requirements to the livestock owner after a successful first programme audit. With the release of audit report in the database, the livestock owner is approved or eligible for the Initiative Tierwohl. The certification body can issue a certificate to the livestock owner in accordance with the inspection system of the Initiative Tierwohl. The admission or certificate issued on the basis of a successful programme audit is valid until the end of the calendar year following the programme audit.

If a livestock owner terminates the participation of a location, a programme audit must be carried out within three months before or up to two weeks after the termination of agreement (= termination date) for a final review.

The livestock owner must fully implement the requirements documented and certified by the certification body during the entire term of the certificate and provide evidence of this in the audits provided for in the inspection system in the programme manual. The operating company is entitled to have additional audits carried out at the participating companies. No legal consequences can be derived from the findings/non-findings of an audit for follow-up audits and all other inspections in the sense of protection of the status quo.

The livestock owner can register the contact person responsible for the end of audit at the location, their contact details and the best times to reach them with the Initiative Tierwohl via their coordinator.

The livestock owner is obliged to inform the certification body responsible for the company and the responsible coordinator immediately of any significant operational changes that could affect the company's participation and jeopardize the validity of the certificate (e.g. change of the livestock owner, leasing, expansion of the company). The livestock owner's admission or payment entitlements arising from the certification may lapse if operational changes are not reported and not agreed with the certification body and coordinator.

2.5 Payment of the animal welfare payment or a price surcharge

Participating livestock owners are remunerated for implementing the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl.

Pig fatteners receive a price surcharge for ITW fattening pigs from the participating abattoir for implementing the ITW requirements for pig production.

A distinction must be made in the case of **piglet rearing**:

- **Original piglet rearers** receive an animal welfare payment per piglet reared from the operating company of the Initiative Tierwohl for implementing the ITW requirements in piglet production.
- **Identity piglet rearers** receive an animal welfare payment from the operating company of the Initiative Tierwohl for implementing the ITW requirements in piglet production only for those reared piglets that were marketed to ITW pig fatteners.

The duration of the entitlement to the payment will be communicated by the operating company in a separate letter. The operating company will determine the entitlement to the animal welfare payment on the basis of the coordinator's quantity report. Any differences in quantity must be clarified directly with the coordinator.

Sow companies receive a price surcharge for weaned ITW piglets from the participating piglet rearing companies for implementing the ITW requirements for sow production.

2.5.1 Amount Animal welfare payment for piglet rearing and price surcharge for sow production and pig production

Piglet rearing

The animal welfare payment for reared piglets is determined by the ITW bodies. To increase Identity, the ITW bodies have agreed on the following bonus scheme for piglet rearers:

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

The operating company and the bodies of the ITW are entitled to adjust the amount of the animal welfare payment if necessary. The basis of assessment for the payment of the animal welfare payment to **piglet rearing companies** is the number of piglets delivered that were purchased from a sow production company approved in the ITW. Piglet rearing companies report the number of piglets delivered to the clearing house via their coordinator by the 10th day after the end of the quarter for the previous calendar quarter using the "Reporting of live-stock movements (piglet rearing)" form.

- **Identity piglet rearers** only report those reared piglets that were marketed to ITW fatteners.
- **Original piglet rearers** report all piglets reared. From July 1, 2024, a distinction must be made in the report between piglets that are delivered to ITW fatteners and non-ITW fatteners.

The animal numbers can be reported directly to the operating company or its service provider as soon as the technical requirements for this have been met. The figures reported by the piglet rearing company are checked by the certification body and the operating company during the programme audit. The only exception to this is the first programme audit.

With the integration of piglet production into Identity on January 1, 2027, the piglet fund will expire and piglet production will be financed via the market. The price surcharge must be passed on by the market participants to the piglet rearing company via the abattoir and the pig production company. The level of the price recommendation for piglet production will be decided in the course of 2026 by the ITW bodies.

Piglet rearing covers the phase from weaning of the piglets up to a live weight of approx. 30 kg. Taking into account different rearing systems, the animal welfare payment is limited to a maximum of 8.7 piglets per piglet rearing place and year.

Sow production

Sow companies receive a price surcharge for weaned ITW piglets from the participating piglet rearing companies for implementing the ITW requirements for sow production. The ITW bodies have agreed on a price surcharge of

€ 1.80 per weaned ITW piglet. The operating company and the bodies of the ITW are entitled to adjust the amount of the price surcharge if necessary.

Sow production companies make bilateral agreements with their recipients regarding the delivery of weaned ITW piglets and delivery conditions. No claim for payment against the operating company passes, nor is the operating company liable for the payment of the price surcharge by the recipients of the ITW piglets and its amount.

Sow producers register the number of piglets delivered on the last day of a calendar quarter for the previous calendar quarter to the clearing house via their coordinator using the "Reporting of livestock movements (sow production)" form. The number reported by the sow production company are checked by the certification body and the operating company in the programme audit.

Pig production

Pig fatteners receive a price surcharge for ITW fattening pigs from the participating abattoirs for implementing the ITW requirements for pig production. A bonus scheme for pig production will be introduced from January 1, 2025 to increase Identity. In the Pig Sectoral Agreement of June 2024, the ITW bodies recommended the following price surcharges for the bonus scheme:

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

The operating company and the bodies of ITW are entitled to adjust the recommendation on the amount of the price surcharge if necessary.

Pig fattener and abattoirs shall enter into bilateral agreements on the delivery 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 abattoir and its actual amount.

Pig production covers the phase after piglet rearing until sale for slaughter - usually a period of approx. 30 to 120 kg live weight. Considering different fattening systems (e.g. later start of fattening), the number of animals to be marketed in the ITW is limited to a maximum of 3.5 pigs per animal place and year. The recommended price surcharge applies to those abattoirs that have been accepted as food-grade and slaughtered by an abattoir participating in the Initiative Tierwohl.

Pig fattener do not register animal numbers with the coordinator.

2.5.2 Payment date

The animal welfare payment for piglet rearing companies is paid to the piglet rearing company three months after the end of a calendar quarter.

The animal welfare surcharge is usually paid by the abattoir to the pig fattener with the slaughter invoice.

2.6 Loss of eligibility of delivery, sanctions

In the event of failure of the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl

- a) the livestock owner loses its eligibility of delivery in the ITW and the entitlement to payment of the animal welfare payment or the price surcharge associated with the eligibility of delivery.

With the loss of eligibility of delivery as a result of non-compliance of the requirements, its participation in the ITW ends. The entitlements associated with its participation shall lapse for the future. The certification body is entitled to reclaim any certificate issued to the livestock owner for the registered location.

The eligibility of delivery for a company may also be temporarily revoked if an ITW audit is passed but non-conformities are found in the basic criteria of the QS scheme or a comparable recognized quality assurance system or in selected animal welfare criteria. In this case, eligibility of delivery will only be restored once the certification body has been provided with evidence that the necessary corrective actions have been implemented and labeled as resolved in the ITW database.

- b) a contractual penalty may be imposed by the operating company at its reasonable discretion. The amount of the contractual penalty shall be based on the animal welfare payment or the recommended price surcharge that the livestock owner has received for implementing the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl. The contractual penalty shall be calculated on the basis of the period that has passed since the last audit (programme audit, stock check if applicable), unless the livestock owner can prove that the requirements have been implemented at a later date (reversal of the burden of proof). When determining the contractual penalty, the operating company assumes that the livestock owner has received the animal welfare payment specified in the Initiative Tierwohl or the price surcharge recommended in the Initiative Tierwohl. The livestock owner can appeal against the contractual penalty and prove that he has received a deviating price surcharge.
- c) the livestock owner may be temporarily or permanently excluded from further participation in the Initiative Tierwohl by the operating company. With the temporary or permanent exclusion, its eligibility of delivery in the ITW and its claims arising from its participation shall lapse.
- d) The operating company reserves the right to file criminal charges in particularly serious cases.

The operating company and the provider of the standard for certified quality assurance (QS scheme and comparable quality assurance systems recognized by the operating company) will exchange information relevant to achieving the objectives of this initiative. This shall apply in particular to information on animal welfare violations, which have been ascertained on the premises of the participating livestock owners.

2.7 Critical events

The livestock owner is obliged to notify without delay the coordinator, the operating company and, insofar as there is a legal obligation, the competent government agencies, of critical incidents, which are of significance for the Initiative Tierwohl. Critical incidents are situations which represent or could lead to a danger to people, animals, the environment, property or the Initiative Tierwohl as a whole.

These include in particular

- a) all discrepancies with the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl if these discrepancies could endanger animal welfare and Animal health.
- b) all judicial enquiries under criminal law or regulatory law initiated against the livestock owner, if these proceedings are related directly or indirectly to the securing or the implementation of the relevant provisions of animal welfare legislation
- c) all media research relating to the location, critical media reports and public protests that directly or indirectly concern animal welfare or animal welfare issues.

2.8 Requirements

Upon registration, livestock owners undertake to implement all requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl at all registered locations (⇒ definition) from the implementation date specified during registration in the event of admission. Details of the requirements are described in the Manual Agriculture Catalog of criteria Pig production, piglet rearing and sow production and in the respective explanatory notes to the catalog of criteria in the current version. The documents are published on the ITW website at www.initiative-tierwohl.de.

If livestock owners cannot fully demonstrate implementation of the requirements in the audits, they lose their admission in the Initiative Tierwohl. A new programme audit must be carried out for renewed admission for the Initiative Tierwohl.

Note: The Conditions of participation for pigs is written in German and translated into English. In case of discrepancies between the translation and the German version, the German original is valid.

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