

## Information for pig farming

December 19, 2024

### Initiative Tierwohl from 2025

The busy phase of preparations for the ITW from 2025 is in full progress. You can now find the revised programme manual (catalog of criteria, explanatory notes, conditions of participation and inspection system) on our website in the [download area](#). Answers to many questions about the new conditions are summarized in a questionnaire.

**Important to know:** This is not a new programme phase, but a revision of the criteria and conditions of participation. This means that companies that are already participating **do not** have to **register again** in order to continue participating. If the changes to the requirements are not feasible for companies already participating, participation in the ITW can be terminated at any time with 3 months to the end of the month .

*Note: It is still mandatory to carry out a final programme audit at the earliest 3 months before the end of participation*

### Short and sweet: Important changes at a glance:

Revision of the criteria: The pig production criteria are adapted to the requirements of the animal husbandry label of the German government at the "Stall plus Platz" level. In the requirements for sow production, the "piglet castration" criterion is added as a result of the possibility for foreign companies to participate. There is no revision of the criteria for piglet rearing.

Bonus scheme for pig production: The price recommendations for pig production will be increased in line with the additional requirements. From **April 1, 2025**, a bonus scheme for pig production will be introduced. A higher recommended price per fattening pig will apply for companies that exclusively purchase ITW piglets.

Continuation of the piglet fund: The piglet fund for piglet production will be continued until **December 31, 2026**. From 2027, piglet production is to be transferred to the market solution. The animal welfare payment for piglet production will be further differentiated from 2025 in order to expand Identity.

Participation of foreign companies: From 2025, foreign pig farming companies will also be able to participate in the ITW.

### Participants and animal welfare payment/animal welfare price surcharge



Identity for pork - the targeted labelling of ITW meat throughout the chain for the final consumer - is to be further promoted from 2025: In pig production, ITW fatteners will continue to receive a price surcharge on the market price from the participating abattoir for compliance with animal welfare criteria.

Our tip: **Coordinate the supply of ITW fattening pigs with your marketers, abattoirs or livestock trading companies at an early stage.**

In addition, a bonus scheme for pig production will be introduced on April 1, 2025. This provides for a higher recommended price for companies that exclusively purchase ITW piglets. The ITW bodies have agreed on the following price recommendations:



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



Sow production and piglet rearing continue to form a unit as **piglet production**. The two production scopes must still be registered separately. As a piglet rearer, you may only purchase piglets from ITW-eligible sow productions.

Piglet rearing farmers receive an animal welfare payment from a conversion fund managed by the operating company ("piglet fund") for implementing the ITW requirements in piglet production. This is to be continued until **December 31, 2026**. From 2027, piglet production is also to be financed via the market (similar to pig production).

A further distinction is made between two groups in piglet rearing:

- **Original piglet rearers:** Piglet rearers who have been participating in the ITW since the start of the 3rd programme phase or longer.
- **Identity piglet rearers:** Piglet rearers who have participated in the ITW since November 2022 and already comply with the "Marketing to ITW fatteners" criterion and are registering to participate again or piglet rearers who are registering to participate for the first time.

The already familiar bonus scheme for piglet production is to be further differentiated from 2025 in order to expand Identity:

For piglets marketed to ITW fatteners, all participating piglet rearing farmers will receive **€4.50** from January 1, 2025. For piglets sold to non-ITW-fattener, original piglet rearers receive **€2.50 per piglet** and **identity piglet rearers do not receive any** animal welfare payment.



Sow productions receive a price surcharge on the market price from the piglet rearing company taking delivery. The ITW bodies have agreed on a recommendation of **€ 1.80 per weaned piglet**. The amount is reviewed regularly and adjusted if necessary.



## Requirements for livestock owners

Pig production: As part of the introduction of the animal husbandry label of the German government, the criteria for pig production will be adapted to the "Stall plus Platz" level of the animal husbandry label of the German Government from January 2025. Accordingly, **12.5% instead of 10% more space** must be complied with from January 2025. In addition, three of a list of nine **criteria for crate structuring** must be implemented in each crate. All other criteria (roughage, drinking water check, etc.) remain unchanged. Further details on the criteria can be found in the catalog of criteria and explanatory notes published on our [website](#).

**Important: The new criteria will be implemented gradually: They must be implemented for all animals that are newly housed from January 2025. The new criteria will be checked on companies from January if they are already being implemented. The criteria must then be complied with for all animals by April 1, 2025 at the latest.**

Piglet production: There are **no changes** to the requirements for piglet rearing. The "piglet castration" criterion has been added for sow production. This ensures that both German and foreign companies only carry out surgical piglet castration under effective pain elimination (total anaesthesia). This criterion will be checked at the end of the audit from January 2025.

## Checks on the company



No changes will be made to the inspection system. After the first programme audit at the start, two ITW audits are carried out per calendar year: one programme audit and one stock check, so that the intensive monitoring of animal welfare companies is maintained. If the first programme audit takes place in the second half of a calendar year, a stock check will no longer be carried out in this calendar year - from the next calendar year, the twice-yearly auditing of the companies will start.

A corrective action (C evaluation) can be agreed for all basic criteria **and selected animal welfare criteria** in the event of slight nonconformities. If a corrective action is agreed, the company is blocked in the database until the corrective actions have been implemented and released and is not entitled to receive an animal welfare payment or an animal welfare price surcharge.

## Registration of new companies

Due to the introduction of unlimited terms, **companies already participating** do not need to register again. If the new conditions are not feasible for the companies, each company can terminate the programme at any time with 3 months' notice to the end of the month. In this case, a final programme audit must be carried out in the last 3 months before the end of participation.

The budget of piglet rearing farms already participating will be automatically extended until the end of 2026 without the need for a new budget review.

**New pig production** can register at any time. **The implementation date can be freely chosen and determines the date from which the livestock owner implements all requirements. If a livestock owner starts before 1 April 2025, the regulations listed above for implementing the new requirements will still apply.**



**New sow production** can register at any time. For new registrations from January 1, 2025, the new criteria must be complied with from the individually selected implementation date.

**New piglet rearing farms** can only register in defined registration phases, as a budget check is required to reserve the budget in the Piglet Fund.

