



# Supplying food waste for feeding to pigs

While recycling food waste from your organisation can be environmentally friendly, you could be breaking the law.

Under the **Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005**, it is illegal to feed untreated meat waste to pigs. It is also illegal to feed pigs food which has come into contact with untreated meat. If you supply untreated food waste to any individual, you must have reasonable grounds to believe that they will be legally compliant if they feed it to pigs.

Feeding untreated meat waste to pigs could introduce serious animal diseases costing billions of dollars to New Zealand's economy. Our layered biosecurity system works to prevent the introduction of diseases, and we have strict rules that control the importation of meat.

Untreated meat waste presents a risk for spreading potentially serious exotic diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and African swine fever (ASF). Feeding this to pigs can spread these diseases. Untreated meat waste being fed to pigs is believed to be the cause the 2001 FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom.

## What is “meat”?

Any material taken or derived from an animal is defined as meat by the regulations.

This excludes eggs and egg products, milk and milk products, and rendered material (such as tallow, blood meal, meat and bone meal) – these don't need to be heat treated before being fed to pigs.

## Dispose of your food waste responsibly

**Discard** – If you want to recycle your food waste, first discard all food containing meat or any food that has come into contact with meat.


**Treat** – Untreated food waste or “pig swill” not discarded must be treated before being fed to pigs. Treat it by heating it to 100°C for an hour before feeding to pigs. It should be stirred frequently while heating and the temperature maintained at boiling point. This will ensure your food waste is compliant and any disease-causing bacteria and viruses are destroyed.

This treatment requirement applies to all food waste from any source that contains raw or cooked meat and food waste that has come into contact with raw or cooked meat.

**Assurance** – If you do not treat food waste that contains meat or has come into contact with meat before supplying this to someone, then you must have reasonable grounds to believe that they will treat it before feeding it to pigs.

It is recommended that you obtain written assurance from the person you supply the food waste to that it will be treated according to the rules. Having a written assurance ensures you are able to meet your responsibilities under the regulations.

The assurance could include the food waste recipient consenting for you to send their contact details to Biosecurity New Zealand. This enables Biosecurity New Zealand to stay in touch with all parties involved in the food waste supply chain.



**There are large fines for anyone breaking the Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005. Individuals who fail to comply could receive a fine of up to \$5000 and corporations could be fined up to \$15,000.**

For more information go to  
[biosecurity.govt.nz/foodwaste](https://biosecurity.govt.nz/foodwaste)

Or email  
[foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz)