

A newsletter for pork producers



PigBytes

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Definition for Intensive and Extensive agriculture; what's your view?

Jayce Morgan

Planning legislation in NSW is currently under review, and this includes proposed changes to the definitions for intensive and extensive agriculture. Public consultation on the draft changes is currently open, and as a pig producer you may want to have your say.

The definition for intensive agriculture in NSW (and Victoria) previously referenced the source of feed, as the distinguishing feature. This was debated in one or more court cases (Victoria) as to whether it was the total amount of dry matter imported or the amount of nutrients within the feed.

In an attempt to avoid this controversy, the proposed definition makes no reference to source of feed.

Keep in mind, these definitions relate to planning approvals, and do not impact on product marketing or branding.

New definition drafts:

Intensive livestock agriculture (draft)

Intensive livestock agriculture means the keeping or breeding, for commercial purposes, of cattle, poultry, pigs, goats, sheep, horses or other livestock and includes any of the following:

- a) *Dairies (restricted)*
- b) *Feedlots*

- c) *Pig farms*
- d) *Poultry farms, but does not include extensive agriculture, aquaculture or the operation of facilities for drought or similar emergency relief.*

Extensive Agriculture (draft)

Extensive agriculture means any of the following:

- a) *The production of crops or fodder (including irrigated pasture and fodder crops) for commercial purposes,*
- b) *The grazing of livestock for commercial purposes, where the animals eat plants growing on the land,*
- c) *Bee keeping,*
- d) *A dairy (pasture-based), where the animals eat plants growing on the land,*
- e) *Supplementary and emergency feeding, and temporary penning or housing of animals for weaning, dipping or related purposes, that is incidental to the grazing of livestock or a dairy (pasture-based)*

a)

From a planning perspective pigs (and poultry) are considered intensive for several reasons.

Complaints about odour or noise do not stop just because pigs are outside. Pigs like to dig, they need wallows, they need formulated feed for good quality carcasses, they need daily care and attention, they need shelter from the elements and they can be noisy.

Management of the pigs determines how the pigs cope with their environment, and how the environment fares under pigs; and all farms are different.

Development applications are assessed on the risk to the environment in terms of pollution and environmental degradation; and the mitigation strategies proposed to alleviate these risks.

The period for submissions to the Department of Planning and Environment on changes to the legislation (Primary Production and Rural Development State Environmental Planning Policy and planning reforms) has been extended until

January 15th 2018. If you have ideas about the definitions please make a submission if you have not done so already.

[Draft Primary Production and Rural Development State Environmental Planning Policy and planning reforms](#)

NSW Porcine Brucellosis Herd Accreditation Program

Amanda Black

There is a new NSW Porcine Brucellosis Herd Accreditation Program (the Program).

The purpose of the Program is to reduce red tape and facilitate interstate pig movements.

The Program provides a *Brucella suis* biosecurity risk management option for NSW pig producers.

The guidelines and conditions set the minimum standards of the Program.

Background

Brucellosis is a disease caused by infection with a type of bacteria (*Brucella*). *Brucella suis* usually infects pigs and causes the disease porcine brucellosis. *Brucella suis* infection is widespread in Queensland's feral pig population and it has also been detected in the feral pig population in NSW. *Brucella suis* can be transmitted to people and other animals, including dogs.

Note: brucellosis (*Brucella suis*) is a notifiable disease under NSW legislation.

Transmission

The most likely method of entry of *Brucella suis* infection into a domestic pig herd is through direct or indirect contact with feral pigs. Good biosecurity is important to limit contact between feral and domestic pigs and includes building pig-proof perimeter fences.

Brucella suis is generally transmitted to pigs after ingestion of contaminated reproductive material – usually birth and/or abortion products and uterine discharges. Infection can also spread during natural mating or artificial insemination with infected semen. *Brucella suis* can circulate in the bloodstream of infected pigs for up to 90 days. Some pigs recover from infection, while others remain permanently infected. Boars that develop infections of the reproductive tract seldom recover.

Pigs can also become infected with *Brucella suis* after eating contaminated feed, water, manure, wool, and hay. *Brucella suis* can also be spread on contaminated equipment and clothing. Under ideal conditions of low temperature, high humidity and

no sunlight, *Brucella suis* can survive for several months in the environment.

Feral pigs are the usual source of infection for people, particularly when there has been contact through breaks in the skin with the tissues and body fluids of an infected pig e.g. blood, urine, uterine discharges and aborted fetuses.

What are the symptoms in people?

Human brucellosis typically starts with a flu-like illness. This may include fever, headache, weakness, drenching sweats, chills, weight loss, joint and muscle pain, and generalised aches. Inflammation of the liver and spleen, and gastrointestinal or respiratory symptoms may also occur. In males, the testicles may become inflamed. Rarely, the valves inside the heart may become infected and this can be fatal.

The symptoms usually start 5-60 days after a person has been infected. Infection typically lasts for days or months, but can occasionally last for more than a year and may recur. Disease may be mild and some people get no symptoms of infection.

Pregnant women and their babies are at risk of developing severe disease. If left untreated, infection may cause birth defects, spontaneous abortion or foetal death.

Call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 if you have concerns about human brucellosis.

How do I recognise *Brucella suis* infection in my pig herd?

Signs that a pig herd has become infected with *Brucella suis* are mainly those of reproductive failure – abortions, returns-to-service after mating and the birth of weak or stillborn piglets. Some sows may develop an infection of the uterus and show a vaginal discharge. Infected boars may develop swollen, inflamed testicles. Pigs may become lame with swollen joints and/or develop signs of incoordination and hind leg paralysis.

Further information

About: [NSW Porcine Brucellosis Herd Accreditation Program](#)

Primefact 1001: [Brucellosis \(*Brucella suis*\) in pigs](#)

Factsheet: [Brucellosis](#)

Primefact 450: [Brucellosis \(*Brucella suis*\) in dogs](#)

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NSW Young Farmer Business Program

Alexandra Hicks

We are currently running 'Getting Started: Bank Ready' workshops across the state.

These sessions are hosted by a local banker and they discuss some of the ways to get started in farming; buying, leasing, share farming, contracting, livestock purchases.

This is really designed for young people that are yet to access any finance.

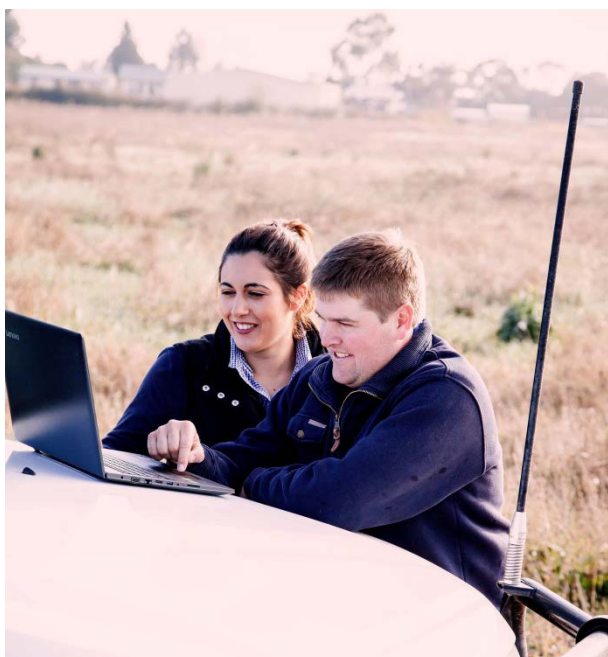
This workshop will form part of a series; next will be Business Ready, then Profit Ready.

The key to a successful Bank Ready workshop has been connecting with a local young farmer who acts as a champion for us!

We then promote the event online through social media including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

If you are in contact with a young farmer who is eager to bring this workshop to their area, we would love to talk further!

Figure 1: NSW Young Farmer Business Program is working to assist young farmers get started.



We need 15 young farmers for the workshop to go ahead. We are working from the grassroots level – we go where the young farmers invite us.

Contact: Alexandra Hicks phone 0419 110 714

Email: alex.hicks@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Website: [Young Farmer Business Program](#)

Rural Resilience Program

Jayce Morgan

NSW DPI has a [Rural Resilience Program](#) to provide support for rural industries when times are tough.

The pork industry is facing tough times at the moment and expected pork price increases at Christmas have not materialised for many.

If you are struggling to cope mentally or financially please contact a [Rural Support Worker](#) for help and guidance to connect with available services.

If you want to talk about your pigs you can contact Jayce Morgan 0428 416 518

We all hope things get better for 2018.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

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