


Assessment of Pig Farms and Clinical Exam of Pigs

1. Farm

Before arrival		
	Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with appropriate down time - Proximity of neighbouring farms
On arrival		
LOOK	Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm perimeter and fencing - Feed and stock truck access - Biosecurity signs/notices - Clothing arrangements - Visitors book
LOOK	Medications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fridge at 2-8°C - Medications in date, listed on Approved Medications List (AML) and labelled appropriately - Room temperature medications stored hygienically and safely - Appropriate needle and syringe disposal
		
LOOK	External buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rodent control methods in place, access limited - Ventilation systems external surfaces (blocked, birds nesting, excessively dirty) - Silos hygienic, easy access for trucks - Any building biosecurity (foot baths)

2. Shed

Examine the farm, checking each building externally as above.

Below is a suggested flow for the farm walk, to minimise the risk of spreading disease

Farrowing area

Sow and gilt breeding area

AI storage area

Gestation area

Nursery

Grower/Finisher



Hospital pens










Animal entry/loading areas

Dead animal disposal

Clothing changed and biosecurity observed before visiting:

Isolation

Before disturbing pigs			
LOOK	Lying pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lying when all others standing (unwell) - Standing when all others lying (oestrus) - Crowding feeders or drinkers - Pigs on their own away from others - Pigs very dirty (hot) - Huddling and stacking (cold) 	
			
	Dirty (hot)	Good temperature	Huddled (cold)
LISTEN	Noises from pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any coughing or sneezing - Amount of vocalisations (lots of fighting) 	
SMELL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal pig smell present (Swine dysentery and Swine fever can be malodourous) 	
Enter pen and walk through pigs			
LOOK	Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As pigs are disturbed look for any lameness or difficulty rising. Can be stiff initially but should be walking normally there after 	
LOOK	Urination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Often pigs will urinate after rising. Note colour of urine and posture of pig. 	
LISTEN	Noises from pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any coughing or sneezing 	
SMELL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal pig smell present (Swine dysentery or Swine fever) 	
LOOK TASTE	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pigs using drinkers provided - Appropriate height of drinkers - Drinkers easily accessible (can't be pushed out of reach) - Number of drinkers - Dirty or contaminated drinkers - Water flow too high, normal or poor - Drinkers leaking - Water colour acceptable - Palatable water 	
			
	Drinker too high	Drinker pushed out of reach	Not enough drinkers

					
No flow		Poor flow		Excessive flow	
LOOK	Feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeders free from sharp edges, holes causing wastage - Appropriate height or style of feeders - Feeders easily accessible (not high on concrete platform) - Feeder space per pig appropriate - Dirty or contaminated feed (rat, bird or pig faeces, mouldy, maggots) - Feed being left behind (pigs off feed or excess provided) - Feed not excessively dusty 			
					
Holes in feeders		Excessive feed		Contaminated feed	
LOOK	Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Space available and stocking density - % dry area in straw based systems - Depth and quality of straw - Any sharp edges, eroded concrete, rough edges - Slat width appropriate for size of pigs, broken slats - Any steps excessively high or steep slopes 			
LOOK	Walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of material, any sharp edges 			
					
Stocking density		Sharp edges		High steps	

FEEL LOOK MEASURE	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temperature appropriate for age of pigs - Cooling systems working and being used - Observe dust levels - Smell or measure ammonia levels - Feel for drafts or measure with smoker - Ventilation system operating appropriately - Condition of vents allowing flow - Lighting appropriate and working
----------------------------------	-----	---



Cooling systems



Dust levels



Condition of vents

LOOK	Faeces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check ground and walls for consistency and colour of faeces - Pattern of defecation appropriate (will dung where cold and wet)
-------------	--------	---



Normal faeces



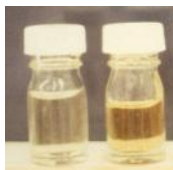
Loose faeces



Diarrhoea

Constipation	Malaena	Check walls for diarrhoea

LOOK	Urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check ground and watch for active urination especially after rising
-------------	-------	---



Normal



Smokey



Bloody

LOOK	Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sex, age, class, size - Any dead in pens - BCS - Breathing, any with heave line - Lameness - Neurological signs - Scratching - Pigs behaviour to one another (fighting, mounting)
-------------	-------	--



BCS 1



BCS 3



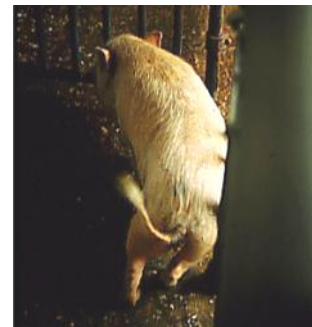
BCS 5



Heave line



Lameness



Scratching

INTERPRET	Stockmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do stock people rub, scratch and pat pigs - Do pigs exhibit signs of fear, apprehensive to approach, easily startled - Do pigs crowd around people and seek interactions
------------------	--------------	--



Stock people






Pigs keen to interact



Pigs not fearful

3. Pig

EXAMINE	Pig	<p>Young pigs may be picked up and will generally settle (refer to ANS101/VET242 Catching and Restraint of the Pig handout)</p> <p>Older pigs should be examined in a crate or restrain using a snare</p> <p>Follow a set procedure each time you examine a pig</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make contact vocally and physically - Assess BCS and breathing - Check head for discharges from eyes, nose, mouth - Check ears for haematomas, crusting etc - Take rectal temp (normal is 39°C) - Examine the external genitalia and mucosa colour - Palpate lumbar muscles - Palpate abdomen if possible - Examine mammary glands - Look for abnormalities to abdomen and chest - Palpate legs, top to bottom, hindlimbs then forelimbs - Examining feet may require additional restraint, if lying down check feet first before pig rises - Collect samples as required
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ocular discharge</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Aural crusting</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Nasal discharge</p> </div> </div>		
LOOK	Individual pigs with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs of vices - Skin changes, wounds or swellings - Hernias - Overgrown toes - Kinked back - Swollen abdomen - Muscle changes - Prolapses - Discharges - Vulval changes (swelling, necrosis) - Standing for oestrous

- Orchitis
- Abortions, mummified piglets, stillborns



Vices: Ear biting/sucking



Vulva biting



Tail biting



Skin: Patches (diamonds)



Necrosis



Erosion



Scaly skin



Greasy pig



Cyanosis (blue tinge)



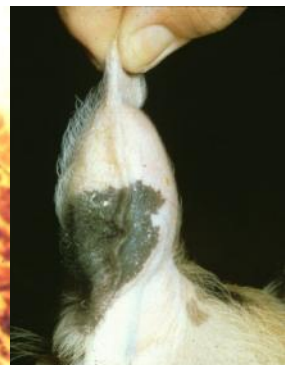
Bushfoot



Swollen joint



Abscess



Haematoma



Scrotal hernia



Acquired hernia



Umbilical hernia



Overgrown nails



Kinked back



Swollen abdomen



Muscle changes



Rectal or vaginal prolapses



Vulval swelling



Abortion



Mummified piglets



Stillborn piglet