

Guidance on sampling

- Randomly select 4-5 pens of dry sows.
- Avoid choosing hospital pens or pens in which pigs have been newly mixed (within 1 week) or treated (as a group).

Individual measures: For units with:

- Less than 20 dry sows - assess all dry sows;
- 20 - 60 dry sows - assess 20 dry sows;
- More than 60 dry sows - assess 1/3 of total dry sow number (up to a maximum of 50 sows).

Randomly assess individual pigs from across each of the selected pens. If there are fewer than 4 pens, alter the sampling strategy accordingly to achieve the total number of sows required.

3 or more sows are to be assessed jointly with the stockperson (record assessor’s score only).

Pen measures: Assess all the sows in the pen.

Joint assessment between the assessor and the producer is to be carried out on at least one pen.

Enrichment use	Pen measure
<p>Observation: Observe and record oral behaviour of sitting and standing pigs in the pen (ignore lying pigs). Assess quickly to avoid double counting.</p> <p>Record, the number of sitting and standing pigs:</p>	
<p>1. Using enrichment Investigating a suitable substrate or object provided for enrichment.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
<p>2. Manipulating other Number of pigs manipulating other pigs, pen equipment/floor/muck.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
<p>3. Stone chewing Manipulating a stone or stones with the snout or mouth – often audible.</p>	

Tail docking

Pen measure

Observation: Look at the animals from the side or behind.

Record, if the animals are:

Undocked:

None of the tail is docked.



Short docked:

>50% of the tail is docked.



Long docked:

< 50% of the tail is docked.



Note if there are mixed tail lengths within the pen i.e. long docked/ short docked and docked / un docked.

Ear/ Flank biting

Pen measure

Observation: Assess all animals in the pen.

Record: If **ear biting** lesions are present.



Observation: Assess all animals in the pen.

Record: If **flank biting** lesions are present.



Typical fight or clambering / mounting lesions show parallel lines, while lesions from flank biting are generally round.

Nose ringing**Pen measure**

Observation: Observe and record if the animals are nose ringed or not.

Pigs needing further care**Pen / Herd measure****Observation:**

Observe all the pigs in the herd, including those in hospital pens, to assess and record the number of sick or injured pigs that would benefit from further intervention.

Further interventions include further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.

This could include pigs who are sick, injured or lame and are unable to compete for resources, being bullied/tail bitten or would benefit from access to more comfortable bedding and space (to rest) than is available in that pen.

Do not include sick or injured pigs that are already receiving suitable care.

Record: Number of pigs seen that would benefit from further treatment, hospitalisation or culling.

When identifying pigs requiring further care, please record reasons.

**Hospital Pens****Pen measure**

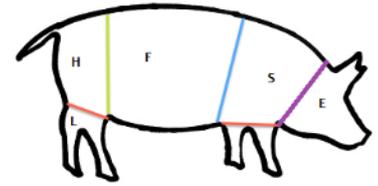
Observation: Look at all sows in the hospital pens.

Record: the number of sows in the hospital pens according to reason for hospitalisation: Lameness; Thin sows; Body Wounds; Skin Conditions; Shoulder lesions; Vulva lesions; Leg swellings; Other (please specify details, e.g. severe traumatic injuries, and number of pigs affected).

Body marks**Individual measure**

Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.

Body regions: If >25% with marks, identify any noticeable pattern in the pen: Shoulder (S); Hindquarters (H); Legs (L); Flank (F); Ears and Head (E); General, if there is no obvious pattern (G).



Deep tissue injury may also need to be recorded under 'Pigs needing further care'.

Record if too dirty to assess.

Scoring:**0 none/minimal**

No lesions or less than mild lesions described below.

**1 mild**

- A linear lesion longer than 10cm;
- 3 or more 3cm lesions;
- Circular area larger than 1cm diameter but less than 5cm diameter (grazed/broken skin, fresh wound (bleeding) and healing lesions (scabs));
- Scar tissue is not included.

**2 severe**

- Circular lesion or area of lesions > or equal to 5cm diameter;
- lesion that extends into the deeper layers of the skin;
- lesions that cover a large percentage (>25% of the skin).



Shoulder lesions	Individual measure
<p>Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only for shoulder lesions. Typical should lesions are round rather than scrape marks.</p>	
<p>Scoring: 0 None No skin damage on the shoulder.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>	
<p>1 Mild Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder.</p>	
<p>2 Severe Grazed or broken skin or swelling on the shoulder. Deep tissue injury – these may also be recorded under ‘pigs needing further care’.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="81 1014 408 1048"> <p>Record is to dirty to assess.</p> </div>  </div>	
Vulva lesions	Individual measure
<p>Observation: Visually assess the vulva region.</p>	
<p>Scoring: 0 None No damage to the vulva</p>	
<p>1 Mild Recent damage to the vulva including fresh or scabbed bite wounds but not including old scarring</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  </div>	
<p>2 Severe Vulva lesion >3cm length or 1cm diameter . Deep tissue injury – these may also need to be recorded under ‘Pigs needing further care’.</p>	

Manure on the body

Individual measure

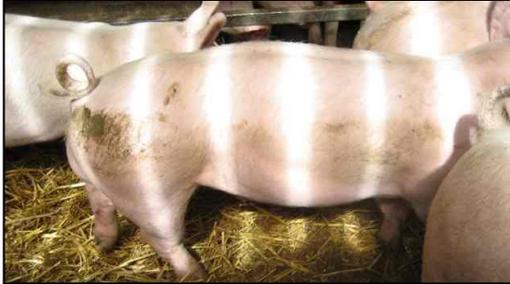
Observation:

Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only.

Scoring:

0 Clean

<20% body is soiled.



1 Dirty

≥ 20% and < 50% of the body is soiled.



2 Very dirty

≥ 50% of the body is soiled.



Observation:

Stand near the animal and visually assess the front and hind limbs, on one side only, for leg swellings .

Scoring:

0 None = No evidence of swelling;



1 Small = Swelling present up to 5cm in diameter (walnut-sized);



2 Large = Swelling present larger than 5cm diameter (walnut-sized) or any swelling that is eroded.



Skin conditions**Individual measure**

Observation: Stand near the animal and visually assess one side only. This can be done from outside the pen if visibility is adequate. Assess the total amount of the body affected in relation to the rest of the body.

Scoring:

- 0 None** = No evidence of skin inflammation or discoloration;
1 Mild = More than zero but less than 10% of the skin is inflamed, discoloured or spotted;
2 Severe = More than 10% of the skin has an abnormal colour or texture.



Record if too dirty to assess.

Lameness**Individual measure**

Observation: Make the individual pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise).
Ensure the sample is not just formed of pigs already standing.

Record: Number of lame pigs

When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:

Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes;

And / Or

Walking with a shortened stride with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters (may still be able to trot and gallop);

And / Or

severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under 'Pigs needing further care'.

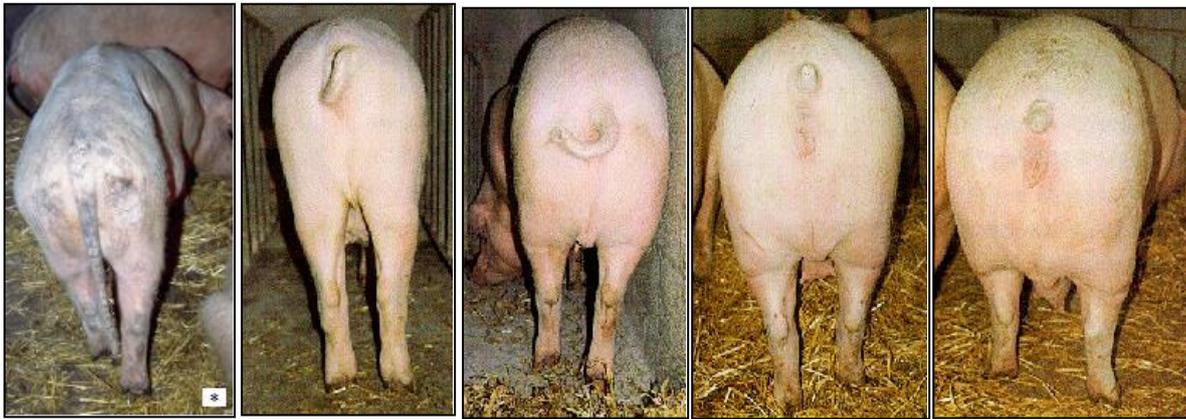
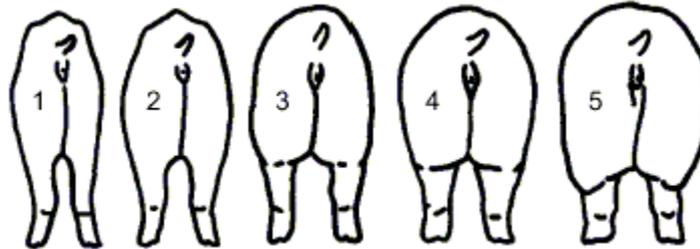
Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.

Body condition**Individual measure**

Observation: Visually assess from the side and behind. Manual assessment can help distinguish borderline scores.

Record:

- Thin** = **Score 1 or 2:** Ribs, backbone, 'H' bones and 'pin' bones obvious (or easily detected with pressure);
- Moderate** = **Score 3:** Ribs, backbone, 'H' bones and 'pin' bones barely visible (or barely felt with firm pressure);
- Fat** = **Score 4 or 5:** Ribs, backbone, 'H' bones and 'pin' bones cannot be seen (or felt even when pressure is applied) or fats deposits are clearly visible.



(DEFRA guidance)

Mortality**Records**

Record: Percentage mortality (died but not actively culled) on farm in the last 12 months.
Percentage culls in the last 12 months.
Record the predominant cause of mortality.