



Manure management

Collection and removal of manure

Removing manure from outdoor pig fields helps prevent excess nutrients from building up in the same place year after year. Collecting and removing manure from fields reduces the risk of ammonia and nitrous oxide emissions, nutrient and faecal indicator organisms (FIO) runoff, and long-term soil imbalance.

Composting manure turns raw manure into a more stable, nutrient-balanced product before it is exported/applied. This reduces ammonia loss to the air and lowers the risk of nitrate or phosphate runoff into watercourses.

Benefits: Muck-for-straw agreements could provide straw for pig huts, reduce NVZ compliance risks, support good soil structure and overall land condition for future rotations and support future market requirements. Composting manure helps with storage and export.

Barriers: Equipment/machinery needed to collect and export manure; cost and labour requirements; dependence on neighbours' cropping cycle.

Landlord involvement needed: Yes.

Pig welfare: No direct welfare impact.

Benefit areas

-  Water quality
-  Air quality
-  Soil quality
-  Climate



© Natural England / Scarlet Smith

Practical Tips

- Plan with neighbours to match cropping needs, agree responsibilities early and create a manure management plan.
- Comply with NVZ regulations for the storage and spreading of manure.
- Keep export records.
- Utilise muck-for-straw agreements.
- Plan how manure spills will be managed.

Use our simple Excel tool and guidance manual to assess the economic impact of introducing some of these options on your outdoor pig unit.

www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk/csf/outdoorpigs