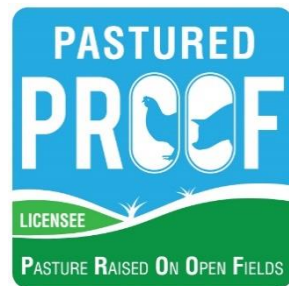


The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.



PIGS
STANDARD
2017

Version: 1.5

Introduction

The PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields certification program was developed to certify farms that adhere to these standards. The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

This Standard covers the on farm management of **pigs**.

Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard. These may include but are not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Pigs or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists.
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.
- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual Pork Production.

Compliance with all such regulatory and code of practice requirements is outside the scope of these standards however, an * will indicate when a particular standard aligns with one that is set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs.

Pastured Definition

All pigs are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All pigs must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather, short term confinement for veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Pigs are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system.

Core Values

1. **All pigs are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All pigs are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **All pigs are able to interact with the herd and to carry out natural behaviours**
4. **Pigs will not be kept in cages, crates or stalls**
5. **Densely confined production systems and feedlotting are not permitted**
6. **All pigs will be protected from predation**
7. **All pigs will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements**
8. **All pigs are inspected daily**

Guide to using the PROOF Poultry Standard

- The broad objectives of the standard are described at the beginning of each section.
- Each requirement of the standard is numbered and must be complied with.
- Where information is presented inside a textbox, its purpose is to provide additional explanatory information.
- A guide to records that must be kept to demonstrate compliance with the standard will be indicated at the end of each section.

1. All pigs are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks

Range Management

Objective: This standard requires that all pigs have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is monitored to ensure that forage is always available for the animals in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards.

- 1.1. A farm map will be provided to PROOF. The map may be hand drawn or a satellite image.
The map must include the following:
 - 1.1.1. The Lot number and Deposited Plan number for the property being certified;
 - 1.1.2. The Property Identification Code (PIC);
 - 1.1.3. Paddock layout and size of each paddock; and
 - 1.1.4. The location of building on the land.
- 1.2. Paddocks must be actively managed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent heavily degraded, muddy and excessively barren ground;
 - 1.2.2. Minimize the build-up of manure;
 - 1.2.3. Encourage the pigs to make use of the range area with:
 - 1.2.3.1. Well drained, shade and shelter areas that are distributed around the range area for pigs to rest outdoors without having to crowd together;
 - 1.2.3.2. Easy access to feed and water.
 - 1.2.4. Maintain groundcover in the range area so that it does not fall below 40%.
- 1.3. Pigs will have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances of extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods that are beyond the control of the operator. At such times, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided. Any occasion or time

period that forage is unavailable, and it is necessary to supply supplemental fodder, will be recorded in the Farm Diary.

- 1.4. The paddocks must be rotated periodically to allow the range area to recover from use.
- 1.5. The area immediately surrounding the outside of pig housing must be kept clean and tidy and not offer shelter to vermin or wild birds.
- 1.6. Wallows shall be provided for all pigs unless state regulations prevent their use, in which case, misting or sprinkler systems need to be installed to cool the pigs during hot weather.
- 1.7. Wallows shall be frequently emptied and remediated to avoid heavy contamination and to minimize land degradation.
- 1.8. A written Paddock Management Plan must be in place that identifies how paddocks will be rotated and what remedial action will be taken to correct bare areas of ground, recovery of vegetation and manure build-up. This plan will include:
 - 1.8.1. Paddock rotations;
 - 1.8.2. Pasture restoration;
 - 1.8.3. Movement of mobile housing;
 - 1.8.4. Manure management;
 - 1.8.5. Management of muddy and overused areas.
- 1.9. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that are relocated to fresh ground and the resting, or renovation, of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage to the area. Fixed sheds are not encouraged but are acceptable if adequate paddock rotations can be demonstrated and compacted, bare areas in the immediate vicinity of the shed are managed to ensure that muddy conditions and build up of manure does not occur.

Records to be kept

- Paddock Management Plan
- Farm Map
- Farm Diary

2. All pigs are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing

Objective: That pigs always have access to pasture and/or forage in an environment that encourages them to make purposeful use of the range area. Stocking densities will play an important role in managing and maintaining pasture availability.

Stocking Rates

2.1 Stocking rates for the breeder herd must not exceed the following in the area designated for occupation by each class of pig:

- 2.1.1 20 Dry Sows per hectare*
- 2.1.2 10 Lactating Sows per hectare*
- 2.2 Stocking rates for grower pigs must not exceed 80 pigs per hectare and shall be calculated over the production cycle of the pigs.
- 2.3 Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock or area designated for occupation and class of pig. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddocks and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that pigs do graze the allocated areas.

Production cycle means: from weaning or delivery on farm until slaughter.

Grower pigs will include all classes of growing pigs (weaner, porker, baconer).

Breeder herd will include all sows, boars and replacement gilts.

The Herd

Replacement Stock

- 2.1. Purchased replacement breeder stock must be accompanied by a vendor declaration that states the source of the pigs, age of the pigs and vaccination history.
- 2.2. All breeding stock sourced off farm shall be quarantined for a period of at least 30 days and appropriately vaccinated and treated before introduction to the herd. These animals must be permanently identified, recorded and shall not be sold under the PROOF License.
- 2.3. Weaner pigs destined to be grown out for slaughter by the certified operator may be purchased up to a maximum age of 10 weeks. Where the supplier of the weaner pigs is not a PROOF Licensee, the supplier must be able to supply a vendor declaration stating;
 - 2.3.1. the weaners were born and raised in outdoor conditions;
 - 2.3.2. that the weaners were born to sows that were not restrained in sow stalls or farrowing crates; and
 - 2.3.3. compliance with 2.3 and 2.6 of this standard.
- 2.4. Replacement stock, weaners and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF licensed producer and sold under the PROOF Trademark License.

Surgical Procedures

- 2.5. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 2.5.1. Tail docking;
 - 2.5.2. Teeth clipping;
 - 2.5.3. Nose ringing.

- 2.6. Alternatives to surgical castration are encouraged such as immuno castration, separation by sex, exclusion from contact with the breeder herd and rapid growth to market weight. If castration is to be performed, it must be carried out before the age of 21 days*.

Records to be kept

- Sales and purchases of pigs
- Vendor declarations
- Animal treatment records
- Farm Diary

3. All pigs are able to interact with their herd and to carry out natural behaviours

- 3.1 No pig shall be kept or confined on its own unless necessary for short term medical treatment.
- 3.2. The range area must provide conditions that allow the following behaviours to be performed;
 - 3.1. Foraging;
 - 3.2. Rooting;
 - 3.3. Wallowing. (refer to Standard 1.6)

4. Pigs will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

Objective: That pigs are free to forage and explore in pastured paddocks without the restraint of cages, sows stalls, farrowing crates or pens. Housing will provide easy access to the range by all pigs and shall also provide protection from the sun, wind and inclement weather.

Housing

- 4.1. All pigs will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.2. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
 - 4.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
 - 4.1.5. provide loose substrate/litter for bedding;
 - 4.1.6. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
 - 4.1.7. have non-slip floors.
- 4.2. Sufficient exits from housing shall enable ease of access by the pigs to the range area. Exits shall not have barriers or structures that prevent or deter pigs from exiting the housing.
- 4.3. Farrowing sows must be provided with individual accommodation.

- 4.4. Farrowing sows may be confined to their farrowing hutch overnight for a period of not more than three nights to protect the sow and piglets from other pigs and predators.
- 4.5. When farrowing sows are contained in housing overnight for protection, the minimum space required is 5 sq. metres per individual hutch / house.
- 4.6. Water and feed must be provided to farrowing hutches if the sows are to be confined as per section 4.4 of this standard.
- 4.7. Farrowing sows must be protected against predators either by guard animals, mechanical deterrents or exclusion fencing.
- 4.8. Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to minimize contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.
- 4.9. Housing records must be kept to enable the producer and/or the PROOF inspector to verify indoor space requirements at any time. These records will include:
 - 4.9.1. The floor area of each house.
- 4.10. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 4.11. free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
 - 4.12. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Housing records

5. Densely confine production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

Objective: That all pigs have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is managed to ensure that forage is always available for the pigs.

- 5.1. 'Pig tractors' or mobile pens, that enclose the pigs preventing free access to paddocks, are not permitted.

6. All pigs will be protected from predation

Objective: To offer as much protection from all predators as practicable to all pigs especially farrowing sows and their newborn.

- 6.1. Fencing must be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.
- 6.2. Guard animals or mechanical deterrents are encouraged.

- 6.3. Farrowing sows may be housed for their protection at night when indoor housing complies with section 4.5 and 4.6 of this standard.

7. Pigs will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements

Objective: That pigs receive a balanced diet from a range of feed ingredients to meet their nutritional needs. Pasture alone will not sustain productive pigs therefore it is necessary to supply feed supplements to support appropriate growth and body function.

- 7.1. Pigs will not be fed on pasture alone. Suitable supplementary nutrition will form a part of the daily ration.
- 7.2. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
 - 7.2.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
 - 7.2.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 7.3. Fresh feed that is appropriate to the nutritional needs of the pigs shall be:
 - 7.3.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the pigs in good body condition and health;
 - 7.3.2. free from banned substances or contaminants.
- 7.4. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.*
- 7.5. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.6. Swill will not be fed to pigs.
- 7.7. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.8. Growth promoters are not permitted.
- 7.9. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.10. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

Swill: is the traditional name for the feeding of food scraps to pigs. This practice has caused foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks overseas, including the catastrophic epidemic in the United Kingdom in 2001. Some food substances have been categorised as prohibited pig feed ('swill') and it is illegal to feed them to pigs in Australia. Refer to your state Department of Agriculture.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary

- Feed records
- Animal treatment records

8. All pigs will be inspected daily

8.1. All pigs will be inspected each day.*

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary

9. Understanding the Standards | Record Keeping

9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the pigs will;

9.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;

9.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and

9.1.3. comply with this standard.

9.2. A suitable training program will be in place for all staff and anyone involved in the handling and management of the pigs to ensure compliance to this standard.

9.2.1. In house training programs must be documented.

9.2.2. Producers and staff have the option to undertake training modules available through PROOF. Records of completion will be provided.

Record Keeping

9.3. The Licensee must maintain and make available to PROOF or an inspector, production and management records. These records must be dated and include:

9.3.1. A Farm Diary or equivalent record keeping system. The diary can include the following if separate records are not kept:

9.3.1.1. Routine activities;

9.3.1.2. Cleaning;

9.3.1.3. Maintenance;

9.3.1.4. Movement of housing;

9.3.1.5. Paddock rotations;

9.3.1.6. Harvest of crops or hay

9.3.2. Feed records (including feed purchase invoices, feed analysis, feed bag tags/feed formulas)

9.3.3. Animal treatments

9.3.4. Sales and purchases

9.3.5. Mortalities

9.3.6. Paddock Management Plan

9.3.7. Housing records (refer to standard 4.9)

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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