

## What could happen to Ireland's Animal industry if I feed food waste to pigs?

The most likely way Food and Mouth disease or Classical Swine Fever could enter Ireland is by feeding food scraps to pigs. Infected pigs spread these diseases very quickly. An outbreak of these diseases would shut down Ireland's agriculture business, and cause severe hardship to many people. Affected farms would have to be quarantined and infected animals would have to be destroyed. There would be implications for our tourism business and for our international trade.



We acknowledge that most pig farmers support the prohibition on swill feeding and understand the reasons for it. There is evidence that there is still a small number of non commercial or hobby farmers and potential swill providers who are not aware of the connection between feeding food waste and a major exotic disease outbreak in Ireland.

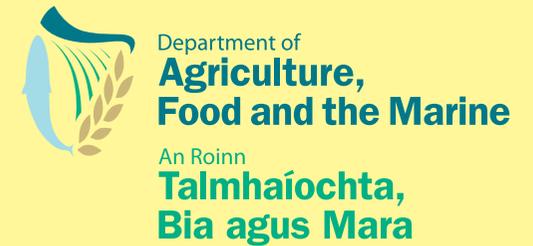
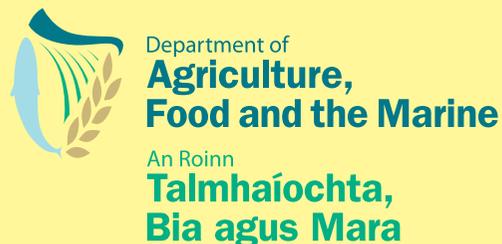
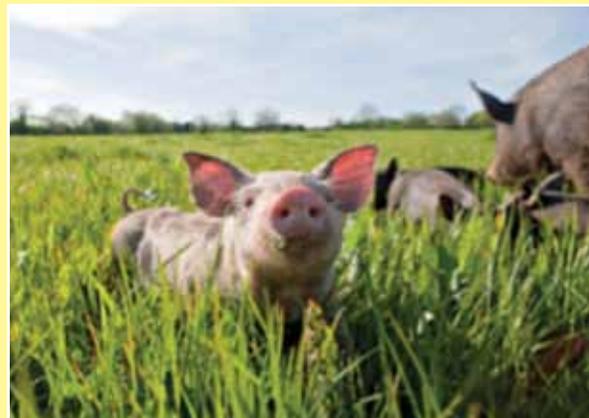
You can help to prevent dangerous Animal Diseases.

With your help, we can keep these serious diseases out of Ireland.

For further information, please contact :  
Milk & Meat Hygiene / ABP Division,  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,  
Grattan House Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise,  
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**Attention:**  
**If you work in or are in charge of a Residential or Commercial Kitchen or any Food Producing Premises.**



**Incorrect disposal of Food waste can cause Foot & Mouth Disease and other exotic diseases.**

The feeding of food waste to animals can cause disease; it is an offence to supply or feed food waste of animal origin to animals of farmed species in Ireland.



A person found guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine of €250,000 or 3 years in prison or both.

By law since July 2010 any business or premises producing food waste is required to place it into a dedicated bin and ensure that it is not mixed with other waste.

This food waste must be disposed of by an approved means, as set out in the Food Waste Regulations.

What's wrong with feeding food waste to animals?

- Food waste can carry diseases such as Foot & Mouth and Classical Swine Fever which can kill farmed or pet pigs and animals of other farmed species.
- Feeding food waste to pigs remains the most likely route by which Foot & Mouth or Classical Swine Fever could enter the island of Ireland.
- Feeding food waste to pigs was the cause of the 2001 Foot & Mouth outbreak in the UK.
- An outbreak of these diseases would shut down Ireland's tourism and agriculture industries, causing economic hardship.



What type of food waste may not be fed to animals?

It is illegal to feed farmed animal species with food waste originating from kitchens or food preparation areas in any premises, including:

- ◆ Hotels, Restaurants
  - ◆ Guesthouses, Hostels
  - ◆ Hospitals
  - ◆ Schools
  - ◆ Supermarkets
  - ◆ Takeaways
  - ◆ Food manufacturing business
  - ◆ Homes
- Food waste that can transmit disease includes food of animal origin or food waste which has been in contact with products of animal origin, whether raw or cooked, e.g.
- products which contain meat such as meat pies, sausage rolls, pizza, meat scraps, bones, etc.
  - products which have been in contact with meat, for example, sandwiches, bread, pizzas, used cooking oil, any kitchen food waste that may have touched meat, etc.

