



Soil: Your forgotten resource

Farm facts

Name: Terry Ledbury, Fawley Farms Ltd

Location: Whitchurch, Hampshire

Farm size and enterprise: Outdoor breeding herd, 1,200 sows and 20 boars

Background

The BPEX Soil Management Plan (SMP) helps outdoor pig keepers assess the risk of soil erosion and damage to the land and identify suitable measures to prevent and record this. The SMP is not a substitute for the Soil Protection Review or ELS Plan where these are needed.

The SMP is a working document compiled, often in collaboration with landlords or other users of the land, before moving onto a new site, during occupancy and finally on vacation. It demonstrates diligence and professionalism to landlords, regulators and inspectors.

The system

Using the key information below, an erosion risk assessment map is drawn which assists in identifying potential problem areas and areas most suited to different aspects of pig keeping. If high risk areas are identified, then mitigation measures can be put into place to help prevent soil erosion or run-off.

Key information required

- Soils – texture and structure
- Slopes – gradient and length
- Annual rainfall
- Proximity to watercourses
- Location of field tracks
- Proximity to roads and residential buildings
- Previous land use and field cover
- Previous experience of that land or similar land

“ It is an essential part of outdoor pig keeping, so using the BPEX SMP makes working with our land agents and land owners more straightforward. ”
Terry Ledbury

Benefit

Mitigation measures can prevent soil erosion and damage to top soil texture and structure. Soil compaction or erosion can destroy the structure making for expensive remedial action.

Key to success

Terry chose the ideal time to carry out a SMP, as the pigs were not yet on the land and pre-stocking field design and layout could be altered according to potential risks. However, all outdoor units could benefit from carrying out a SMP, no matter what stage of the process they are in.



Anna Davis, BPEX Environment Projects Manager, helping Terry Ledbury assess soil type and identify risks before compiling a soil management plan.

For more information contact Anna Davis, Environment Projects Manager: 0247 647 8798 or email: anna.davis@bpex.ahdb.org.uk

To download your own SMP visit: www.bpex.org/KTRandD/environmentHub/SoilManagementPlan.aspx