

Considerations for fallen stock disposal

Introduction

Disposal of fallen stock is an important consideration in managing your unit biosecurity in all circumstances, but especially if PED enters the UK.

The risk of PED transmission between farms is very high and it is critical to keep this highly infectious virus out.

Mortality records should be routinely kept, along with records of all fallen stock disposal.

Best practice for fallen stock disposal

a) Storing fallen stock

Whether you are using an incinerator or deadstock collector, there are a number of important points to consider regarding fallen stock storage:

Storage container	Must be sealed, leak-proof and locked
	Easy to transfer carcasses in and out of
	Big enough capacity to cope in disease outbreaks (during PEDv the mortality is most likely to affect suckling pigs)
	Must be able to be moved to unit perimeter if using collection
	Easy to clean and disinfect after emptying
	Cold storage is optimal
Location of storage	Should be away from main production sites
	The surrounding area should be kept clean and any spillage cleared up quickly
	Should, ideally, be out of public view – be considerate of neighbours or passing public
Removing dead pigs to storage	Deadstock should be removed to storage quickly
	Ideally use a teleporter/frontloader bucket and clean and disinfect after use
	Mortality records should be kept



b) On-farm incinerator

This is the most biosecure and preferred means of disposing of fallen stock as it removes the risk of external collectors approaching the unit. During an outbreak of PED, it also prevents the virus from leaving the farm, reducing the risk of onward infection.

Points to consider:

- The incinerator must be approved by Defra and a licence obtained.
See <https://www.gov.uk/animal-by-products-how-to-burn-them-at-an-incinerator-site>
- The incinerator should be located away from the pigs, on a hard standing, as recommended by the manufacturer
- There should be a sealed, leak-proof, locked container to hold the deadstock prior to incinerating (see above)
- The equipment used to load the incinerator should be kept separate from the rest of the farm, or, at the very least, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after use
- Staff who manage the incinerator should change their boots and overalls and wear gloves when handling the deadstock, to prevent reintroducing disease back onto the farm
- Incineration records must be kept.

c) Deadstock collection

If an incinerator is not possible, then you must work with your fallen stock collector to minimise the risk of disease transmission. Use a collector who recognises the importance of biosecurity and cleanliness, and discuss with them in advance how you would like them to collect your fallen stock.

Agree on a collection point:

Collection point	This must be outside the unit perimeter , away from live pigs
	Never allow your dead stock collector to enter the farm
	Ideally, the route the collector takes should not cross over any normal farm traffic
	If appropriate, establish a 'line of separation' (see SOP 6) and explain to your collector that they must not cross this line
	Keep the surrounding area clean and clear up any spillage quickly
	It should have provision for cleaning and disinfecting equipment
	It should, ideally, be out of public view – be considerate of neighbours or passing public

Best practice for collecting fallen stock:

1. Arrange to have fallen stock collected promptly

2. Agree a date and approximate time for collection

3. Move your storage container to the agreed collection point, outside the unit, ready for collection

- 4a. Tipped collection:
 - The collector tips the contents of your container into their lorry either utilising their own equipment or your machinery
 - The container is then left on site

- 4b. Container swap:
 - The collector takes away the sealed container
 - A clean, disinfected, container is left in its place

5. Whichever scenario is used, you must ensure that anything that re-enters the farm does not pose an infection risk.
This includes:
 - The storage container (either your own or new replacement) and any farm machinery or equipment, which must be scrupulously washed with detergent and disinfected (see **SOP 5** and **11**) at the perimeter
 - Staff, who must adhere to biosecurity protocols (see **SOP 4**).

6. Retain and file your collection tickets

 - If your unit becomes infected with PED, you must inform your collector so they can reschedule your collection to the last of the week and take necessary precautions to prevent onward spread of the virus.

Considerations for fallen stock collectors:

- Collection vehicles must be kept meticulously clean (see **SOP 7**), this includes the cab and driver
- Plan one-way traffic routes at the collector's yard to ensure dirty vehicles come in and clean vehicles go out
- Vehicles should be washed and disinfected before leaving the yard every time
- Always adhere to the unit's biosecurity protocols (see **SOP 4** and **5** for more detail)
- If collecting from a PED positive unit, this must be the last collection in the day and, ideally, of the week. Extra attention should be paid to cleaning and disinfecting the vehicle once back in the yard.