



F14 | ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT EXAMPLES

PigCARE Requirement:

Two or more enrichment options must be provided to pigs at all stages of production.

Enrichment should:

- Benefit the pig(s) by enhancing their physical and social environment,
- Be supplemental to what is essential for the pigs' survival and care, and
- Be provided in sufficient quantity for all pigs to benefit, e.g. at least one point-source enrichment for every 20 to 30 pigs, depending on how often the pigs use it.

Make sure to provide enrichment to all your pigs, including:

- Replacement gilts
- Gilts and sows in breeding/gestation stalls
- Boars in stalls and/or pens
- Bred gilts and sows in group pens
- Farrowing/lactating sows
- Suckling piglets
- Nursery pigs
- Grower pigs
- Finisher pigs
- Pigs in sick pens

	Individual enrichment option	Requirement(s) to be considered enrichment*	Best suited for				
			S	G	P	N	F
S = Breeding stock in stalls/crates; G = Breeding stock in pens; P = Suckling piglets; N = Nursery pigs; F = Grow/finish pigs							
Occupational Enrichment*	Substrates (e.g. straw, shavings, shredded paper) ¹	Provided continuously or at least daily; must be safe for pigs to ingest and free from wood-preserving agents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Burlap or jute	Provided continuously, securely attached to wall or penning, or loose for smaller pigs; replaced when deteriorated; must be safe for pigs to ingest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Other strong fabric	Provided continuously, securely attached to wall or penning, or loose for smaller pigs; replaced when deteriorated; must be safe for pigs to ingest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rope	Provided continuously or at least daily, securely attached to wall, penning or ceiling, or knotted and loose; should be untreated and made of natural fibres	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chain	Provided continuously, securely attached to wall, penning or ceiling; unpainted	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wood block (loose)	Provided continuously or at least daily; untreated wood; replaced when deteriorated and/or could cause injury to the pigs		✓		✓	✓
	Wood in a holder	Provided continuously; untreated wood; securely attached to wall or penning; replaced when deteriorated and/or could cause injury to the pigs		✓		✓	✓
	Hanging object (e.g. toy, wood, or other chewable object) ¹	Provided continuously; securely attached to wall, penning or ceiling by chain or rope; must be safe for pigs to chew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sturdy ball	Provided continuously or at least daily; cleaned whenever it gets completely coated in manure; avoid heavy balls that could damage floors		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Thick-walled pipe	Provided continuously or at least daily		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Other tough, chewable/rootable toys or objects ¹	Provided continuously or at least daily; must be safe for the pigs to chew		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Multiple-action feeders ²	Must require pig to perform multiple different actions to receive feed, not just one action	✓	✓		✓	✓

*All forms of enrichment must be available throughout the entire production phase indicated to be considered enrichment unless specified otherwise in the requirements section. Consult with your veterinarian before giving any consumable product to your pigs.

¹Always consider the impact that an occupational enrichment can have on the manure handling system and facilities, as well as the safety for the pigs.

²If multiple forms of this enrichment type are provided separately, they can count as multiple enrichments. Do not use tires that contain steel/metal belting. Water drinkers of any kind do not count as enrichment.

³Electronic (sow) feeders do not count as enrichment if they only require the pig to enter a gate and then put their head in the feeder. One additional action would be required to count as enrichment.

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Social Enrichment	Visual and/or physical contact with other pigs	Provided continuously	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Physical contact between a sow and boar	Provided at least every second day	✓	✓			
	Physical contact with a person ³	Provided at least three times per week; gentle, calm, physical contact (e.g. pen walking, patting, rubbing, scratching, petting)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hand-feeding ⁴	Manual, hand-fed, at least twice per day	✓	✓			
Physical Enrichment	Access to multiple floor types (e.g. solid and slatted, rubber mat, or heated floor) ⁵	Provided continuously		✓		✓	✓
	Pen partitions	Applicable for group pens only		✓		✓	✓
Sensory Enrichment	Music	Played daily, two to eight hours per day, audible to all pigs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Brushing device	Provided continuously (e.g. wall-anchored brush)		✓		✓	✓
	Scents (e.g. diluted essential oils)	Provided at least weekly; consult with your veterinarian before use; monitor pigs for negative side effects	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nutritional Enrichment	Creep feed	Provided continuously or at least daily in a creep dish or on a mat/tray; must be supplemental to pigs' primary source of nutrition, and provided for at least half of the lactation period			✓		
	Livestock mineral/salt lick block	Provided at least weekly; continuous access to water must be provided at the same time		✓		✓	✓
	Different feed types ⁶	Different feeds must have different texture, flavour and/or scent; must be provided at different times from the pigs' regular feed	✓	✓		✓	✓

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³Walking in the alleys without any physical contact with the pigs does not count as enrichment.

⁴Automatic drop feeders do not count as enrichment, even if the drops occur multiple times per day.

⁵Heating pads in farrowing crates do not count as enrichment because heating devices are essential to suckling piglet survival. However, a distinct area of heated flooring in a group pen for older pigs can count as enrichment.

⁶Could include top dressing. Phase feeding does not count as enrichment because the feed is not alternated often enough.