

## Section 7.5

# Enrichment

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### REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 <b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b>		
7.5	Enrichment	Highly recommended
 <b>FACT SHEET</b>		
F-14	Environmental Enrichment Examples	–

## SECTION 7.5

### ENRICHMENT

#### REQUIREMENTS

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

#### RATIONALE

- a. Pigs are highly motivated to root and explore their environment. Providing environmental enrichment improves animal welfare by enhancing the animals' physical or social environment.
- b. Enrichment strategies, such as providing objects suitable for chewing and rooting, can deter pigs from harmful social behaviour such as ear- and tail-biting, thereby reducing the impact of these problems.
- c. Enrichment can increase the number and range of normal behaviours and prevent the development of abnormal behaviours or reduce their frequency or severity. It can also increase the positive utilization of pen space and the animals' ability to cope with change.
- d. The presence of enrichment can reduce aggression when pigs are mixed in together and reduce handling stress.

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#### GUIDANCE

- a. It is recommended that a standard operating procedure (SOP) be developed that clearly identifies the enrichment tools used at each stage of production.
- b. Suitable forms of enrichment vary with each stage of production and with housing system being used. See the Environmental Enrichment Examples fact sheet for enrichment suggestions.
- c. All forms of enrichment should be carefully selected to ensure they are safe for pigs (i.e., they are unlikely to cause strangulation, choking, poisoning or obstruction of the digestive tract) and do not pose a risk to food safety or biosecurity. The potential for affecting liquid manure systems should also be considered.
- d. Do not use steel-belted radial tires as an enrichment. The steel in these tires may become exposed, break off in small pieces, and become embedded in the animals.
- e. In addition to enrichment objects, interaction with other pigs and altering the sensory environment (e.g., leaving a radio on, or providing separate areas for feeding, resting and dunging) can be considered enrichment.
- f. Periodic activities, such as pen walking by personnel, top dressing with alternative feeds or providing multiple feeding events per day, are also considered to provide enrichment.
- g. Pigs prefer enrichment objects that are malleable, consumable and chewable. See Table 1 for examples.
- h. Objects can quickly lose their novelty value, so rotation of a variety of objects will have greater value to the pigs.
- i. Enrichment objects should be either suspended or cleaned regularly, as soiled objects have little enrichment value to pigs.
- j. Straw is recognized as a premium source of enrichment. However, the source of the straw should be evaluated as a potential biosecurity risk. Straw may also pose a challenge to manure-management systems. Small amounts provided in a rack or on solid floor areas will generally be consumed before entering pits.

Table 1: Enrichment examples for each stage of production.

Stage of Production (Housing system)	Enrichment examples* (Category)
Gestating sows (Stalls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Visual and/or physical contact with other sows (Social),</li> <li>» Chain, wood on a chain, rubber stall mat, periodic exercise (Occupational/Physical),</li> <li>» Radio, brushing (Sensory),</li> <li>» Multiple feeds, top dressing feeds e.g. silage, chopped straw, hay cubes (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Gestating sows (Group housing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Contact with other sows (Social),</li> <li>» Pen walking, wood on a chain, wood in a holder, cotton rope, chain, PVC pipe, substrates such as straw, peat moss, shavings (Occupational),</li> <li>» Solid flooring for lying, pen partitions, rubber mats (Physical),</li> <li>» Radio, brushing (Sensory),</li> <li>» Multiple feeds, top dressing feeds e.g. silage, chopped straw, hay cubes (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Farrowing sows (Farrowing crates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Visual or physical contact with piglets or sows (Social),</li> <li>» Chain, wood on a chain, rubber stall mat (Occupational/Physical),</li> <li>» Radio (Sensory),</li> <li>» Multiple feeds, top dressing feeds (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Piglets (Farrowing pens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Contact with sow and piglets (Social),</li> <li>» Ropes, dog toys, peat moss (Occupational),</li> <li>» Rubber mats, water bowl, hover (Physical),</li> <li>» Sow presence, radio (Sensory),</li> <li>» Creep feed (dry or mash), milk replacer (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Nursery/Weaned pigs (Group pens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Contact with sow and piglets (Social),</li> <li>» Ropes, dog toys, peat moss (Occupational),</li> <li>» Rubber mats (Physical),</li> <li>» Radio (Sensory),</li> <li>» Pen Walking (social),</li> <li>» Mash, top dressing feeds, milk replacer (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Grow / Finish pigs (Group pens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Contact with other pigs (Social),</li> <li>» Pen walking, wood on a chain, wood in a holder, cotton rope, chain, PVC pipe, substrates such as straw, peat moss, shavings (Occupational),</li> <li>» Solid flooring for lying, pen partitions, rubber mats (Physical),</li> <li>» Radio (Sensory),</li> <li>» Multiple feeds (e.g. liquid feeding systems), top dressing feeds e.g. silage, chopped straw, hay cubes (Nutritional).</li> </ul>
Boars (Stalls or pens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Visual and/or physical contact with sows or compatible boars (Social),</li> <li>» Chain, wood on a chain, Kong toy or similar durable object, rubber mat, periodic exercise (Occupational/Physical),</li> <li>» Radio, brushing (Sensory),</li> <li>» Multiple feeds, top dressing feeds e.g. silage, chopped straw, hay cubes (Nutritional).</li> </ul>

*\*Examples only: Many additional enrichments are possible. Be sure to consider animal safety, food safety, environmental hazards and biosecurity when selecting enrichments. Consult your veterinarian for additional ideas.*

## AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q7.5.1	Verify that two or more enrichment options are provided to pigs in all types of housing, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gestating sows in stalls</li> <li>gestating sows in groups</li> <li>farrowing sows</li> <li>piglets</li> <li>nursery/weaned pigs</li> <li>grow/finish pigs, and</li> <li>boars.</li> </ol> See the Environmental Enrichment Examples fact sheet for examples.	<b>Full and partial validation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ observation (full validation only)</li> <li>➤ interview</li> </ul>			
	Are two or more enrichment options provided to pigs in all types of housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable



### LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

#### COMPLIANT

- At least two enrichment options are provided to pigs in all types of housing.

#### MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 12 months**

- Less than two enrichment options are provided to pigs in some types of housing.

#### MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE – Not applicable