

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AWARD

AWARD OBJECTIVE

To recognise producers achieving outstanding productivity, efficiency and technical performance.

ENTRY CRITERIA, APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND JUDGING PROCESS

OVERVIEW

The FBD Pig Farming Awards 2026 have been established to recognise excellence, innovation, leadership and best practice across Ireland's important pig industry.

The awards aim to:

- » Recognise outstanding producers and industry professionals
- » Promote continuous improvement and innovation
- » Highlight excellence in animal welfare and environmental stewardship
- » Encourage knowledge transfer and leadership within the industry
- » Showcase the positive contribution of the Irish pig sector

All entries will be assessed by an independent judging panel comprising industry and technical experts.

GENERAL ENTRY INFORMATION REQUIRED (ALL CATEGORIES)

SECTION 1: BUSINESS DETAILS

Name of farm/business

Breeding/finishing

Contact person

Number of employees

Position/Role

Years in operation

Address

Please indicate which quality assurance, environmental, or industry schemes your business currently participates in (e.g. Bord Bia Piguemeat Quality Assurance Scheme, Origin Green, ACRES, Teagasc discussion groups, breed society membership, or other)

Telephone number

Email address

SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. In no more than 250 words, please explain:

- » Why you believe you should be considered for this award
- » What distinguishes your operation from others
- » State your most significant achievement during the past three years

B. Have you shared your knowledge or experience with other farmers or contributed to the wider pig industry during the past three years?

(Maximum 200 words)

Examples might include participation in Teagasc discussion groups, mentoring, involvement in producer organisations/IFA Pigs Committee, or contributions to industry events or media activities.

SECTION 3: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Entrants may upload supporting evidence including:

- » Production records
- » Benchmarking reports
- » Veterinary reports
- » Environmental records
- » Certification records
- » Photographs
- » Media coverage
- » Other relevant supporting documentation

ENTRY QUESTIONS

1. Outline your herd health and welfare programme.

(Maximum 300 words)

2. What measures do you have in place to promote animal welfare?

(Maximum 300 words)

3. Describe your biosecurity protocols and disease prevention strategies.

(Maximum 300 words)

4. Have you introduced any initiatives in the past three years that have significantly improved health and welfare outcomes?

(Maximum 300 words)

5. How do you work with your veterinary team to maintain herd health?

Please indicate if your vet is involved in biosecurity planning, disease surveillance, and antimicrobial use review.

(Maximum 300 words)

6. Please describe any steps taken to reduce antibiotic use, your participation in responsible use programmes, and how you work with your vet to monitor and minimise antibiotic use.

(Maximum 300 words)

7. How do you ensure animal welfare knowledge and standards are maintained across all your staff?

Please describe your approach to staff training, induction, and ongoing welfare education.

(Maximum 200 words)

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

- » Herd health plans
- » Veterinary reports
- » Welfare assessments
- » Staff training records
- » Biosecurity protocols

JUDGING CRITERIA

- » Animal welfare standards – 25%
- » Herd health management – 35%
- » Biosecurity excellence – 20%
- » Innovation and continuous improvement – 20%

MAKE SURE TO FILL OUT THE COMPLIANCE & ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION ON THE NEXT PAGE BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

COMPLIANCE & ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION

Please confirm the following:

The business complies with all relevant animal welfare legislation.

The business complies with all relevant environmental regulations and licensing requirements.

The business complies with all relevant health and safety legislation.

The information provided in this application is accurate and may be verified by the judging panel.

The entrant agrees to participate in publicity associated with the awards should they be shortlisted or selected as a finalist or winner.

ELIGIBILITY DECLARATION

I confirm that neither I, nor the business entered, is currently subject to any ongoing regulatory investigation, prosecution or enforcement action relating to animal welfare, environmental compliance or health and safety. I agree to notify the organisers immediately should such circumstances arise after submission of this entry.

Signed:

Date:

JUDGING PROCESS

All entries will be assessed by an independent judging panel comprising industry and technical experts.

The judging panel reserves the right to:

- » Request additional supporting documentation
- » Seek clarification on information submitted
- » Verify information provided within an application
- » Shortlisted entrants may be invited to participate in an interview as part of the judging process.
- » This interview will allow judges to verify information submitted and gain a deeper understanding of the entrant's operation, management practices and achievements.
- » The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome.