

PIG FARMER OF THE YEAR 2026

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 PIGmeat 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. What are the key achievements of your business during the past three years?

(Maximum 500 words)

2. How have you demonstrated leadership within the pig industry?

(Maximum 300 words)

Examples may include:

- » Producer organisations/IFA Pigs Committee
- » Discussion groups
- » Mentoring
- » Knowledge transfer initiatives
- » Industry representation
- » Personal development course, training

3. Describe one or two specific innovations you have introduced on your farm. For each, please explain the problem or opportunity it addressed, how it was implemented, and what measurable difference it has made to your business.

(Maximum 300 words)

4. What are your plans for the future development of your business? Please include how you are thinking about succession, team development, or the longer-term sustainability of your operation.

(Maximum 500 words)

5. How has your business managed financial and economic pressures over the past three years – for example, feed price volatility, energy costs, or market uncertainty? What financial management practices or decisions have been most important to the resilience of your business?

(Maximum 400 words)

JUDGING CRITERIA

- » Business performance (including financial resilience and cost management) – 30%
- » Leadership and industry contribution – 25%
- » Innovation – 20%
- » Animal welfare and sustainability – 15%
- » Vision for the future – 10%

The performance criteria in the other three categories, Herd Productivity, Animal Health and Welfare and Environmental Sustainability will all be taken into account so that the winner is the best all rounder in the competition.

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.