

# PROMISING YOUNG PIG FARMER OF THE YEAR

## AWARD OBJECTIVE

To recognise a promising young person who has chosen a career in pig farming and is recognised as making an impressive contribution on the unit where they are employed. The award seeks to identify future management talent in the Irish pig sector and recognise those who are committed to a career in the industry.

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## 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.

### PROMISING YOUNG PIG FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD ELIGIBILITY

Open to individuals aged 32 years or under on 1 January 2026.

Entrants must be actively involved in the operation of a pig enterprise in Ireland.

Entries may be submitted by the applicant themselves or by a third party, such as:

- » Employer
- » Family member
- » Advisor
- » Veterinarian
- » Processor representative
- » Industry colleague

Where a third-party nomination is submitted, the nominee must agree to participate in the awards process.

## GENERAL ENTRY INFORMATION REQUIRED (ALL CATEGORIES)

### SECTION 1: BUSINESS DETAILS

Name of farm/business

Please indicate which quality assurance, environmental, or industry schemes the business is currently participating in (e.g. Bord Bia Piguineat Quality Assurance Scheme, Origin Green, ACRES, Teagasc).

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Applicant details

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Position/Role

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Address

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Telephone number

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Email address

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Breeding/finishing

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Number of employees

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Years in operation

### 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 performance from others?
- » State your responsibilities and most significant achievement during the past two years

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#### B. State the education and training courses you have attended throughout your career

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#### C. Have you shared your knowledge or experience with other employees, farmers or contributed to the wider pig industry during the past two years?

(Maximum 200 words)

Examples might include participation in Teagasc discussion groups, mentoring etc.

### SECTION 3: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

#### Entrants may upload supporting evidence including:

- » Production records - for the area of your responsibility
- » Benchmarking reports
- » Certification records
- » Photographs
- » Media coverage
- » Other relevant supporting documentation

# ENTRY QUESTIONS

## FOR SELF-NOMINATIONS

Name

**1. Tell us about yourself and your role within the business.**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**2. What have been your biggest achievements in pig farming to date?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**3. Have you introduced any new ideas, technologies or management practices?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**4. How are you preparing yourself for future challenges and opportunities?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**5. How do you contribute to the wider pig industry?**

Examples may include:

- » Discussion groups
- » Young farmer organisations
- » Industry events
- » Knowledge transfer activities
- » Mentoring

*(Maximum 300 words)*

**6. Are you optimistic for the future of the pig industry? State your vision.**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

## FOR THIRD-PARTY NOMINATIONS

Name *(Nominee)*

Name *(Nominator)*

**1. Why are you nominating this individual?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**2. What achievements make them stand out within the pig industry?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**3. How have they demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement?**

*(Maximum 500 words)*

**4. Describe your assessment of their managerial potential?**

*(Maximum 300 words)*

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## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

**Entrants or nominators may provide:**

- » Production records
- » Performance data
- » Photographs
- » Training certificates
- » Industry involvement
- » Media coverage
- » References or testimonials
- » Other supporting documentation

## JUDGING CRITERIA

- » Business performance and achievement – 25%
- » Innovation and continuous improvement – 25%
- » Leadership potential – 20%
- » Industry engagement and knowledge sharing – 15%
- » Vision for the future – 15%

**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 where you are employed complies with all relevant environmental regulations and licensing requirements.

The business where you are employed complies with all relevant environmental regulations and licensing requirements.

The business where you are employed 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 I am employed by 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.