



# A STRATEGY FOR BRITISH PIG HEALTH AND WELFARE



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## FOREWORD

The British pig industry supports the actions of Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government in the development of an Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (AHWS) for Great Britain and wishes to play a full part in this initiative. As a result the industry has devised this Strategy for British Pig Health and Welfare which outlines the measures that need to be taken by all those with an interest in the future of the British industry.

All pig industry stakeholders will be consulted on The Strategy for British Pig Health and Welfare. The objective of this strategy is to achieve a demonstrable and sustainable improvement in pig health and resulting welfare that will contribute to the recovery of the British pig industry and a sustainable rural economy.

**“** *The Animal Health and Welfare Strategy represents an important step towards a more comprehensive and strategic approach to animal health and welfare.*

*Partnership between Government and industry will be vital in taking the Strategy forward. Of real importance is the need for individual sectors to recognise their own priorities for animal health and welfare.*

*I am very encouraged that the pig sector are so quickly off the mark with their own strategy and know that Government looks forward to working with the industry over the coming years to implement this far-sighted strategy.*

Animal Health and Welfare Minister  
Ben Bradshaw

**”**

### INTRODUCTION

The improvement in the health and welfare of pigs is one of the single most important factors that will determine the sustainability of the British pig production sector in the next 10 years and beyond. It is estimated that pig disease costs British pig producers at least £50 million a year. Improving the health of pigs will benefit customers through better quality meat and meat products. It will benefit producers and processors by saving costs and improving competitiveness. It will benefit the pigs themselves through improved welfare and it will benefit the country as a whole in helping to achieve government policy of a sustainable rural economy.

Achieving this goal will be a huge task that can only be achieved through the co-operation and commitment of all those associated with the British pig sector be they producers, processors, veterinarians, the many supply businesses that support the sector and the government and its agencies. By working together we will all be able to realise the benefits that a sustainable British pig production and processing industry can deliver.

British pig producers have adopted welfare measures that are among the most comprehensive in the world as the Defra Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs demonstrates. Pig welfare is a priority for the British pig industry and it has identified health and its impact on welfare as the most significant issue to be tackled in the next decade.

Disease is an ongoing challenge for man and animals. With rare exceptions diseases have not and cannot be eliminated in people so we cannot expect to eliminate all disease from animals. Diseases have evolved in parallel with animals and new challenges will continue to evolve. This strategy recognises that we all need to be vigilant. However the government and its agencies are uniquely placed as the front line of defence in reducing the risk of importing animal diseases. As the FMD outbreak in 2001 showed the benefits of stopping the introduction and spread of animal disease far outweigh the costs to the livestock sector and the wider rural and national economy.

Ultimately it will be producers who have to bear the largest part of the cost of making the improvements in health and welfare. The strategy recognises that investment in improving pig health and welfare, whether by the industry or by government, has to demonstrate value for money. It is therefore vital that the current health and welfare status of the British pig sector is established, targets for improvement are agreed and progress is monitored.

I am confident that this strategy will be fully supported by all involved in the industry and it will result in a significant improvement in pig health and welfare. It will also make a significant contribution to the government's Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, and have benefits for food quality, food safety, the environment and economic sustainability.

Stewart Houston  
Chairman, BPEX and NPA



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Improving the health and welfare of British pigs is vital to ensure the competitiveness and thereby sustainability of the industry. This will benefit pigs, producers, the supply chain, government and the rural economy.
- The Strategy for British Pig Health and Welfare has been devised to fit with the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy (AHWS) published by Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government. The industry supports this government initiative and will work to ensure it is effectively implemented in the pig sector.
- The Strategy for British Pig Health and Welfare identifies 9 Priority Areas for Action. These are:
  1. Establish a national structure to provide the focus, drive and planning for a national pig health improvement programme
  2. Establish the present health, welfare and disease status of the British pig herd
  3. Enhance disease surveillance information available to pig producers
  4. Undertake intervention studies on disease control and eradication and support health improvement programmes with advice
  5. Develop nationally-recommended biosecurity protocols
  6. Develop national protocols for new disease prevention and eradication programmes
  7. Quantify risks and the consequences of emerging pig issues
  8. Enhance training in disease identification and treatment
  9. Increase the programme of targeted pig disease research.

This strategy clearly identifies where the 9 Priorities for Action fit within the AHWS.

- The Priorities for Action will form the basis of the British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme. The implementation of this programme will be the responsibility of a new British Pig Health and Welfare Council. The Council will consist of representatives of all stakeholders and be chaired independently.
- The British Pig Health and Welfare Council will be established by BPEX. It is planned that the Council would take on the role of the Sector Group for Pigs as detailed in the AHWS.
- The British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme will be driven by results. Success will be achieved if the health and welfare of British pigs shows a demonstrable and sustained improvement over the next 10 years and this makes a positive contribution to the profitability of pig production. The Council will monitor improvements on a regular basis and encourage the adoption of new methods of measurement where appropriate.

### VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our vision for the future is an industry where the health of pigs and their welfare is optimised in a way that contributes significantly towards competitiveness and sustainability. It is an industry made up of producers and staff that understand the significance of pig health and have the appropriate training and practical systems to achieve improvement. Individual producers work in close partnership with their veterinarians. All parts of the supply chain are committed to continuous improvement and consumers and customers realise that higher standards of welfare and food safety are not cost free. Practices at farm level and policy at national level focus on the prevention of pig disease rather than cure.

The pig industry seeks maximum benefit through working in close partnership with all stakeholders and particularly government and its agencies. Where appropriate it works closely with other species to achieve the maximum effectiveness of national programmes.

The industry has available to it systems for horizon scanning for new pig disease threats, an active programme of veterinary surveillance and programmes to prevent the import and spread of all diseases that threaten pigs. The industry regains its high health status and reputation and is completely free to trade pig meat, pigs and genetic material internationally.

Improved British pig health and welfare benefits the pig industry and the rest of society. The cost of achieving and maintaining improved pig health and welfare is balanced appropriately between the industry, tax payers and the consumer.

### BACKGROUND

#### British Pig Industry

The British pig industry is an important national resource providing a substantial proportion of domestic supplies of pork, bacon, ham and other manufactured meat products. The industry makes a significant contribution to the sustainability of regional rural economies through primary pig production (ca £630m in 2002) and through value-added food manufacturing. Approximately four-fifths of total pig production takes place on large-scale pig units, but some three-fifths of pig units are relatively small-scale, reflecting a continuing heritage of family-farm production.

The Government's stated vision is of an agricultural industry 'not dependent on output subsidies to produce safe, nutritious food which contributes positively to consumer choice and the health of the whole nation'. The pig sector already conforms to that market-dependent, customer-focused model. It receives no output-related subsidies; it actively seeks co-operation and inter-linkages down the food chain; and consumer choice and the health benefits of lean pork and pork products have been industry drivers for more than a decade. The industry has been a leader in introducing assured methods of production and the national farm assurance schemes now cover 90% of pig production.

### Pig Health and Welfare

It is generally accepted that the British pig industry has high standards of animal husbandry and management, particularly of breeding stock, and that the pig-related risks to public health are low. Moreover, this position has been reinforced over the past two decades by a range of legislative measures and by the widespread voluntary introduction of pig production assurance schemes.

In contrast to this encouraging picture, the health of British pigs has been subjected to serious challenges in recent years. The pig herd has suffered the effects of 'imported diseases' such as Classical Swine Fever and Foot and Mouth. Challenges have also come from endemic diseases such as Enzootic Pneumonia and Ileitis which have suppressed performance and from new diseases such as PMWS and PDNS. It is estimated by MLC that disease costs the British pig industry at least £50 million a year in lost output and sub-optimal performance. However, these figures can only be crude estimates as there is no comprehensive information on the health status of the British pig herd. Obtaining this data is a priority in the industry strategy.

Many changes and improvements to British pig production systems have been introduced to address welfare concerns. The industry continues to work with Government to achieve continuous improvement based on scientific evidence and the practicality of implementation.

### Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

Defra, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government published the "Outline of an animal health and welfare strategy for Great Britain" in 2003 (PB 8481) following extensive consultation with all stakeholders in the livestock industry. The outline strategy sets out a vision for the future of the industry regarding animal health and welfare and the means by which that can be achieved.

Five components are identified that will bring about the vision. These are

- A clear understanding of roles and responsibilities
- A new partnership approach
- Promotion of animal health and welfare: prevention better than cure
- A clearer understanding of costs and benefits of animal health and welfare
- Effective delivery and enforcement

The strategy also identifies 16 new initiatives that will be introduced by Government (see page 19) and an organisational structure that ensures all stakeholders are fully engaged in the process.

The British pig industry welcomes and supports this initiative to improve the health and thereby welfare of animals and is keen to participate in the on-going development and implementation of the strategy. The government strategy recognises the need to involve the individual species groups such as pigs in order to deliver the overall strategy effectively.

By their nature pig disease problems cannot readily be addressed by individual farm businesses acting alone, or even by the industry acting in concert. Rather the task requires a national initiative involving the relevant government departments and agencies, the pig industry and the livestock health industries working in partnership.

In other words, there is a need for a nationally co-ordinated approach to tackle the organisational, scientific and practical issues that a national pig health and welfare strategy will cover. This strategy identifies a mechanism (the British Pig Health and Welfare Council) that will achieve this co-ordination and develop effectively the industry and government commitment to pig health services and pig disease research.

The Strategy for British Pig Health and Welfare identifies 9 priority areas for action in order to be successful. These will form the basis of a *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme*.

### PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The priorities for action include both organisational actions, designed to provide focus and scientific and technical actions, designed to allow the prevailing animal health problems to be quantified, controlled, eradicated or avoided.

Although listed sequentially, the specific priorities for action have not been ranked or placed in order. In many cases they involve interrelated components that need to be addressed simultaneously.

#### 1. Establish a national structure to provide the focus, drive and planning for a national pig health improvement programme

1.1 A *British Pig Health and Welfare Council* will be established. Its primary objective will be to provide the necessary focus, planning and drive to deliver the *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme*. The Council should consist of representatives of government departments and agencies (e.g. Defra, The Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government, SVS, VMD and FSA); pig industry bodies (e.g. BPEX, MLC, NPA, NFUS); the pig breeding and animal health sectors (e.g. PVS, NOAH, AHDA) and the food-chain (e.g. feed and food manufacturers, retailers and consumers). Pig producers are the ultimate frontline in tackling health and welfare and should be well represented.

1.2 The *Council* should be independently Chaired and be responsible for coordinating, planning and monitoring the implementation of a national pig health improvement programme. It is envisaged that the Council would take on the role of the Sector Group for Pigs as detailed in the Government strategy [AHWS new initiative V]. Council representatives would have an important input to the overall Strategy Steering Board [AHWS new initiative IV] and have an important influence in the Regional Stakeholder groups in those areas of England where pigs are an important part of livestock production. This will provide increased scope for the involvement of SVS at regional level.

1.3 The importance of individual species is recognised in the Government

strategy. It is recommended that a clearly identified individual within Government or within its agencies should have the responsibility to help the Council ensure that the strategy for pigs is delivered.

- 1.4 The availability of vets willing and able to work with pig producers is a major concern, identified by the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. The council will consider the implications of this in developing its implementation plans. The report of the Competition Commission combined with changing industry practices is likely to result in significant changes in the relationship between vets and pig producers. The industry agrees with the thrust of the Government strategy that vets have a vital role to play in helping producers optimise the health, welfare and thereby returns from pig production. There is a need for transparency between the delivery of consultancy advice to the producer and the margins made from selling goods such as veterinary medicines.

It is vitally important that there is an orderly transition in this relationship to ensure that veterinary services are still available to pig producers. The pig industry will address this as a priority in the Council and seek representation on the Working Group proposed in the Government strategy [AHWS new initiative III]

- 1.5 The council will work with industry to ensure that the *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme* is translated into action at the farm level. The NPA journal Pig World, the NPA web site and Newsletter, Red Meat Industry Forum benchmarking groups, producer discussion groups and other industry linked knowledge transfer approaches should be adopted within a nationally co-ordinated framework.

## 2. Establish the present health, welfare and disease status of the British pig herd

- 2.1 The need for comprehensive information on the current health and welfare status of the British pig herd is vital in ensuring the priorities for action are identified, progress monitored and the risk for the spread of disease is minimised. This is recognised in the AHWS strategy new initiatives (I) and (VI).
- 2.2 In the short term there is a requirement to benchmark health, welfare and disease information through a substantial programme of targeted surveillance, involving in-depth disease studies on sentinel farms to establish baseline figures for benchmarking and monitoring. The present systems of veterinary disease surveillance in the UK (which are based mainly on scanning surveillance) are not designed to provide the type of data necessary to develop and monitor the *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme*.
- 2.3 In the longer term this problem should be tackled through the systematic and routine collection and analysis of the appropriate national data. New veterinary surveillance and livestock recording systems will need to be established for this purpose. The type of information could include the following:

- *Pig population statistics* - What are the numbers of pigs? Where are they located?
- *Disease status* - What diseases are occurring? What is their prevalence and geographic distribution?
- *Use of medicines* - What is the current usage of antimicrobials, vaccines, and other medicines
- *Health status* - What is the pig health position as indicated by pig performance data?

### 3. Enhance disease surveillance information available to pig producers

- 3.1** The evidence indicates that a substantial proportion of sub-clinical pig disease occurring on farms goes undiagnosed and this contributes significantly to reducing the health status of the national herd. The *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme* opens up the opportunity to improve the herd monitoring/database system and improve feedback of post-slaughter information on herd health status to producers. The Scottish Wholesome Pigs initiative using diagnostic post-mortem inspections at the abattoir is showing considerable potential as an aid to the diagnosis and control of on-farm endemic diseases. The feasibility of extending this approach to the whole of Great Britain will be examined at an early stage by the Council.
- 3.2** The Food Standards Agency is working with the pig industry on the development of abattoir data capture of MHS information which could be fed back to these individual farms. Information feed-back loops require development. Food chain information is a key element of forthcoming EU food hygiene regulations. The implications for the pig meat production chain need to be understood [new initiative X].
- 3.3** The *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme* will examine the potential of incorporating abattoir veterinary data capture and feedback within farm assurance standards. Such a system would be developed based on risk factors and control strategies identified through research.
- 3.4** This could lead to development of a system whereby certain breeding herds could be categorised on the basis of their health status. As health status of herds improves there will be an increase in demand for healthier breeding stock and a means of identifying suitable sources.
- 3.5** Defra recently launched the Veterinary Surveillance Strategy and the pig industry welcomes this important initiative. RADAR (Rapid Analysis and Detection of Animal-related Risk) within it is an ambitious and potentially very useful data resource. It is acknowledged that the value of surveillance information crucially depends on the quality of the data fed into the system and it will be a challenge to sift and grade the information from various sources. Practising veterinary surgeons will be a key source of information and the availability of farm animal veterinary services will be of critical importance to surveillance in the long term. Surveillance is not an end in itself but needs to be managed to extract

maximum value from the investment. To this end there needs to be access by veterinary practitioners and farmers to surveillance information in a form that is both useful and meaningful.

How this can best be achieved could be addressed under AHWS new initiatives VI and VII.

#### 4. Undertake intervention studies on disease control and eradication and support health improvement programmes with advice

4.1 There is little hard research data on the control or eradication of endemic diseases in pigs in Britain, and almost none in respect of newer diseases such as PMWS.

Controlled intervention studies on farms are therefore needed to establish the best clinical and pig management practices to control disease and/or eradication.

Data from these studies should then be used to develop 'best practice' models, which can be implemented nationally by pig veterinarians and pig producers.

This fits well with the activity outlined in AHWS New Initiatives VIII, IX and XI. Implementation would be guided by the outcome of the review on effective delivery [AHWS new Initiative XV]. It is hoped that this will identify ways to maximise the involvement of government and agency staff at regional and local level.

4.2 Using the Zoonoses Action Plan (ZAP) Salmonella Programme as a model, food quality and safety improvement measures should progressively be introduced as objectives within the farm assurance schemes.

The Veterinary Health Plan has proved a valuable tool in translating farm veterinary advice into action. These plans could be used to introduce new 'best practice models' and additional food safety measures.

#### 5. Develop nationally-recommended biosecurity protocols

5.1 Existing industry concepts of biosecurity largely focus on the creation of physical barriers or disinfection barriers to disease spread.

However, the Government strategy conceives biosecurity in a broader context involving animal health planning and disease prevention programmes.

Against this background, there is a need for the development of nationally recommended biosecurity protocols based on risk-assessment and designed to be implemented at farm or pig-unit level.

5.2 Properly developed farm-based self-assessment audits with appropriate training on their use have been identified as being of potential value in helping to identify weaknesses and to promote improvements in biosecurity and other positive animal health and welfare practices.

These audits need to be practical, robust and easy to understand and should be developed mainly by producers for producers drawing on veterinary and other expertise where appropriate.

Self-assessment audits are already used in the cereal sector. The NPA is examining the practicalities of self-assessment audits for pig producers. Their use could be incorporated into quality assurance schemes.

- 5.3 Risk-based biosecurity will raise issues about the information available to farmers on the disease risks arising from other pig units in their areas. These will need to be addressed both by industry and by the government departments.
- 5.4 Under the provisions of the EU White Paper on Food Safety, HACCP-based systems of risk management in the food chain will soon become a regulatory requirement and will include primary production. National biosecurity protocols for pig disease risk therefore need to be harmonised with those for food risks.
- 5.5 The Government initiative on Positive Animal Health and AHWS new initiative XI looks for farmers to develop an animal health plan taking a proactive approach to health and welfare including improvements to biosecurity. The Government strategy repeats the “partnership approach” and identifies the need for a joined-up approach that brings together EU proposals and other initiatives to ensure that there is a consistent message on health and welfare. Actions are proposed in AHWS new initiatives IX and XI. The *British Pig Health and Welfare Council* will ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted.

## 6. Develop national protocols for new disease prevention and eradication programmes

- 6.1 Since 1982 Britain has suffered outbreaks of a variety of imported diseases including exotic diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Aujeszky's Disease, and Swine Vesicular Disease. There have also been the emergence of 'new' diseases such as PMWS, PDNS and PRRS. These diseases have had an enormous impact on the health of the national pig herd and have had major regional or national effects on pig production.
- 6.2 In the face of this there is an urgent need for agreed national protocols for detecting, reporting and responding to imported diseases. These protocols should also be considered in relation to new diseases that might originate in Britain.  
These new protocols will also define the valuable role that individual producers and their vets can play.  
AHWS new initiatives I and II offer an opportunity to review thoroughly the approach to notifiable diseases.
- 6.3 Our position as an island nation with a relatively limited number of points of entry gives us an advantage. The front line of surveillance must prioritise reducing illegal imports and monitoring legal imports. The pig industry remains concerned about the level of effort in this area.

## 7. Quantify risks and the consequences of emerging pig issues

- 7.1 Britain has been slow fully to recognise the risk implications of the new global economy to its domestic livestock production and the national management of food safety and consumer issues. This has created problems that need urgently to be addressed.

- 7.2 This can only be done through the close inter-working of industry and the national agencies to address Emerging Pig Issues (EPI). (These go wider than pig health and include issues of food safety, animal welfare related risks and environmental protection).
- 7.3 Specific requirements include foresight studies to identify EPI, global intelligence to create an awareness of global EPI hazards and risks, and agreed national protocols for responding to EPI. This horizon scanning for new threats should be incorporated into the activity planned under AHWS new initiative I.

## 8. Enhance training in disease identification and treatment

- 8.1 Because of the widespread implementation of farm quality assurance schemes, veterinary advice and involvement in the preparation of animal health plans, is a routine feature of British pig production.
- 8.2 However, there are continuing concerns about the numbers of specialist pig veterinarians and about national provisions to ensure specialist continuing professional development.
- 8.3 There are also identified needs for the training of pig producers in disease recognition, biosecurity, risk management and medicines use. These have been highlighted in the Foot and Mouth Disease Inquiries and in the "Marsh Report" on animal medicines but remain to be addressed by national training programmes. The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) could provide a lead in the promotion of responsible use of medicines and related training while the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) can act to develop and co-ordinate specialist training programmes to meet industry needs. [AHWS new initiative XIII].
- 8.4 Government should facilitate and promote the responsible and prudent use of veterinary medicines, working with farmers to prepare for the withdrawal of antibiotic growth promoters in 2006 and supporting related food safety and research initiatives.
- 8.5 The Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs recognises that stockmanship, plus the training and supervision necessary to achieve required standards, are key factors in the handling and care of livestock. A management system may be acceptable in principle but without competent, diligent stockmanship the welfare of animals cannot be adequately safeguarded. The *British Pig Health and Welfare Improvement Programme* should recognise the need for better awareness of welfare needs, for better training and supervision and work within guidelines developed for the new initiative XII. Training opportunities should also arise from the work undertaken under new initiatives VII, VIII, IX and X.
- 8.6 There are a number of training initiatives in the British pig industry that can be used as an effective vehicle to enhance disease identification and welfare. These include the Defra/BPEX funded Pig Enterprise Training CDs, the Forward Farming "virtual" demonstration pig farm, Stotfold Pig Development Unit and Agskills. There is an urgent need to identify all these channels for training and ensure that a co-ordinated message on pig health and welfare is delivered to the industry.

## 9. Increase the programme of targeted pig disease research

- 9.1 The pig industry recognises that government research investment in veterinary science has recently been increased. The pig industry contributes significant amounts of pig levy to research and will work in partnership with government to ensure that sufficient priority is given to research in the prevention, control and eradication of pig diseases. This is recognised in new initiatives VII and VIII.
- 9.2 Investment in research must facilitate greater co-operation between research scientists (fundamental and applied) and veterinary specialists to establish multi-disciplinary teams and pig health research programmes. Defra and MLC have recognised this in a number of LINK Projects as well as working together on the Weaner Research Programme. Future programmes could use this as a model. There are serious gaps in research in pig immunology, microbiology and pathology and unless these are filled it is difficult to see how progress can be made in controlling established and new diseases. These gaps and priorities for future near market and fundamental research are currently being identified in a jointly funded BPEX/Defra initiative.
- 9.3 Initial studies under new initiatives VII and VIII should be targeted at existing diseases or identified disease hazards. Emphasis should be given to disease such as PMWS for which there is limited scientific understanding and no guaranteed method of treatment.
- 9.4 Longer-term work should be focused on disease prevention, including prevention technologies, which anticipate future legislative or market-driven restrictions on the use of in-feed additives and therapeutic products.
- 9.5 The Government is encouraged to continue to support research on welfare particularly in those areas where future EU legislation is planned. Government should also strongly pursue the position that the refereed scientific research should be in place before the EU introduces further welfare legislation and that existing standards are effectively enforced in all Member States. Welfare and welfare research have in the past been viewed as separate issues to animal health and a more holistic viewpoint is required. There is a need for research both at the fundamental and applied level.
- 9.6 The Council should work with Government to deliver the transfer of existing research knowledge as envisaged in the Government strategy [AHWS new initiative VII]. A great deal of information on pig disease is available internationally and every effort should be made to access this rather than repeat work already done. The Council would also seek to work with the proposed Strategy Steering Board, the Science Group and government departments to prioritise research requirements, co-ordinate the involvement of the various potential funders and stimulate new research that delivers benefit.

## TIMESCALES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The British Pig Health and Welfare Council is to be established by April 2004. The first responsibility of the Council will be to develop the 9 Priorities into a fully costed implementation plan. The implementation plan is expected to cover a 10-year time span.

In the first instance it will be facilitated by BPEX. However, it is proposed that the Council will be adopted as the Government Pig Sector Stakeholder group within a short space of time.

## MEASURING SUCCESS

The Health and Welfare Strategy for pigs will be a success if it provides a substantial and cost-effective improvement in the health and welfare of British pigs over the next 10 years. This has also been recognised in AHWS new initiative XVI. Therefore, monitoring the impact of the programme on national pig health and welfare is vital. Firstly, existing statistically valid baseline data for pig health, welfare and disease status needs to be established. This then needs to be repeated at intervals during its progress. From a practical standpoint this might require the plan to be for a 12-year programme with data collection at years 0, 3, 6, 9 and 12.

A measure of the success of national border biosecurity measures will be the absence of an outbreak of an 'imported' pig disease such as CSF. A measure of success of internal biosecurity measures used by government and the industry will be the early containment of any disease outbreak.

At an individual farm level there needs to be greater use of performance recording and analysis especially using abattoir feedback on key health indicators as identified in Priority 3. This data needs to be monitored regularly either on a weekly or batch basis. There has already been some success in the induction of the Red Meat Industry Forum matrix benchmarking initiative. This will be developed over the next three years. Measures of success would be a reduction in animal diseases, the use of therapeutic medicines, improvements in key performance indicators and improved financial margins.

National performance data recording systems will be monitored to examine national trends among recorded herds. Measures of success would be similar to those on individual farms.

The Council will be responsible for the regular review of success measures and the commissioning of new methods of measuring success as appropriate.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AHDA	Animal Health Distributors' Association
AHWS	Animal Health and Welfare Strategy
BPEX	British Pig Executive
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EPI	Emerging Pig Issues
FAWC	Farm Animal Welfare Council
FSA	Food Standards Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
MLC	Meat and Livestock Commission
NPA	National Pig Association
NOAH	National Office of Animal Health
PDNS	Porcine Dermatitis and Nephropathy Syndrome
PMWS	Porcine Multisystemic Wasting Disease
PRRS	Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome
PVS	Pig Veterinary Society
SVS	State Veterinary Service
ZAP	Zoonoses Action Plan



## LOOK FOR THE MARK OF DISTINCTION

*All pork, bacon, ham and sausages that carry the Quality Standard Mark come from farmers and processors committed to high standards of animal welfare, quality control and traceability. The production chain is independently audited to ensure compliance with these standards.*