



Animal Health and Welfare: Pig

At HKFoods, responsibility of our operations applies to the entire supply chain from feed and genetics of animals all the way to the consumer. We ensure responsible animal rearing in close collaboration with our contract farmers.

Pig welfare starts with good care

HKFoods' commitment to animal welfare is evident throughout the entire production chain. Good health and treatment of pigs form the foundation of all animal welfare. We systematically monitor and improve actions in close cooperation with our contract producers and livestock transporters. In addition, we are part of an extensive collaboration network that includes industry experts, authorities, Animal Health ETT Association, and Sikava. This strong network enables pork production based on scientific knowledge and best practices.

Our contract producers and employees are committed to following HKFoods' guidelines, as well as EU and national legislation and regulations. Furthermore, our contract farms meet the requirements of the Sikava health classification register. Veterinarians carry out regular farm visits to assess pig health, welfare, and housing conditions. We aim to be pioneers in the continuous development of pig welfare.

▶ Traceability - result of contractual production ✳ ANIMAL CARE AND ANIMAL WELFARE ON A HIGH LEVEL ✳ HIGH LEVEL BIO-SECURITY RESULTS IN HEALTHIER PIGS ✳ FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD			
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	ANIMAL TRANSPORT	SLAUGHTERHOUSE	
 Pigs have sufficient space and the opportunity to express natural behaviors	 Transport vehicles specifically designed for pigs, ensuring appropriate conditions for pigs of different ages	 Minimizing stress. The lairage at the facility is quiet, and pigs are moved calmly.	
 The animals are fed according to their specific needs in each stage of their life	 Trained drivers certified for animal transport	 Animals are mixed as little as possible	
 Piglets have long tails. Teeth reduction and ear notching are not allowed.	 Short transport distances	 Certified and skilled personnel with a designated welfare officer responsible for pig welfare	
 Pigs have nest-making and stimulation materials	 The number of animals per transport and the schedules are carefully planned and continuously monitored	 A supervising authority inspects each pig's health, welfare, and fitness for transport at arrival	
 The use of pain relief is mandatory during castration	 Good treatment and correct handling of pigs to avoid stress	 An official meat inspection authority examines each carcass and only approves it if it is ok for human consumption	
 The use of growth hormones is prohibited	 After every transport the vehicles are washed and disinfected. Hygiene of the trucks is regularly checked		
 Due to the high health status of the herds, the antibiotic use is very low. Medication records are mandatory.			
 Salmonella free			
 All herds are regularly visited by a veterinarian who keeps records in the SIKAVA system			
 Share of free farrowing 50 % (2025)			



To ensure the best care for the pigs, constant development of best practices is needed. Therefore HKFoods works in close collaboration with the Yli-Simola farm to promote animal welfare. We make extensive use of scientific research across our entire contract production. Our partners Topigs Norsvin and Agrifirm are also involved in this cooperation.



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Pigs are naturally curious and social animals

Pigs are naturally group-living animals. A stable hierarchy within the group supports social interaction and creates a sense of security. They prefer to eat and explore at the same time, and enabling this behavior in group housing promotes their overall well-being. It is essential that pigs are always provided with good rearing conditions that support both their health and natural behaviors. Unlike most other mammals, pigs do not sweat, which is why pen temperatures must be carefully regulated to meet their needs.

We closely monitor the welfare of growing pigs in our contract production, using a variety of statistics, qualitative indicators, and the Sikava Welfare Index. The Sikava Index is based on an on-farm assessment conducted by the farm's designated herd health veterinarian, evaluating the pigs' health, welfare, and housing conditions. We work in close cooperation with our contract producers and respond promptly to any irregularities.

Low incidence of animal diseases has been achieved through effective prevention

Highly contagious and severe animal diseases can pose major threats to animal welfare and the stability of livestock production. Therefore, promoting animal health and biosecurity on pig farms is of central importance to HKFoods. Our goal is to prevent diseases from entering production facilities, keeping animals healthy and ensuring food safety.

Finnish pig production is entirely free from diseases classified as notifiable and controlled by law. Our contract farms also meet the national requirements of the Sikava health classification register in terms of disease-free status. No cases of Salmonella, swine dysentery, enzootic pneumonia, atrophic rhinitis, or mange have been detected on our contract farms.

ANIMAL DISEASE	FINLAND
African swine fever	Not occurring
Classical swine fever	Last occurrence in 1917
Aujeszky disease	Not occurring
Foot and mouth disease	Not occurring
TGE	Last occurrence in 1981
Brucella suis	Not occurring
PRRS	Not occurring
Porcine epidemic diarrhoea, PED	Not occurring
Swine vesicular disease, SVD	Not occurring



THE CORNERSTONES OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AT HKFOODS

We follow animal welfare research and legislation, and are committed to the ongoing improvement of animal welfare.

We have participated in the development of national systems such as Sikava and LaatuVastuu in Finland to ensure a high standard of animal health and welfare, and to support continuous improvement on production farms.

* Science and society improving animal welfare in the food quality chain <https://www.sikava.fi/>

We use Sikava's welfare index in our contract production. The welfare index is based on the Welfare Quality* and describes the state of animal welfare holistically on the farms. These principles form the foundation of animal health and welfare at HKFoods:

- Feeding: feed composition and quantity are tailored to the needs of each age group. No prolonged hunger or thirst.
- Housing environment: temperature suited to each age group. Easy movement and sufficient resting area.
- Health: conditions that promote good health and a minimal need for antibiotics. No injuries or prolonged illnesses.
- Behavior: opportunity for natural behavior and a positive human-animal relationship.

A LIGHTER CARBON FOOTPRINT



The carbon footprint result of pigs calculated from the data of 2022 was 3.4 kg CO₂e per kilogram of live weight of the animal.* The calculations are based on the latest ISO standardized methods and IPCC calculation guidelines. The calculation takes into account the carbon footprint of production from the field to the gate of the production facility. In addition to carbon dioxide, the carbon footprint includes, among other things, methane and nitrous oxide converted into carbon dioxide equivalents.

* The results are reported as mass-allocated kg CO₂e / kg live weight.