

The assessment is carried out from a **distance of 0,5 meter visually only**.

Assess **only one side** –half of the pigs left, half right. If you can see both sides of the animal, assess the left one.

- Try to **assess all pens**, if not possible:
 - <10 pens: assess all;
 - 10-25 pens: assess 10
 - >25 pens: 15 pens (choose pens across fields/pregnancy stage etc)
- Try to **assess all animals in pen**, if not possible:
 - <25 in pen: assess all;
 - 25-100 pigs in pen: assess 25; (randomly 5 pigs in 5 different places)
 - >100 pigs in pen: assess 50 (randomly 5 pigs in 10 different places)

If it is not possible (e.g. too dirty, too far away) to **assess at least 70% of animals**:

- “n/a” (for one/more parameters)

Exploratory behaviour (pregnant sows, weaned piglets, fatteners)

Restricted feeding: observation should not be done immediately before or after feeding.

1 = Step in front of pen, 2 minutes “adaption time”

2 = count **total number** of visible animals in pen

3 = count the **number of standing AND sitting** pigs which are **A), B), C)**

Do not include: pigs drinking or feeding

A) Investigating a manipulable material or object

Include if the snout/mouth is manipulating straw, hay, wood (chip), sawdust, mushroom, compost, peat, roughage (if not part of ration) or other material that enables proper investigation and manipulation **OR** in contact with an object („toy“) such as hanging object or ball. Only count if these objects/substrates have been provided by the farmer as enrichment.

B) Manipulating other pig, pen fittings or muck

Include if snout/mouth is in contact with any part of another pig, with muck or the floor, fixtures or fittings of the pen. Empty chewing, tongue rolling etc. is included here. Pay attention at feeders or drinker to discriminate between manipulation of fittings and eating/drinking.

C) Stone chewing i.e. manipulating a stone/s with the snout or mouth – often audible

Respiratory problems (weaned piglets, fatteners)

0 = no signs of problems in group

1 = ≤ 1 coughing or sneezing per ≤ 20 pigs within 5 min

2 = > 1 coughing or sneezing per ≤ 20 pigs (includes also any acutely ill pig(s) affected with obvious pneumonia (laboured breathing, discoloration of ears, blood/purulent discharge)

Body condition score (BCS; pregnant sows) (adapted from DEFRA; 1998)

To score the animals encourage them to stand up



Thin sow

visually thin, hips and backbone very prominent, no/very thin fat cover over hips and backbone



Normal

hips and back well covered, rear view oval



Fat sow

very round appearance from the rear.

Ectoparasites (pregnant sows, fatteners)

Count **number of animals** with obvious ectoparasites such as **mites** [*Sarcoptes suis*], **lice** [*Haematopinus suis*], **ticks** [*Ixodes* spp] or **clinical signs** in most cases combined with **itchiness**:

- **small red dots** on whole body (fresh infections in younger animals);
- **crusts** - usually behind ear, tail base or on lower extremities in older pigs



Lice eggs (small white dots)

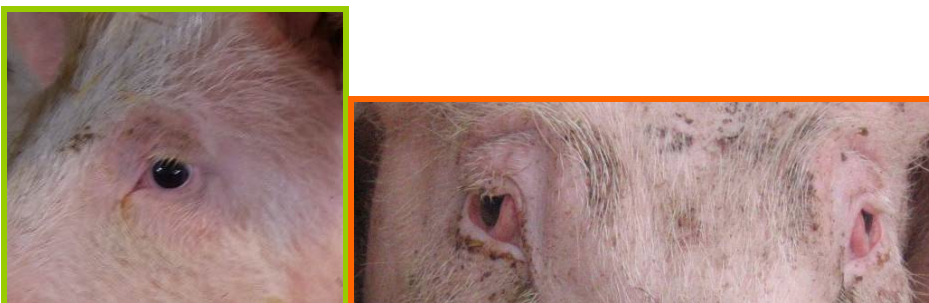
Lice (black)



Mange: grey/brown crusts tail base, lower limbs and on/behind ear

Eye inflammation (weaned piglets, fatteners)

Count number of animals with **red, swollen conjunctiva**



0= Normal eye

1= **eye inflammation:** red, swollen conjunctiva

Swellings (pregnant sows, fatteners)

Look at **all four legs**, count **number of animals** with at least 1 obvious swelling **>3 cm diameter** on at least one of the four legs. (Abscesses (e.g. from injections) on other locations of leg are not included)



0= No swelling,
straight line of
limbs



1= Swelling (>3cm),
typical regions: point of hock, lateral/plantar on
metatarsus, lateral of accessory digit



Lesions (pregnant sows, fatteners)

Count **number of animals with ≥ 3 body lesion** (red scratch, wound or crust) **>3cm long or >1 cm diameter**. Shoulder lesions in sows are counted separately.



1= \geq Body lesions > 3cm

Shoulder lesions (pregnant sows)

Count number of sows with evidence of a **pressure lesion (ulcer)** on the shoulder (typical location on spine)

Includes: reddening of the area without penetration of the tissue, open wound, healing lesion or scar tissue



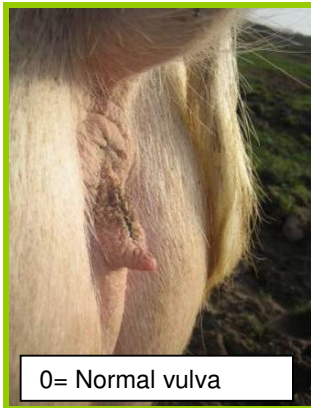
1= shoulder lesion: reddening



1= shoulder lesion open wound

Vulva lesions (pregnant sows)

Count **number of animals** with bleeding wounds or scabs of all sizes. (does not include discharge)



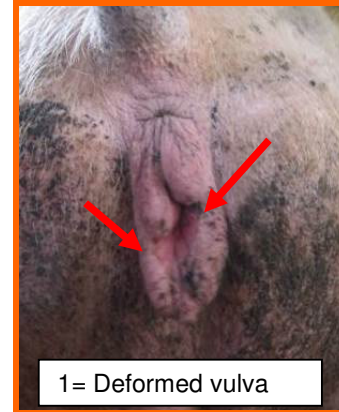
0= Normal vulva



1= Vulva lesion

Deformed vulva (pregnant sows)

Count **number of animals** with vulva of abnormal shape or missing parts



1= Deformed vulva

Lameness (pregnant sows, weaned piglets, fatteners)

All pigs have to stand up, encourage them to walk some steps.

Count number of obviously lame animals (if necessary, use a marker in order to avoid double counting)

obviously lame = **clearly visible reduced weight bearing** on one limb (“limping”) up to animal being unable to walk



1= Lame: reduced weight bearing on left hind (can also be red or dirty)



1= Lame: no weight bearing on front legs

Tail lesions (weaned piglets, fatteners)

Count **number of animals** with any **scab or bleeding wound** (inspect carefully: hanging tail or swollen tails- might be early indicators of tail lesions)



0= Normal tail (no lesion, normal length as hairs on tip of tail)



1=Tail lesion (count also as “short tail” as tail is obviously shorter)

Short tail (weaned piglets, fatteners)

Count **number of animals** with tails shorter than natural length (natural length includes hairs on tip of tail)".



1= Short tail, no lesion



1= Short tails (count also as “tail lesion” as tails are swollen/with crusts)

Runts (weaned piglets, fatteners)

Count number of animals with **at least two of the following indicators** present:
obviously smaller than the other animals,
visible spine, pale, hairy coat, long face, large ears, sunken flank



1= Runt: Long face, large ears,
sunken flank



1= Runt: Visible spine, hairy coat, obviously
smaller

Diarrhoea (weaned piglets, fatteners)

Assess faeces for signs of **abnormal consistency, abnormal colour, abnormal smell**
on animals and in the pen for the group and
assess **as diarrhoea when 2 of those signs are abnormal**

0 = no diarrhoea

1 = mild diarrhoea in pen:

- ≤ 1 pig with diarrhoea per ≤ 20 pigs

2 = severe diarrhoea in pen:

- > 1 pig with diarrhoea per ≤ 20 pigs



1= Pig with diarrhoea: abnormal colour and consistency

Pigs requiring hospitalization (pregnant sows, weaned piglets, fatteners)

0 = no pig requiring hospitalization

1 = \geq one pig needing hospitalization in pen: include pigs that are **obviously sick, weak**, have
problems to cope with the group (access to food and water) and should be kept separately (e.g.
severely lame, severe diarrhoea, severely tail bitten...)

In general: if you see any signs of acute/severe diseases, do not make a diagnosis but rather suggest calling the veterinarian.