

Pig welfare

FIVE ANSWERS FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS

1. What do pigs do in their housing units?

It's natural for pigs to wallow in mud and use their snouts for rooting. In housing units, pigs can satisfy their natural curiosity by having access to sprinkling systems and to materials of natural origin that they can bite and move around.

2. Are all pigs given medicine?

No. Pigs only receive medicine if they are ill. A veterinarian is the only person that can prescribe medicine, but he is not permitted to sell it. Only pharmacies can do that. All medicine consumption is registered in VetStat, a central database. In Denmark, reduced antibiotic usage is a key objective in pig production.

3. Do we know enough about animal welfare?

Not yet. We're constantly researching into animal welfare and how we can respect the natural behaviour of livestock in the best way possible. Denmark is also an active participant in international efforts to promote animal welfare.

4. Why do some pigs have short tails?

Outbreaks of tail-biting among pigs can sometimes occur. One of the ways to reduce this is to dock half the tail. The industry is continually working to ensure that increasing numbers of pigs have whole tails. If pig meat is produced under the new government-back animal welfare trademark, no tail docking is allowed.

5. What about pig transport?

There are rigorous requirements for transporting pigs. Transport time in Denmark is short and drivers are specially trained for the task. Denmark also has one of the world's lowest mortality rates as far as pig transport is concerned.



Read more about animal welfare for pigs at agricultureandfood.co.uk

Sources and data from 2017