



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Teacher's Manual

2026 Sydney
Royal School
Commercial Pig
Competition

2 - 13 April 2026
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park
www.rasnsw.com.au

Sydney Royal
SINCE 1822





This teaching resource has been developed by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW with the valued support of Australian Pork Limited.

Their contribution has enabled the creation of engaging, curriculum aligned content that supports student learning about Australia's pork industry, biosecurity, and sustainable farming practices. We acknowledge their commitment to agricultural education and thank them for helping bring real world farming into the classroom.

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Invitation

The Pig Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is delighted to extend an invitation to all New South Wales schools that have the appropriate facilities for keeping pigs to take part in the 2026 Sydney Royal School Commercial Pig Competition.

This unique educational initiative offers students a hands-on opportunity to engage with the pig industry, develop practical animal husbandry skills, and participate in a structured, curriculum-aligned trial that culminates in showcasing their work at the prestigious Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Participation not only supports agricultural learning outcomes but also fosters teamwork, responsibility, and pride in student achievement.

What the Competition Aims to Achieve

The 2026 Sydney Royal School Commercial Pig Competition is designed to provide a rich, hands-on learning experience that connects students with the agricultural industry—specifically, commercial pig production. The competition aims to:

- **Promote Agricultural Education** - Introduce students to the principles of livestock management, animal welfare, and sustainable farming practices through direct involvement in pig rearing and care.
- **Develop Practical Skills** - Equip students with real-world skills in animal husbandry, including feeding, housing, health management and grooming, while reinforcing the importance of biosecurity and ethical treatment of animals.
- **Encourage Scientific Inquiry** - Engage students in a structured trial that involves data collection, observation, and analysis of pig rearing, fostering critical thinking and scientific literacy.
- **Support Curriculum Integration** - Align with key learning outcomes across subjects such as Agriculture, Science, Technology, and Business Studies, making it a valuable addition to school programs.
- **Foster Industry Awareness** - Provide insight into the Australian pig and pork industries, including economic considerations, market trends, and career pathways.
- **Build Confidence and Teamwork** - Encourage collaboration, communication, and leadership as students work together to prepare their entries and present their projects at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
- **Celebrate Student Achievement** - Offer a platform for students to showcase their hard work, knowledge, and dedication in a prestigious, real-world setting.

What the Competition Involves

To take part in the 2026 Sydney Royal School Commercial Pig Competition, schools are required to acquire three pigs by **6 February 2026**. These pigs may already be housed at the school or sourced from a reputable breeder or supplier. If a school does not have an existing relationship with a pig supplier, assistance can be provided by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW to help facilitate access.

Once acquired, the pigs will be under the daily care and management of the school for a minimum of 8 weeks, from **6 February 2026** until the conclusion of the competition. During this time, students will be responsible for rearing, monitoring, and preparing the pigs for exhibition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

All schools entering the Commercial Pig Competition will automatically participate in the following four components:

- **On the Hoof:** A pen of three pigs will be judged on their uniformity of type, temperament, market suitability, weight, presentation and presentation of handlers and their skill.
- **Project Presentation:** Students will deliver a 2–3 minute in-ring presentation at the Show, on one of the pig husbandry topics outlined in this manual (page 9)
- **On the Hook:** After processing, the pigs will be assessed as carcasses based on uniformity in traits such as eye muscle area, ham shape, meat texture, fat depth and distribution, carcass weight, and overall yield. The RAS will coordinate the sale of the carcasses following judging.

- **Stockman's Competition:** Schools will be judged on the overall presentation and maintenance of their team, including the grooming of pigs, cleanliness and layout of pens, and student interaction with the public.

Schools completing all components will be eligible for the Most Successful School Award.

PIC Tattoo

Schools MUST order a striker plate (to apply PIC tattoo) for individual pig identification. To order please contact Bainbridge Vet Supplies sales@bainbridgevet.com.au. Please provide the school PIC Number and NSW mailing address for the striker to be created and delivered. Please note any made to order items such as striker plates currently have a lead time of 7-8 weeks.

Please refer to the codes below when ordering:

A1046 Pig Striker – NSW (striker only – 6 division)

A1047 Pig Striker with digits (plate only)

A6010 Tattoo ink 1L (black)

How to Enter

Entry to the Competition is free of charge, and all participating schools will receive support in sourcing pigs from a registered breeder if requested.

All exhibitors must comply with the Conditions of Entry to Sydney Showground, the RAS General Regulations, and the Special Pig Regulations, which can be found at www.rasnsw.com.au.

To register for the 2026 Sydney Royal School Commercial Pig Competition, please complete your entry online at www.myras.org.au. Should you have any questions about the competition, please contact the RAS Pig Section on (02) 9704 1211 or email pig@rasnsw.com.au.

Discounted School Show Tickets

Participating Schools are eligible to apply for up to ten (10) one day entry passes, issued at the discretion of the Events Manager and only upon request. Contact pig@rasnsw.com.au for further details.

Schools will also be eligible to purchase additional discounted tickets to visit the 2026 Sydney Royal Easter Show. These tickets can be purchased via the Sydney Royal Easter Show website, alternatively please contact education@rasnsw.com.au for more information.

Competition Guidelines

- Pigs may be of any breed but must all be female or castrated males.
- Pigs must be under the direct, daily care of the exhibiting school from no later than **Friday 6 February 2026** and remain so until the conclusion of the competition.
- Each pig must be tattooed with the school's PIC number for identification purposes before arriving on the Showground.
- All pigs should be accustomed to handling.
- Pigs must meet the RAS Pig Health Standards.

Completion of the Competition

At the conclusion of the Competition, all meat produced by the participating pigs will be sold (arranged by the RAS). The proceeds from these sales will be returned to the participating schools, providing a valuable opportunity for students to understand the commercial aspect of pig production and the broader agricultural supply chain.

Competition Awards

1. **On the Hoof**

Prize ribbons awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

2. **Project Competition**

Prize ribbons awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

3. **On the Hook**

Prize ribbons awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

4. **Stockman's Competition**

Prize ribbons awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

5. **Most Successful School**

Presented to the school that demonstrates the highest overall performance across the Group of Three, Production Class, Project, and Herdsman Competition.

- Points are allocated as follows: 1st place = 3 points, 2nd place = 2 points, 3rd place = 1 point.
- If fewer than three awards are given in any category, points will be assigned based on the order of merit.

6. **Best School Pen Display**

Prize ribbon awarded for winner.

Competition Timeline

Please note that dates are subject to change.

1	• Entries Close: Wednesday 3 December 2025 • Enter at www.myras.org.au
2	• Pigs to be under day to day management of the school by Friday 6 February 2026. • Schools must order a PIC Tattoo
3	• PigPass NVD to be completed by School for the trip to the Showground
4	• Sydney Royal Easter Show Bump In: Wednesday 1 April 2026
5	• Stockman's Competition judged over the duration of the 2026 Sydney Royal Easter Show
6	• Scanning and Weigh In: Thursday 2 April 2026 • Inspections: Friday 3 April 2026
7	• On the Hoof Judging: Sunday 5 April 2026
8	• Project Presentation: Sunday 5 April 2026
9	• Pigs Bump Out: Monday 6 April 2026
10	• On the Hook: Pigs will be processed and judged offsite. Results will be emailed to the school once available

Using the Competition for Learning

The 2026 Sydney Royal School Commercial Pig Competition has been designed as a scientific trial exploring the commercial production pigs. Participating in this trial with your students offers valuable opportunities to integrate learning across multiple curriculum areas, supporting the delivery of a comprehensive unit on pig production.

NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum – Science K-10 Syllabus

Early-Stage 1

Skills	STe-4WS A student explores their immediate surroundings by questioning, observing using their senses and communicating to share their observations and ideas.
Knowledge and understanding	STe-8NE A student identifies the basic needs of living things.

Stage 1

Skills	ST1-4WS A student investigates questions and predictions by collecting and recording data, sharing, and reflecting on their experiences and comparing what they and others know.
Knowledge and understanding	ST1-10LW A student describes external features, changes in and growth of living things.

Stage 2

Skills	ST2-4WS A student investigates their questions and predictions by analysing collected data suggesting explanations for their findings and communicating and reflecting on the processes undertaken.
Knowledge and understanding	ST2-10LW A student describes that living things have life cycles, can be distinguished from non-living things, and grouped, based on their observable features.

Stage 3

Skills	ST3-4WS A student investigates by posing questions, including testable questions, making predictions, and gathering data to draw evidence-based conclusions and develop explanation.
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Knowledge and understanding	ST3-11LW A student describes some physical conditions of the environment and how these affect the growth and survival of living things.
Stage 4	
Skills	SC4-6WS A students follow a sequence of instructions to safely undertake a range of investigation types, collaboratively and individually. SC4-7WS A student processes and analyses data from first-hand investigation and secondary sources to identify trends, patterns and relationships, and draw conclusions. SC4-9WS A student presents science ideas, findings and information to a given audience using appropriate scientific language, text types and representations.
Knowledge and understanding	SC4-14LW A student relates the structure and function of living things to their classification, survival and reproduction.
Stage 5	
Skills	SC5-6WS A student undertakes first-hand investigations to collect valid and reliable data and information, individually and collaboratively. SC5-7WS A student processes, analyses and evaluates data from first-hand investigations and secondary sources to develop evidence-based arguments and conclusions. SC5-9WS A student presents science ideas and evidence for a particular purpose and to a specific audience, using appropriate scientific language, conventions and representations.
Knowledge and understanding	SC5-14LW A student analyses interactions between components and processes within biological systems.

NSW Education Standards Authority Agricultural Technology Years 7 – 10 Syllabus

Stage 4

AG4-3 A student identifies and explains interactions between the agricultural sector and Australia's economy, culture, and society.

AG4-10 A student implements and appreciates the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.

AG4-11 A student undertakes controlled experiments in agricultural contexts.

AG4-12 A student communicates experimental data using a range of information and communicates technologies.

AG4-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.

AG4-7 A student identifies and uses skills to manage the interactions within animal production enterprises.

Stage 5

AG5-4 A student investigates and implements responsible production systems for plant and animal enterprises.

AG5-10 A student implements and justifies the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.

AG5-12 A student collects and analyses agricultural data and communicates results using a range of technologies.

AG5-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.

AG5-7 A student explains and evaluates the impact of management decisions on animal production enterprises.

NSW Education Standards Authority Technology Mandatory Years 7-8 Syllabus (2017) - Agriculture and Food Technologies

Outcomes	TE4-5AG A student investigates how food and fibre are produced in managed environments
Identifying and defining	Students investigate how food and fibre production is managed in environments as a system and how sustainability can be improved, for example. Plant and/or animal species grown in managed environments
Researching and planning	Students investigate ideal conditions for growth and development of an agricultural plant or animal

Judging Criteria Summary

On the Hoof

Each competition entry must include three pigs of any breed, all of which must be either females or castrated males, and at least 18 weeks old at the time of judging. This class aims to assess the uniformity and standard of care provided across a group of pigs.

Judging focuses on a comprehensive set of criteria that reflect both the physical quality and commercial viability of the pigs. One of the primary considerations is exhibit type, where pigs must demonstrate structural soundness and functionality. Judges assess the uniformity of the confirmation of the pigs.

Temperament is another key factor, as pigs must remain calm and composed in the Show ring. Animals that display signs of stress, aggression, or anxiety are considered unsuitable for commercial production environments. Market suitability is judged by how well the pigs meet industry standards for weight, fat coverage, and muscularity, ensuring they align with the expectations of their intended market. Each pig must weigh between **95kg and 110kg** on the day of weighing, with penalties applied for deviations from this range or inconsistencies within the pen of three.

Presentation also plays a vital role. Pigs must be clean, well-handled, and responsive to their handlers, showcasing their readiness for commercial settings. Similarly, handlers are expected to be professionally presented in clean white coats and sturdy footwear, maintaining composure and attentiveness throughout the judging process. Finally, the pig with the highest individual score within the pen will be awarded the Best Individual Score, recognising excellence in overall quality and presentation.

All pigs must be free from internal and external parasites, such as worms. These health requirements are essential for maintaining biosecurity and ensuring the wellbeing of all animals involved in the competition.

Project Presentation

Each school must create a short 2–3-minute presentation on one of the following topics related to the Australian pork industry, to be presented in the ring on Sunday 5 April 2026.

- **Pig Production**
Explore the different types of commercial pig farming—free range, outdoor bred, and indoor systems. What proportion of the industry does each represent? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each method?
- **Sustainability**
Investigate the technologies and practices used in the pork industry to promote sustainability. How do these compare to other agricultural sectors?
- **Pig Breeds**
Identify the pig breeds found in Australia. Which breeds are most commonly used, and why? What are the key characteristics of each?
- **Biosecurity**
Define biosecurity and explain its importance in pig farming. What are the essential practices and considerations to maintain a secure and healthy environment?
- **Nutrition**
Outline the dietary needs of pigs and how their nutrition changes at different life stages. Why are these changes necessary?
- **Pork Products**
Highlight the most popular pork cuts and where they come from on the pig. How much pork do Australians consume, and how does this compare internationally?

- **Quality Assurance**
Explain what quality assurance means in the pig industry. What does it involve, and why is it critical for producers and consumers?
- **Traceability**
Describe the systems and technologies used to track pigs and pork products through the supply chain. Why is traceability important for food safety and consumer confidence?

<i>Project Criteria</i>					<i>Score</i>
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-2	3-5	6-8	9-10	
Topic Content 25%	The presentation includes a little summary of the topic.	The presentation includes a basic summary of the topic.	The presentation includes a good summarisation of the topic.	The presentation includes an excellent summary of the topic.	
Research 25%	The presentation demonstrates little research.	The presentation shows a basic attempt to include research and discussion.	The presentation shows good research into and discussion.	The presentation shows excellent research into and discussion,	
Organisation of Growth Data 15%	Data is not included.	Data collection has been attempted and included in the project.	Good data collection and organisation, such as a table.	Excellent data collection and organisation such as tables, graphs and /or charts.	
Presentation & Structure 15%	Students make little reference to data and research in presentation. Overall project has limited structure.	Students make basic references to data and research in presentation. Overall project has basic structure/or some formatting mistakes.	Students make good use of data and research in presentation. The overall project is structured, with minimal formatting mistakes.	Students use data and research to support their presentation. The overall project is well structured, with appropriate formatting.	
Oral Presentation Skills 20%	Students are unprepared to present, with a marked lack of eye contact. Poor pacing and tone.	Students are somewhat prepared, with some eye contact or gestures. Inappropriate tone or pacing.	Students are well-prepared and deliver with eye contact and appropriate gestures. Enthusiastic tone and good pacing.	Students are very well prepared and deliver ideas clearly with enthusiasm. Eye contact, pacing and gestures contribute well to the presentation.	
Total					

Stockman's Competition

The Stockman's Competition is designed to recognise and reward students for their commitment to high standards of animal care, presentation, and public engagement. This component of the competition encourages students to take pride in their work, demonstrate responsibility, and actively promote their involvement in the pig industry. Judging will take place throughout the event in the Paddington Pavilion, with assessors observing the ongoing care and presentation of each school's exhibit.

Students will be evaluated across several key areas. The groomed appearance of the pigs is a major focus, with judges looking for animals that are clean, well-presented, and handled with care. A high-performing team will demonstrate consistent grooming practices that reflect attention to detail and animal welfare.

The condition and economic use of bedding will also be assessed. Pens should be clean, dry, and appropriately bedded, with minimal waste of materials. Judges will also check for the absence of excretal matter, as cleanliness is essential for both animal health and public presentation.

The condition of feeders is another important criterion. Feeders should be clean, functional, and positioned to allow easy access for the pigs without contamination. In addition, the general tidiness of pens will be evaluated, with judges looking for well-organised, safe, and visually appealing setups.

Finally, students will be assessed on their overall presentation, promotion, and knowledge. This includes their ability to speak confidently about their pigs, explain their management practices, and engage positively with the public and judges. Schools that demonstrate enthusiasm, professionalism, and a strong understanding of the industry will score highly in this area.

Each of these elements contributes to a total score out of 50, reflecting the comprehensive nature of the Herdsman Competition and its emphasis on both practical skills and educational engagement.

<i>Stockman's Competition</i>			
Criteria	Score	Guidelines /5	Guidelines /10
Groomed Appearance of Pigs	/10	Low Performing Score 0-1	Low Performing Score 0-4
Condition and Economic Use of Bedding	/10		
Absence of Excretal	/5	Average Performing Score 2-3	Average Performing Score 5-7
Condition of Feeders	/5		
General Tidiness of Pens	/10	High Performing Score 4-5	High Performing Score 8-10
Overall Presentation, Promotion and Knowledge	/10		
Total	/50		

On the Hook

pigs are evaluated based on a range of carcass traits that reflect their commercial value and meat quality. Each pig must have appropriate identification suitable for processing to ensure traceability and compliance with industry standards.

The Eye Muscle Area, located in the loin, is assessed for its muscularity, trimness, and overall meat quality. Judges look for a full, well-rounded muscle with minimal fat coverage and fine-textured, bright reddish-pink meat. Similarly, the Butt Shape is graded from A to E and evaluated for thickness, width, length, and plumpness. A desirable butt shape shows strong muscular development with reduced fat over the collar and belly pocket.

Meat Texture is another critical factor. The exposed lean meat should be fine-textured and bright in colour. Carcasses displaying pale, soft, watery meat (known as PSE) or dark, firm lean are considered undesirable and will be penalized accordingly.

Fat Depth and Distribution are judged both externally and internally. While less external fat is preferred, internal fat streaking (feathering) between the ribs is a positive trait. High-quality fat should be firm, dry, bright white, and evenly distributed across the carcass.

Each pig must weigh between **65kg and 75kg**. Points are deducted for pigs that fall outside this range or for significant weight variation within the pen of three. Carcase Yield is assessed by examining the muscularity and leanness of the carcass, with higher yields indicating a greater proportion of quality retail cuts.

Finally, the pig with the highest individual score within each pen will be awarded the Best Individual Score, recognizing excellence in carcass quality and presentation.

Best School Pen Display (optional)

Schools are warmly encouraged to personalise and decorate their allocated pen areas to showcase school spirit and engage visitors. Decorations may include school banners, flags, posters, photos, or displays featuring school colours, student involvement, or educational information about the pigs being exhibited and the broader pig industry.

To ensure safety and uniformity, school banners must not exceed 1400mm in length and 540mm in depth and must not hang below the mesh area of the pen. All decorations should be securely attached and must not obstruct visibility, interfere with animal welfare, or impede access to the pen.

Creative displays that highlight the students' learning journey, pig care practices, breed information, or sustainability efforts within the pork industry are highly encouraged. These decorations not only enhance the visual appeal of the exhibit but also provide an opportunity to educate the public and celebrate the hard work of participating students. A broad ribbon will be award to the best school pen display.

Pig Husbandry

Arrival at School

- It is strongly recommended that pigs be kept separate from other pigs to minimise the risk of disease transmission. For schools receiving pigs, it is advised that animals be treated for parasites and common diseases upon arrival at the school.
- All pigs must be tattooed with the school PIC number for clear identification.

Arrival Data & Details – Pig 1	
Date of Arrival at School:	
Pig's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Tag Number:	
Tattoo:	
Herd Book Number:	
Weight on Arrival:	
Breeder's Details (where pig came from):	
Breeder's PIC:	

Arrival Data & Details – Pig 2	
Date of Arrival at School:	
Pig's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Tag Number:	
Tattoo:	
Herd Book Number:	
Weight on Arrival:	
Breeder's Details (where pig came from):	
Breeder's PIC:	

Arrival Data & Details – Pig 3

Date of Arrival at School:	
Pig's Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Tag Number:	
Tattoo:	
Herd Book Number:	
Weight on Arrival:	
Breeder's Details (where pig came from):	
Breeder's PIC:	

Competition Sample Data Collection

Sample Data Collection tables have been provided as a reference tool to support students in recording and tracking pig development throughout the trial period, from commencement to the final show.

Feed Records

Recording the details of your feeding program is important to maintaining high quality, traceable pig husbandry. Please refer to the tables below for records of purchased (ready mixed).

Record the details of any ready mixed feed that you have purchased using the criteria below.

NOTE: You should keep a feed sample of each batch of fixed feed that you prepare or purchase, for your records. Whenever you purchase or mix a new batch of feed, collect about a cup full of feed in a plastic zip top bag or container and write an ID number of it which will be recorded in your feed records. Keep the sample for the duration the pigs are in your care to ensure that the pigs that have consumed the batch of feed have been processed without problems. Keeping feed samples will enable you to prove that your feed was correctly mixed and recorded, if a problem occurs.

Date:	Date feed stored on farm.
Quantity:	Quantity of feed purchased.
Type of Feed:	Type of feed.
Storage Location:	Where feed was stored, e.g.: silo number.
Sample Number:	The number of the feed sample kept.
Receipt Number:	Number of purchase receipt.

Purchase (ready mixed) Feed Record

Date	Quantity	Type of Feed	Storage Location	Sample No.	Receipt No.
<i>eg: 20/11/2017</i>	<i>20kg</i>	<i>Vella Stock Feeds Pig Grower/Finisher</i>	<i>Grain Shed</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Receipt 1234</i>

Pest Control Record

Record the details of the pest control procedures in place in the piggery and the record acts to verify that pests are being controlled. Whenever you carry out pest control procedures you should note the details using the criteria below. It is recommended to note any bait station locations in your piggery layout.

NOTE: Use pest control products with an ESI or WHP on them should also be recorded in the daily/weekly/monthly chemical use record if pigs may have been exposed to them.

Date:	Date pest control took place.
Type of Pest:	The type of pest being targeted.
Product Used:	Name of the product or method used to control the pests.
What, Where How Used:	Area where pest control was used and how it is use.
Sign:	Signature of the person who undertook the procedure.

Pest Control Record				
Date	Type of Pest	Product Used	What, Where, How Used	Sign
<i>eg: 20/11/2017</i>	<i>Rodent</i>	<i>Chlorophacinone</i>	<i>Bait stations were laid outside of piggery sheds. See map for location details.</i>	

Medication and Chemical Use Record

Record all the medications and chemicals that have an ESI and WHP that you use in and around your piggery using the criteria below. This includes prescription medications approved by your veterinarian as well as wormers, cleaning products, vaccines, herbicides, pesticides, vitamins etc.

Date Purchased:	Date product purchased.
Product:	Name of product.
Vet Approved Y/N/NA:	Is this a veterinary medicine that has been approved for use in your piggery by a veterinarian? Yes (Y) or No (N) or Not Applicable (NA).
Delivery Method:	How the product is to be applied or delivered e.g.: injection, oral, in feed, in water, on skin, spray, bait, etc.
Dose/Rate:	For approved veterinary medications indicate the amount of product to be administered, and how many times to administer the product.
Label or Off Label Use:	Indicate whether the product is to be used as per label instructions "label" or if "off label" use has been approved by your veterinarian. Include the directions given by your veterinarian for any off label use in this column.
WHP:	Record the WHP as per label or as established by your veterinarian if off label use has been approved.
ESI:	Record the ESI as per label or as established by your veterinarian if off label use has been approved.
Use:	Write what the chemical is to be used for your own reference.

Medication and Chemical List								
Date Purchased	Product	Vet approved Y/N/NA	Delivery Method	Dose/Rate	Label or Approved Off Label Use	WHP	ESI	Use
<i>eg: 2/11/17</i>	<i>Coopers Amitik EC</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Spray</i>	<i>40ml/10L water</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Mange</i>

Record all treatments of pigs with medications and chemicals as they occur using the below criteria. Record the use of all other chemicals that have an ESI or WHP that the pigs may have been exposed to (e.g.: herbicides, pesticides, or cleaning products). Check the PigPass National Vendor Declarations (NVD) that accompany the pigs received for the competition and record any ESIs or WHPs stated on the NVD in the record.

Date:	Date treatment administered or chemical applied.
Product:	State the name of the product used.
Location:	Record the location of the pig/s treated or exposed to the chemical or the location or area where the chemical was applied.
Pig ID:	Something to identify the pigs treated or exposed to the chemical.
Pig LW:	Record the live weight of the pig/s.
Delivery Method:	State how the product was administered – e.g.: oral (O), Injection (I), in feed (F), in water (W), sprayed (S) etc.
Dose/Rate:	Record the dose given or the rate at which the product was applied.
WHP:	Record any WHP on the chemical used.
ESI:	Record any ESI on the chemical used.
Reason:	Record the reason for the treatment or use of the chemical.
Needle out Y/N:	For injected treatments indicate that Yes (Y) the needle was removed intact or No (N) that it broke off in the pig. If Yes, record the position of any retained needles in retained foreign object record.

Medication/Chemical Use Record										
Date	Product	Location/ Reason	Pig ID	Pig LW	Delivery Method	Dose/ Rate	WHP	ESI	Reason	Needle Out Y/N
eg: 2/1/17	Coopers Amitik EC	Mange	S1	50kg	Label	40ml/10L water	Nil	Nil	Mange	Y

Maintenance Record

Track the day-to-day maintenance of the piggery and husbandry of pigs using the criteria below. The criteria can be tabulated as per the following example.

Date:	Date Maintenance was performed.	
Details of Job:	What maintenance was done including the location?	
Cleaned Up Y/N:	Did you clean up all mess and foreign objects after the job was done – Yes or No	
Maintenance Record		
Date	Details of Job	Cleaned Up – Y/N
eg: 20/11/2017	Cleaned all water lines in shed 2. Included a disinfectant and anti-microbial line flush.	Y

Welfare Checklist

Tick the box as you perform a daily animal welfare check of feed, water, herd health and animals in sick pens. This table can be formatted weekly (as below) or monthly.

Weekly Welfare Checklist								
Check ✓	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Comments
Feed	✓	✓						e.g.: W 1, Sun, Pen 3, Feed Line
Water								

Herd Health								
Sick Pens								

Preparing for the Show

Checklist		Ready?
1. Handling & Training	The pigs will be moved in and out of pens and the Show ring a number of times throughout their time at the Show. It is important for students to handle the pigs with pig boards regularly to prepare for Showing. Construct a practice ring (small yard) for students to spend 20- 30mins per session walking the pigs in circles using the boards to change direction by blocking their field of vision and encourage movement with light, regular contact. Practice sessions should be both individual pigs and working in a pen of 3.	
2. Washing & Cleaning	Pigs should be washed and brushed in preparation for the Show. Using warm, soapy water and a brush (horse or cattle brushes work well and are cheap from your local stockfeed store) to remove dirt, food and faecal matter from the pig's body, head and legs. Pay particular attention to the legs and feet. Take care not to get soap into the ears or eyes of the pigs. It is also important to use both soap and bucket as well as a hose to ensure pigs are desensitised to the different types of cleaning. Washing and cleaning is a great way to give your pig handling practice as well as prepare the pig for different activities it will participate in at the Show.	
3. Feeding & Watering	After cleaning, ensure your pigs have immediate access to feed and water. Pigs should be on a grower/finisher ration.	
4. Packing List	Please ensure you bring: - Pigs! - Pig Food - Feed Bowls - White Dust Coats and boots or strong shoes (for showing) - Stock Boards - Washing Equipment - Pig Presentation on a USB Please note: the RAS will supply straw for bedding (students are responsible for maintaining a clean area).	

Preparing for Transport

Checklist		Ready?
1. Health	Your pigs must be in good health prior to transport. Any animals with signs of disease, injury or illness should be reviewed and not transported.	
2. Trailer or Ute	A plan for transport that includes a safe and efficient vessel (vehicle, trailer) and route should be prepared well before departure. Trips over 3 hours should allow for stoppages.	
3. PigPass (NVD)	A PigPass NVD must be completed for your journey to the Show. Please contact the APL PigPass helpline for more information. If using a transport company, please complete appropriate sections and give the green and white sections to the transporter. If transporting the pigs yourself, please supply the completed white copy to the RAS. 1. Please complete a PigPass FROM your School TO the Sydney Showground using the details below: Consigned to: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Consignee Address: 1 Showground Rd, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127 Destination of Pigs – same as consignee address: YES Are they consigned to a: Show/Event	
4. Mandatory Documents	Make sure you are familiar with the Show Rules and Regulations which are printed in the Schedule, to ensure you have the required dress and know how to handle your pigs in the pavilion and on presentation day.	

For more information on whether your pigs are fit to load please have a look at [APL - Fit to Load](#)

Inspection & Weigh In

Exhibitors are reminded to review the Special Regulations concerning animals that are sick or diseased, as well as the inspection process for verifying type, identification, description, and eligibility.

All exhibitors must present copies of current registration papers at the time of inspection upon arrival.

Important: Schools are required to participate in the official inspection and weigh-in on **Friday 3 April 2026**.

At the Show

Checklist		Ready?
1. Feeding and Watering	Schools are responsible for feeding and watering their pigs every day of the show. All pigs shall be fed and attended by the students, who shall be responsible for cleanliness and proper condition of the pens and shall be subject to the control of the Superintendent of the section appointed by the RAS.	
2. Cleaning & Mucking Out	Schools must complete cleaning of pens. Each school is responsible for the removal of soiled straw and manure from their pen prior to 7am each day.	
3. Judging Day	To prepare for judging, each school will move their pigs (when directed by Stewards) to a holding pen adjacent to the judging ring. For Judging, each group of three pigs will then be led into the ring and allowed to roam; they can be 'handled' in the ring using pig boards (no sticks or whips are to be used on the Showground). Stewards and Officials will be on hand to direct and assist – we recommend you restrict the number of students entering the ring forease. The pen of three are judged and returned to their ringside pen. When directed by Stewards, pigs can be returned to their home pen.	

4. Learn, Learn, Learn!	Enjoy the experience and the camaraderie of your fellow students but also make time to speak to others in the shed. Learn from watching how others prepare their pigs and present them in the ring. Don't be afraid to ask exhibitors why they do certain things, or for advice when cleaning or mucking out – they've often been showing for years and are more than happy to help. Feel free to ask for help or feedback from the Officials too.	
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Resources

Sydney Royal Pig Show – www.rasnsw.com.au

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Education Department – www.rasnsw.com.au/education

NSW Department of Education Animals in Schools – www.education.nsw.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Pig Resources – www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Australian Pork Limited (APL) - www.australianpork.com.au

PigPass - www.pigpass.australianpork.com.au/faq

Animals in Schools

Caring for pigs at school can be a highly rewarding and educational experience for students. However, ensuring the animals' welfare is essential. All NSW schools must comply with the **Animal Research Act 1985 (NSW)** and the **Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes**.

To meet these obligations, schools should familiarise themselves with the relevant requirements and ensure all practices align with approved standards. Comprehensive guidance is available on the **NSW Department of Education's Animals in Schools** website: education.nsw.gov.au.

Other Pig Competitions and events for School Aged Children

Pig Handler Competition

The Pig Handler Competition is a valuable educational event designed to teach students the art and discipline of presenting livestock with confidence, care, and professionalism in front of a judge. This competition highlights the importance of animal handling, presentation skills, and personal conduct in the show ring.

Key Requirements:

- Competitors must wear a clean, white dustcoat along with boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes to ensure both safety and a professional appearance in the ring.

Entry Information:

- Entries for the Pig Handler Competition are separate from the School Commercial Pig Competition.
- Students interested in participating must submit entries online via www.myras.org.au.

This competition not only builds confidence but also encourages students to take pride in their animal care and presentation abilities. It's an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge, preparation, and connection with their animals in a formal show environment.

Pig Young Judges Competition

The Pig Young Judges Competition is open to young individuals aged **15 to 24 years** who are passionate about livestock evaluation and keen to develop their judging skills. This engaging event provides participants with the opportunity to assess two distinct classes of pigs: white and coloured.

Competitors will be required to carefully observe and evaluate each class based on industry-relevant criteria such as structure, muscularity, temperament, and overall presentation. Following the assessment, participants will deliver an oral presentation explaining their judging decisions for one of the classes. This presentation should include a clear justification of rankings, demonstrating the participant's understanding of pig conformation and commercial suitability.

The competition not only tests technical knowledge and observational skills but also encourages confidence in public speaking and the ability to communicate agricultural insights effectively.

Baconomics: A Pig Education Class

Students engage in a variety of interactive, hands-on experiences that immerse them in key aspects of the pig & pork industries. These activities may include washing and preparing pigs for the show ring, learning proper handling and parading techniques, exploring pig production systems, understanding the structure and roles within the pig industry, applying biosecurity principles, and developing skills relevant to young judging competitions. Through these practical sessions, students gain valuable insights into animal care, industry standards, and career pathways.

When: Wednesday, 1 April 2026

Where: Pig Pavilion, Sydney Royal Easter Show

Time: TBC

Cost: \$5.00 per person

For more information or to register your interest contact pig@rasnsw.com.au

Notes:

Notes:

Notes:



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Small Livestock Event Manager

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

1 Showground Road, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

T: (02) 9704 1211

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