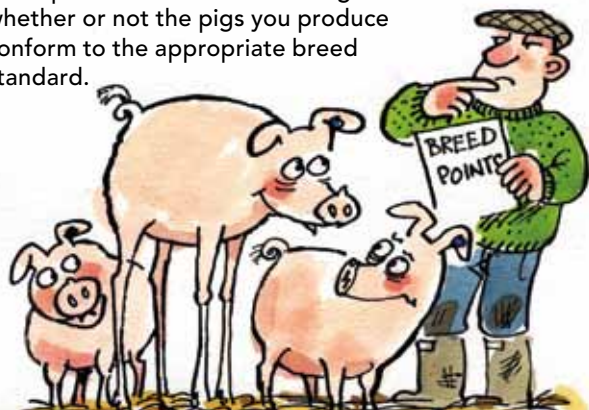


It's important to be able to recognise whether or not the pigs you produce conform to the appropriate breed standard.



supermarkets. If your pedigree herd is big enough to supply a supermarket contract, then you should be part of the main Red Tractor assurance scheme, or one of the equivalent schemes in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales. Quality assurance for pedigree pork comes from our pedigree pork marketing scheme.

The new BPA scheme will be launched in the autumn, at a series of meetings around the country.

Pedigree breeding

In the summer issue we talked about the importance of birth-notifying your pedigree litters. Any pig with pedigree parents can be birth-notified, but only those which meet the breed standard can go on to receive a Herdbook Registration Certificate.

Each breed has its own breed standard, which is kept under review by the elected breed representatives. The latest version is always available from the BPA website or the office. If you have any questions about it, you should contact your breed representative; they'll be happy to talk it over with you and explain any of the terms used.

The breed standard defines your breed so you must respect it. It's unusual for every pig in a litter to be good enough for breeding. Do not register pigs for breeding which don't meet the breed standard.

The BPA carries out herd inspections from time to time, and pigs which don't meet the standard, together with all their herdbook-registered progeny, may be removed from the herdbook, and downgraded to a supplementary register of pedigree pigs not suitable for breeding.

Pedigree breeders' FAQs Do I have to notify the BPA when I sell pigs?

If you sell birth-notified pigs for breeding, you should herdbook-register them and transfer them to the new owner. The transfer is included in the registration, and costs £6.50.

If you sell birth-notified pigs that you've already registered into your own herd, or

registered pigs that you bought from another breeder, the transfer fee is £4.50.

If you sell birth-notified pigs for fattening, you should 'kill' them off as the transfer system for birth-notified pigs is being developed alongside the new online movement licences. If the buyer comes back in the future and wants to keep a pig for breeding, it's up to you to decide if the animal is good enough to go in the herdbook. Remember, it must meet the breed standard. If you agree, then the BPA can revive the pig and you can register it to the owner. This will cost £6.50.

If you sell pigs for slaughter you should issue a Pork Pedigree (Meat Certificate) for the butcher. This will 'kill off' the pig at the same time.

I want to birth notify my litter but I don't have any forms. How do I get them?

Log into the members' area with your HDL and password. The first item on the menu is: 'Allocate your own forms'.

If this link is live, you have a package subscription and can issue your own forms (remember that registrations and transfers are charged at the time of issue, so only allocate

your forms when you need them).

If the link isn't live you can download an order form and email, fax or post it to the BPA.

I looked in the online herdbook and my pigs are listed as dead from 6th March 2011. What does this mean?

This is the date that we completed our annual bloodline survey. Every year we ask members to confirm that their pigs are alive so that we have an accurate record of the population and bloodlines in each breed.

If you don't complete your survey, we use an automated system to look at the age and recent birth notification history of each, then decide if it's alive or dead. Records are not deleted from the herdbook and so your pig can be revived, but the best thing is to complete the survey and keep your pigs 'live' in the first place. Details about next year's survey will be published in November.

Please remember that instructions for all the on-line services can be found in the Pedigree Pigs section of the website at: www.britishpigs.org



There's always a concern from some sectors of farming that small-scale pig keepers pose a threat to bio-security.



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