

HOW TO STUN PIGS

Stunning is vital to make pigs unconscious before slaughtering them. They can then be **slaughtered** painlessly.

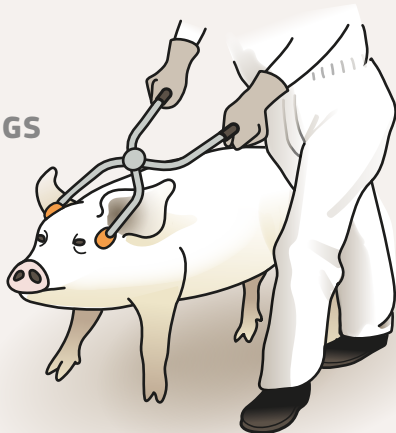
The tips below cover best practices used in small slaughterhouses and will help you stun pigs efficiently.

Only workers holding a certificate of competence are allowed to stun pigs.

ABOUT PIGS

- ✦ Pigs are social, sensitive and expressive animals
- ✦ They **don't have good eyesight**, but can hear very well
- ✦ Sows and boars can be aggressive
- ✦ **Like:** well-lit areas
- ✦ **Dislike:** darkness and shadows, reflections, moving objects, strong drafts, loud noises, sudden movement, being on their own and in a corner, slippery floors, being hurried
- ✦ Each pig can respond in a different way

POSITIONING OF ELECTRODES FOR STUNNING OF PIGS



BEFORE STUNNING

CHECK THE EQUIPMENT

- ✦ Make sure the tongs are the **right size** and **not corroded**
- ✦ Wet the electrodes to ease current flow
- ✦ Wear **rubber gloves and boots**

PLACE THE ELECTRODES

- ✦ **Between the outer corners of the eyes and the base of the ears**
- ✦ Or just below the ears
- ✦ Or below one ear and above the opposite eye
- ✦ **Never place behind the ears**

WHEN PIGS ARE AGITATED

DO



- ✦ Keep calm
- ✦ Reassure with gentle movements and a soft voice

DON'T



- ✦ **Shout or use violence – this makes the situation worse**



**Wear
dark
clothes**

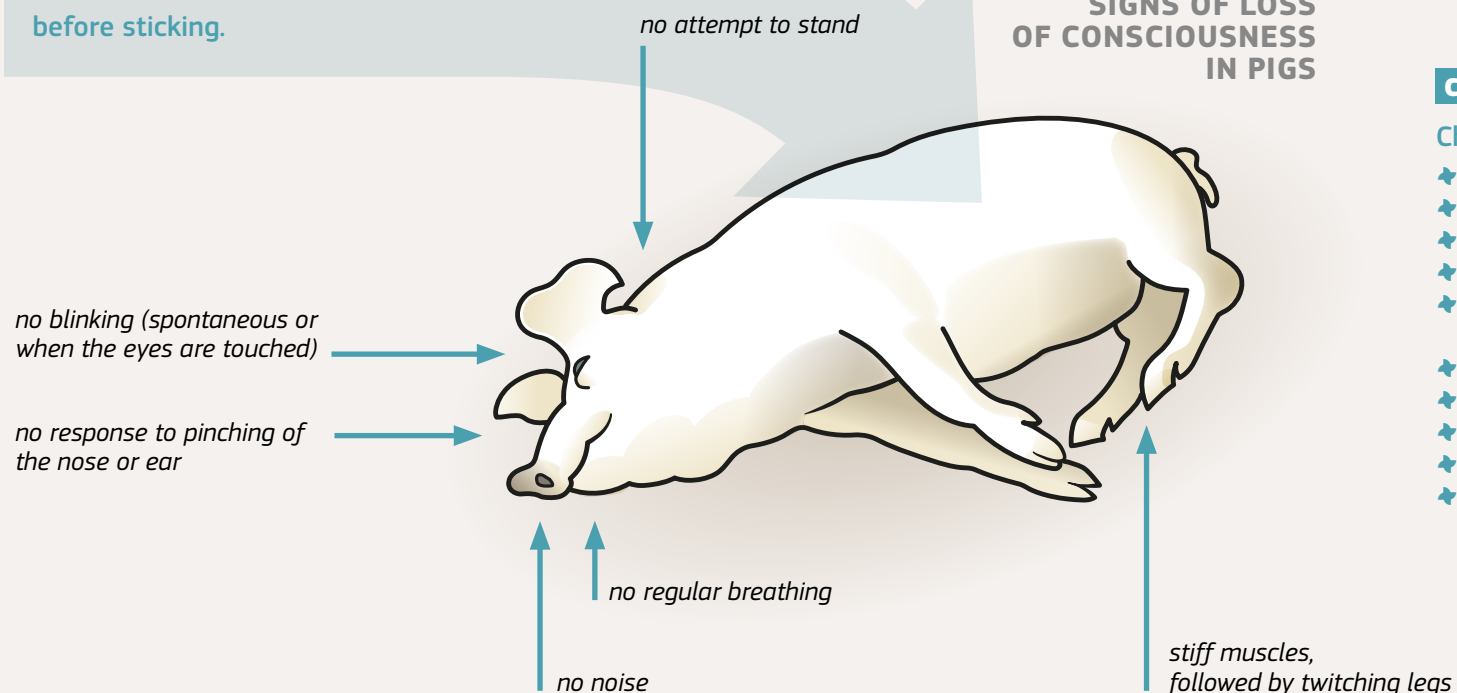
DURING STUNNING

RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS FOR HEAD-ONLY ELECTRICAL STUNNING

Minimum voltage (volts – V)	Minimum current (amperes – A)	Frequency (hertz – Hz)	Minimum duration (seconds)
>250	1.3 Up to 2 for large pigs	50-800	3

CHECK FOR CONSCIOUSNESS

Make sure the animal is unconscious before sticking.



AFTER STUNNING

IF THE PIG IS STILL CONSCIOUS

- ✦ Don't bleed it
- ✦ **Stun again with the back-up method** (e.g. penetrative captive bolt)
- ✦ Identify what went wrong
- ✦ Correct any problems before resuming stunning

QUICKLY BLEED THE PIG

- ✦ Stick the chest with a sharp knife to induce blood loss. This should happen **within 15 seconds of stunning**.

CONFIRM THE DEATH

Check for:

- ✦ No spontaneous movement
- ✦ Limp body
- ✦ No response to pinching of the nose or ear
- ✦ No noise
- ✦ No regular breathing – pigs may gasp in the moments before death
- ✦ No blinking if you touch the eyes
- ✦ Eyes rolled upwards
- ✦ Dilated pupils
- ✦ Bleeding stopped
- ✦ No heartbeat