



## HOW TO STUN PIGS/KILL PIGS ON-FARM

Pigs unable to be transported must be killed on-farm. They may also be killed on-farm for other reasons, such as illness or slow growth. Prior stunning is compulsory in all cases. Stun them to make them unconscious and **kill within 15 seconds** so that death is painless. Good handling and restraining are vital for effective stunning.

This information does not override **national rules** that may forbid or restrict any of these practices.

Stunning and killing must be carried out by workers with an appropriate level of competence.

### WHEN PIGS ARE AGITATED

#### DO



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

#### DON'T



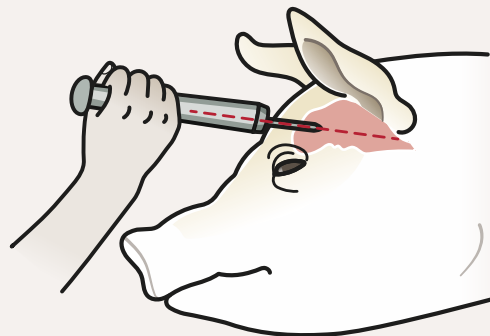
- ✦ Shout or use violence – this makes the situation worse

### 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

### STUNNING/KILLING

Once you have restrained the pig, you can consider the following methods.



#### 1. PENETRATIVE CAPTIVE BOLT GUN

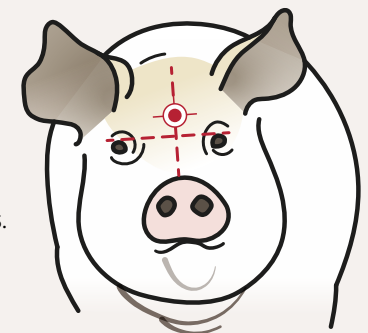
Since this method may not irreversibly kill the pig, you must always confirm killing by pithing the pig within 15 seconds.

##### Check the variable settings

- ✦ Bolt diameter/length and gun charge/air pressure
- ✦ These settings vary by type of pig
- ✦ Make sure you read the maker's instructions to ensure you use right settings
- ✦ Use highest recommended charge for adult sows and boars

##### Position the gun

- ✦ Position the barrel 2 cm above where the 2 lines cross. **Aim towards the tail**
- ✦ Ensure the stunner is in contact with the head prior to firing



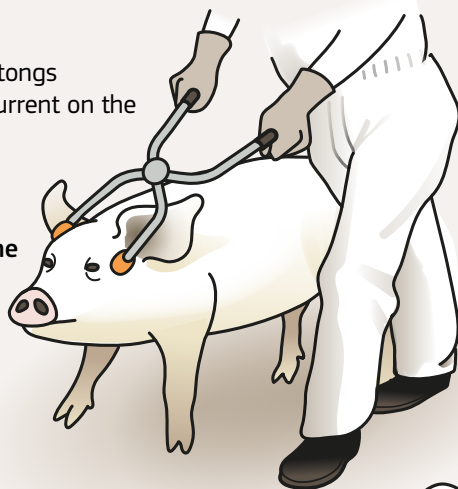
## 2. ELECTRICAL STUNNING/KILLING

Do not use this method for piglets.

- ✦ The simplest method to kill pigs with electrical tongs is to first stun the head, followed by applying current on the heart (fibrillation).

### Phase 1: Head-only stunning

- ✦ 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**

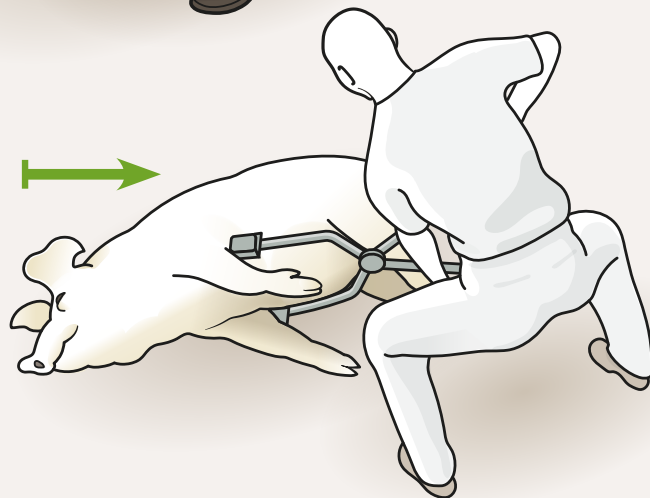


### Phase 2: Fibrillation and stopping of the heart

This will stop the pig's heart and kill it. Check the pig is unconscious before you begin phase 2.

### Check the positioning

- ✦ heart stun on either side of the pig's chest, just behind front legs



## 3. PERCUSSIVE BLOW TO HEAD

If you follow this method correctly, it will kill the pig.

- ✦ Only for piglets **under 5kg** live weight
- ✦ Kill no more than 70 piglets a day with this method

### Positioning

- ✦ Hold by **hind legs**
- ✦ Use a heavy but easy to handle object (e.g. club, iron piping)
- ✦ Hit on **top of head** just behind ears



## AFTER STUNNING/KILLING

To confirm the pig's death, check for:

- ✦ No spontaneous movement
- ✦ Limp body
- ✦ No response to pinching of nose/ear
- ✦ No noise
- ✦ No regular breathing – pigs may gasp just before death
- ✦ No blinking if eyes are touched
- ✦ Eyes rolled upwards
- ✦ Dilated pupils
- ✦ Bleeding stopped
- ✦ No heartbeat



### RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS FOR ELECTRICAL STUNNING/KILLING

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

