



3 March 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

**Proposed Changes to the Waikato Regional Plan Change 1- Waikato and Waipa River Catchments**

Please find attached a submission from the New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPork) on the proposed changes to the Waikato Regional Plan.

We have reviewed the proposals for their impact on pig farming in the district and have suggested a number of changes.

NZPork appreciates the opportunity to comment, and we would be pleased to elaborate further on our submission. Please contact me in the first instance via the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeska McHugh".

Jeska McHugh

Environmental Advisor

Phone: 021 453 752, email: [jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz](mailto:jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz)



**TO:** Chief Executive  
Waikato Regional Council  
Private Bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton, 3240

**SUBMITTER:** NZ Pork Industry Board

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

NZPork  
Jeska McHugh  
New Zealand Pork  
PO Box 20-176, Bishopdale  
CHRISTCHURCH 8543

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Phone: 021 453 752

NZPork is not a trade competitor who could gain an advantage in trade completion through this submission.

NZPork wishes to speak at the hearing on this submission. If others make a similar submission, we will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

I am authorised to act and represent NZ Pork in making this submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeska McHugh".

Jeska McHugh  
3 March 2017



## **Introduction**

The New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPork) is a statutory board funded by producer levies. It actively promotes “100% New Zealand Pork” to support a sustainable and profitable future for New Zealand grown pork. The board’s statutory function is to act in the interests of pig farmers to help attain the best possible net on-going returns while farming sustainably into the future.

Nationally there are less than 105 registered commercial pork producers, comprising a relatively small but significantly integrated sector of the New Zealand Agricultural economy.

New Zealand pork producers are facing a number of economic, social and environmental challenges in order to remain viable. The contribution of imported pork to New Zealand’s total pork consumption has increased significantly in recent years, placing further demands on producers who have responded by developing increasingly efficient systems. Currently, nearly all pork produced in New Zealand is consumed locally and makes up approximately 49% of the domestic market supply.

Pig Farmers in New Zealand are leaders in Environmental Management and have a firm grasp of environmental issues, especially water quality and quantity pressures. They demonstrate a high level of innovation and environmental stewardship, particularly in regard to manure and nutrient management, which has important implications for water quality. The New Zealand pork industry has committed significant time and resource to Sustainable Farming Fund projects centered on nutrient management and environmental initiatives. However, profit margins for the industry remain tight and dialogue with farmers indicates that compliance costs and uncertainty into the future are key issues.

Please find our comments on proposed changes to the regional plan enclosed.

# Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

Submission form on publicly notified – Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
		Submission Number	
Entered		Initials	
File Ref		Sheet 1 of	

FORM 5 Clause 6 of First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE	
<b>Mailed to</b>	Chief Executive, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
<b>Delivered to</b>	Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton
<b>Faxed to</b>	(07) 859 0998 <i>Please Note: if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses</i>
<b>Emailed to</b>	<a href="mailto:healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz">healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz</a> <i>Please Note: Submissions received by email must contain full contact details. We also request you send us a signed original by post or courier.</i>
<b>Online at</b>	<a href="http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers">www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers</a>
We need to receive your submission by 5pm, 8 March 2017.	

YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS		
Full name: Jeska McHugh		
Full address: PO Box 20-176, Bishopdale, Christchurch, 8543		
Email: <a href="mailto:jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz">jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz</a>	Phone: 03 357 1407	Fax: N/A

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUBMITTER		
Full name: New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPork)		
Address for service of person making submission: PO Box 20-176, Bishopdale, Christchurch, 8543		
Email: <a href="mailto:jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz">jeska.mchugh@pork.co.nz</a>	Phone: 03 357 1407	Fax: N/A

TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS <i>(select appropriate)</i>
I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

**THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 THAT MY SUBMISSION RELATES TO**

*Please state the provision, map or page number e.g. Objective 4 or Rule 3.11.5.1  
(continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

NZPork has submitted against a number of specific provisions in the plan. The submission details are outlined below in the additional sheets.

**I SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE ABOVE PROVISION/S**

*(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

- Support the above provisions
- Support the above provision with amendments
- Oppose the above provisions

**MY SUBMISSION IS THAT**

*Tell us the reasons why you support or oppose or wish to have the specific provisions amended.  
(Please continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

NZPork has submitted against a number of specific provisions in the plan. The submission details are outlined below in the additional sheets. We also include a letter from Ian Barugh (Massey University).

**I SEEK THE FOLLOWING DECISION BY COUNCIL**

*(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)*

- Accept the above provision
- Accept the above provision with amendments as outlined below
- Decline the above provision
- If not declined, then amend the above provision as outlined below

NZPork has submitted against a number of specific provisions in the plan. The submission details are outlined below in the additional sheets.

**PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THE RELEVANT BOX WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION**

- I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.
- I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

**JOINT SUBMISSIONS**

- If others make a similar submission, please tick this box if you will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

**IF YOU HAVE USED EXTRA SHEETS FOR THIS SUBMISSION PLEASE ATTACH THEM TO THIS FORM AND INDICATE BELOW**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have attached extra sheets. | <input type="checkbox"/> No, I have not attached extra sheets. |
|--|--|

**SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER**

*(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)*

*A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.*

Signature:



Date: 3 March 2017

Personal information is used for the administration of the submission process and will be made public. All information collected will be held by Waikato Regional Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

PLEASE CHECK that you have provided all of the information requested and if you are having trouble filling out this form, phone Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 for help.

## Additional sheet to assist in making a submission

Section number of the Plan Change	Support /Oppose	Submission	Decision sought
3.11.2 Objectives Objective 1: Long-term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit Page: 27	Support in Part	Long term restoration and protection of water quality in the Waikato and Waipa Rivers requires an intergenerational response. An aspirational target of 80 years is supported. Reducing the timeframe would load the cost on current land users with unsustainable social and financial implications.	No change
3.11.2 Objectives Objective 2: Social, economic and cultural wellbeing is maintained in the long term Page: 27	Support	Support as an enabling objective that recognises the need to maintain social, economic and cultural wellbeing.	No change
3.11.2 Objectives Objective 3: Short-term improvements in water quality in the first stage of restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit Page:27	Support in Part	Reducing the timeframe or applying unreasonable targets for short term improvements would load the cost on current land users with unsustainable social and financial implications.	No Change
3.11.2 Objectives Objective 4: People and community resilience Page: 27	Support	The staged approach is supported as allows time for more science, information gathering and discussions on a future allocation system and for communities and farming systems to adapt to change.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 1: Manage diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens Page: 30	Support	NZPork supports an approach whereby the plan differentiates between Small and Low Intensity farming activities and those with moderate to high contaminant levels.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 2: Tailored approach to reducing diffuse discharges from farming activities Page: 30	Support	NZPork supports a tailored approach to reduce diffuse discharges from farming activities.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 4: Enabling activities with lower discharges to continue or to be established while signalling further change may be required in future Page: 31	Support	NZPork supports an enabling policy for existing and new low discharging policies.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 5: Staged approach Page: 31	Support	Long term restoration and protection of water quality in the Waikato and Waipa Rivers requires an intergenerational response. An aspirational target of 80 years is supported. Reducing the timeframe would load the cost on current land users with unsustainable social and financial implications.	No change

3.11.3 Policies Policy 6: Restricting land use change Page:32	Support in part	NZPork supports a consented path for approval of land use applications that demonstrate clear and enduring decreased in existing diffuse discharges. The grounds for restricting land use change are understood but the non-complying land use change activity status is a blunt tool to manage discharges.	Retain a consent path for the approval of land use applications that demonstrate clear and enduring decreased in existing diffuse discharges
3.11.3 Policies Policy 7: Preparing for allocation in the future Page: 32	Support	NZPork supports a policy to collect information and undertake robust research to inform future decision-making regarding land suitability for farming.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 8: Prioritised implementation Page:32	Support	NZPork supports a policy that gives focus and priority to the areas with the poorest water quality. There must be the opportunity for localized responses to contaminant management.	No change
3.11.3 Policies Policy 9: Sub-catchment (including edge of field) mitigation planning, co-ordination and funding Page: 33	Support in Part	NZPork would like a policy that enables the opportunity for primary industry representation in sub-catchment planning.  A sub-catchment approach that prioritises the management of land and water resources and provides a localised response is supported. The need to engage primary industry groups in developing the sub-catchment response is implicit in the PC1 approach by should be explicit in this policy.	Amend Policy 9 as below:  a. Engaging early with tangata whenua and with landowners, communities, <u>primary industry groups</u> , and potential funding partners in sub-catchments in line with the priority areas listed in Table 3.11-2; and
3.11.3 Policies Policy 11: Application of Best Practicable Option and mitigation or offset of effects to point source discharges Page: 33	Oppose in Part  Support in Part	This policy implies that all adverse effects will need to be avoided or mitigated.  NZPork supports the ability for our pork producers to offset point source discharges with offsite mitigation.	Amend policy as below:  Require any person undertaking a point source discharge of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment or microbial pathogens to water or onto or into land in the Waikato and Waipa River catchments to adopt the Best Practicable Option* to avoid or mitigate the adverse effects ( <u>that are more than minor</u> ) of the discharge, at the time a resource consent application is decided.
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.1 Working with others Page:36	Support	NZPork supports the Council working closely with primary industry groups to implement Chapter 3.11 and would like to see a formal forum set up where NZPork can work more closely with Council and other stakeholders.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.2 Certified Industry Scheme Page: 36	Support	NZPork supports a Certified Industry Scheme that enables primary industry to manage the certification process within their own industry.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.3 Farm Environment Plans Page: 36	Support	NZPork supports the Farm Environment Plan based on the Schedule 1 requirements. However, the level of information required and actions promoted must be relevant to the land use activity and commensurate to the effect on the environment.	Ensure the level of information required and actions promoted in Farm Environment Plans are relevant to the land use activity and commensurate to the effect on the environment.

3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.5 Sub-catchment scale planning Page:37	Support in part	NZPork supports point g) whereby public funds will be used to support mitigation that provides significant public benefit.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.7 Information needs to support any future allocation Page: 37	Support	NZPork supports the use of scientific research to provide factual based evidence and data upon which to make discussion regarding diffuse discharges.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.8 Reviewing Chapter 3.11 and developing an allocation framework for the next Regional Plan Page: 37/38	Support	NZPork supports a staged approach that allows for an allocation framework to be set in the next Regional Plan and not have allocation limits set in this plan change.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.9 Managing the effects of urban development Page: 38	Support	NZPork supports the Council and working closely with Territorial Authorities to reduce the impacts of urban communities and development on water quality.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.10 Accounting system and monitoring Page: 38	Support	NZPork supports a publicly available accounting and monitoring system in each Flood Management Unit as this provides a level of transparency supported by our pork producers.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.11 Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Chapter 3.11 Page: 38	Support	NZPork supports transparent reporting of robust data to demonstrate the progress to achieve the water quality objectives.	No change
3.11.4 Implementation methods 3.11.4.12 Support research and dissemination of best practice guidelines to reduce diffuse discharges Page: 38	Support in part	NZPork supports the development of best practice guidelines in particular industry agreed good management practices such as those developed in Canterbury.	No change

<p>3.11.5 Rules 3.11.5.1 Permitted Activity Rule – Small and Low Intensity farming activities Page: 39</p>	<p>Support in Part/Oppose in Part</p>	<p>NZ Pork supports Rule 3.11.5.1 on the basis that Outdoor Pig farming activities are generally deemed a small and low intensity farming system.</p> <p>NZPork opposes the lack of clarity on pigs. In particular, the current definition of a pig Stock Unit being an animal that eats 6,000 megajoules of metabolisable energy per year.</p> <p>It is the opinion of NZ Pork that a more appropriate definition, relevant to managing contaminant discharges from outdoor pigs is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 total breeding animals/ha for a dedicated pig farm with no rotation.</li> <li>• 21 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</li> <li>• 24 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every year (minimum of 1 year return period).</li> <li>• 32 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on an arable farm with rotation at least every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</li> </ul>	<p>Amend the definition of Stock Unit for pigs is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 total breeding animals/ha for a dedicated pig farm with no rotation.</li> <li>• 21 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</li> <li>• 24 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every year (minimum of 1 year return period).</li> <li>• 32 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on an arable farm with rotation at least every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</li> </ul>
<p>3.11.5 Rules 3.11.5.2 Permitted Activity Rule – Other farming activities Page: 40</p>	<p>Support in Part/ Oppose in Part</p>	<p>NZPork supports a permitted activity rule for other farming activities.</p> <p>NZPork opposes the 15kg nitrogen/hectare/year limit. This plan is not the plan to set limits and is about information gathering and to gather information for the setting of limits in future plans.</p>	<p>Delete from rule 3.11.5.2 point 4.b ii.:</p> <p>ii. 15kg nitrogen/hectare/year; whichever is the lesser, over the whole property or enterprise when assessed in accordance with Schedule B; and</p>
<p>3.11.5 Rules 3.11.5.3 Permitted Activity Rule – Farming activities with a Farm Environment Plan under a Certified Industry Scheme Page: 41</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>NZPork supports a permitted activity rule for farms under a Certified Industry Scheme.</p> <p>NZPork supports any initiative whereby the primary industries can manage the quality and auditing of the nutrient budgets and FEPs.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>3.11.5 Rules 3.11.5.6 Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule – The use of land for farming activities Page: 45</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support a Restricted Discretionary Activity status and non-notification path for the use of land for farming activities that does not comply with the conditions, standard or terms of Rules 3.11.5.1 to 3.11.5.5.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>3.11.5 Rules 3.11.5.7 Non-Complying Activity Rule – Land Use Change Page: 45/46</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Oppose the non-complying activity status for land use</p>	<p>Look at another consent activity pathway status for this rule.</p>

<p>3.11.5 Rules Schedule B - Nitrogen Reference Point Page: 47/48/49</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Pig nutrient budgets are currently calculated using a standalone pig module. This is based on OVERSEER but an earlier version. The plan is to have this integrated into the main OVERSEER programme in late 2017. However, NZPork would like the flexibility to continue with the standalone pig module should the integration be delayed. This would also allow our Waikato based farmers to be completing nutrient budgets now and not have to wait until November 2017.</p> <p>Table 1: Animal weights. In the pork industry animal weights are not difficult to obtain and prove. Each farmer will have records of animal weights from on farm calibrated scales. The standalone pig module of OVERSEER requires an average chopper weight and average weight at weaning to be entered.</p>	<p>Amend Schedule B as below: c. The Nitrogen Reference Point must be calculated using the current version of the OVERSEER Model (<u>or the standalone pig module</u>) or any other model approved by the Chief Executive of the Waikato Regional Council).</p> <p>Amend Schedule B. Table 1 as follows:  Animal weights  Only use OVERSEER defaults – do not enter in weights and use the age at start setting where available (national averages) <u>with the exception of pig weight data</u></p>
<p>3.11.5 Rules Schedule 1 - Requirements for Farm Environment Plans Page: 51/52/53</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>NZPork supports the minimum content listed in Schedule 1 – Requirements for Farm Environment Plan.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>3.11.5 Rules Schedule 2 - Certification of Industry Schemes Page: 54/55</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>NZPork supports a Certification Industry Scheme that meets international best practice. International best practice is currently the ISO standards for certification bodies (ISO 17065) and for auditing management systems (ISO 19011).</p> <p>The personnel auditing the nutrient budgets and farm environment plan should not have a conflict of interest. Issues that may give rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest are: financial interest in the farm, employee of the farm in the previous two years, consultancy to the farm in related matters in the previous two years, family/good friends who are employed as management or own the farm.</p> <p>This is part of the ISO 17065 standard i.e. businesses would not be able to provide both preparation and auditing of Farm Environment Plan services.</p>	<p>Schedule 2- Certification of Industry Schemes amended as below:</p> <p>3. Has documented systems, processes, and procedures to ensure: a. Competent and consistent performance in Farm Environment Plan <del>preparation and audit.</del> g. Internal quality control <u>based on the principles of the current version of ISO 17065.</u> l. <u>Conflict of interest is identified prior to Farm Environment Plan audits and mitigated as guided by ISO 17065.</u> m. <u>Audits are conducted following the principles outlined in the current version of ISO 19011.</u></p>

<p>PART C Additions to Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Definition - Certified Farm Environment Planner</p> <p>Page: 79</p>	<p>Oppose in part</p>	<p>There are a number of experts that can provide advice on Farm Environment Plans and there needs to be flexibility to cover a range of qualifications and experience.</p>	<p>Amend definition as follows:</p> <p>Certified Farm Environment Planner: is a person or entity certified by the Chief Executive Officer of Waikato Regional Council and listed on the Waikato Regional Council website as a Certified Farm Environment Planner and who has as a minimum the following qualifications and experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. five years experience in the management of pastoral, <u>outdoor pig farming</u>, horticulture or arable farm systems; and</li> <li>b. completed advanced training in agriculture or farming systems or a tertiary qualification in sustainable nutrient management (nitrogen and phosphorus); <u>or holds any other qualification, that has been approved by the Chief Executive of WRC, as being an equivalent standard with respect to the knowledge and competencies required.</u></li> <li>c. experience in soil conservation and sediment management.</li> </ul>
<p>PART C Additions to Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Definition - Certified Farm Nutrient Advisor</p> <p>Page: 80</p>	<p>Support in Part/Oppose in part</p>	<p>Certification will limit the number of competent practitioners that are available for the farmers to engage for advice and increase costs to farmers.</p> <p>NZPork's experience has shown that it is critical for a competent person to complete the nutrient budget calculations. We support the use of an advisor who has completed nutrient management training to at least intermediate level.</p>	<p>Amend definition as follows:</p> <p><del>Certified Farm Nutrient Advisor: is a person certified by the Chief Executive Officer of Waikato Regional Council and listed on the Waikato Regional Council website as a certified farm nutrient advisor and</del> that has the following qualifications and experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has completed nutrient management training to at least intermediate level, and</li> <li>b. Has experience in nutrient management planning.</li> </ul>
<p>PART C Additions to Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Definition - Nitrogen Reference Point</p> <p>Page: 82</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Pig nutrient budgets are currently calculated using a standalone pig module which has been developed with the OVERSEER developers (Rezare) and AgResearch. This module is based on OVERSSER but an earlier version. The plan is to have this integrated into the main OVERSEER programme in November 2017. However, NZPork would like the flexibility to continue with the standalone pig module should the integration be delayed. This would also allow our Waikato based farmers to being completing nutrient budgets now and not have to wait until November 2017.</p>	<p>Amend definition as below:</p> <p>Nitrogen Reference Point: The nitrogen loss number (units of kg N/ha/year) that is derived from an OVERSEER use protocol compliant OVERSEER file that describes the property or farm enterprise and farm practices in an agreed year or years developed by a Certified Farm Nutrient Advisor, using the current version of the OVERSEER model <u>(or the standalone pig module)</u> or another model approved by the Council for the property or enterprise at the "reference" point in time</p>

<p>PART C Additions to Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Definition - Stock unit Page: 84/85</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>NZPork opposes the lack of clarity on pigs. In particular, the current definition of a pig Stock Unit being an animal that eats 6,000 megajoules of metabolisable energy per year. The definition is not an appropriate determinant on a pig Stock Unit.</p> <p>It is the opinion of NZ Pork that a more appropriate definition, relevant to managing contaminant discharges from outdoor pigs is that set down in the industry recognised Good Management Practices for Outdoor Pigs.</p> <p>Please see an attachment to this submission with a letter from Ian Barugh (Massey University) outlining why the current stock unit definition is not appropriate for outdoor pigs.</p> <p>The stocking rates (breeding animals/ha) are published at the NZPork website in the NZPork: Pork Industry Guidelines- Environmental Management 2017.</p>	<p>Amend the Definition of Stock Unit as follows:</p> <p>Stock Class = Pig Number of Stock Units per Animal =</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>17 total breeding animals/ha for a dedicated pig farm with no rotation.</u></li> <li>• <u>21 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</u></li> <li>• <u>24 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on a pastoral farm with rotation every year (minimum of 1 year return period).</u></li> <li>• <u>32 total breeding animals/ha for a pig unit on an arable farm with rotation at least every 2 years (minimum of 2 year return period).</u></li> </ul> <p>Animal Performance Definition = Not applicable.</p>
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## Jeska McHugh

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**From:** Barugh, Ian <I.W.Barugh@massey.ac.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 March 2017 10:26 a.m.  
**To:** Jeska McHugh  
**Subject:** Stock Unit application to pigs

Jeska

The stock unit (SU), is a system developed for determining carrying capacity and comparing different classes and species of pastoral livestock for a particular farm enterprise based on the amount of feed (dry matter/ha) available on the farm. The assumption being, the annual feed requirements, equivalent to one 55 kg ewe rearing a single lamb. One SU requires approximately 520 kg of good quality pasture dry matter per year or equivalent to approximately 6000 MJ of metabolisable energy (ME). This system is not suitable for pigs because they are a monogastric animals and on commercial farms the majority of feed that the pig consumes is not pasture, but compound cereal based feed. For outdoor pigs the amount of supplementary feed, on top of pasture intake, required per sow would be in the order of 1.4-1.5 tonnes of cereal based diet per year.

Kind Regards

Ian

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VETERINARY,  
ANIMAL AND  
BIOMEDICAL  
SCIENCES