

**RSPCA Pig Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Thursday 28th January 2021**

Meeting Summary Notes

Standards issues

No new standards were proposed or discussed at the meeting. The recent amendment to the standards (March 2021 addendum) with regards feeder space measurements was discussed. Further guidance will be issued to RSPCA Assured assessor and RSPCA Farm Livestock Officers as well as the membership regarding tolerance levels.

Welfare Outcome Assessment

The group was informed that, after 3 full years of data collection, data analysis was now being conducted. The next phase of the work is to develop a continuous improvement approach which will involve setting scheme level welfare targets and producing improvement plans. Continuous assessment is designed to enhance the robustness or the assurance provided.

Straw

The issue of potential straw shortages was raised. The issue was noted and alternatives were discussed, as the standards do not specifically state that bedding and/or enrichment has to be straw. The importance of providing a dry lying area was emphasised.

Outdoor pig production

The standards related to outdoor pig production were discussed in general to gather views on whether the standards need revising or expanding in this area. It was suggested that the stocking density requirements be looked at.

Larger Pigs

The issue of pigs being taken to heavier live weights was discussed, including potential implications on farm. The general consensus was that this is due to recent issues such as Brexit, COVID and issues at specific abattoirs. Members were reminded of the need to ensure compliance with the minimum space allowances for these heavier pigs.