

H15 – Weighing pigs with a pig scale



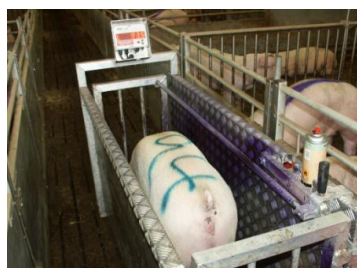
Scale at floor level.



Pigs are pressed together.



Pigs are led individually into the scale.



Pig's weight written on the back.

1. Weighing should take place at the same time of day and by the same person each time.
2. Do not weigh restrictively fed pigs immediately after feeding.
3. Place the scale close to floor level.
4. Weighing can be done by letting pigs from a pen out into the aisle and pressing them together at the end. Then open the gate to the scale, guide pigs in, weigh them, optionally mark them with spray, and release them on the opposite side.
5. Be aware of current weight limits! This also applies to niche productions.
6. Evaluate last week's slaughter weight. Did it meet the desired level?
7. Use the guideline table in appendix 9 regarding the relationship between live weight and slaughter weight and days before delivery. Before you begin weighing pigs, prepare a small note with min. and max. weight and bring it to the section.
8. About 6–7 weeks after transfer (pigs transferred at 30–32 kg), test-weigh "fast growers". Write the result on the pig's back with marking spray. Use these pigs as "indicator pigs" for when deliveries from the group can begin.
9. For weighing pigs for slaughter in the coming week: weigh 2–3 pigs in each pen and write their weight on their backs with marking spray. Use these pigs as "indicator pigs" and count the remaining pigs ready for delivery in the pen or weigh all pigs in the relevant pens and mark them with spray.
10. For weighing for two-week delivery: weigh all pigs, not just "indicator pigs". Mark pigs with different coloured spray to distinguish between pigs for delivery in different weeks.
11. For tattooing pigs, use a tattoo hammer with clean and sharp needles and ink.
12. Use of respiratory protection is recommended.



- Relying solely on visual estimation of pig weight is costly! It can result in either too low slaughter weight or excessive weight deductions.

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1.	Slaughter data from the latest delivery is received via SMS – typically 1–2 days after slaughter. It is important to obtain this information before the next weighing. See slaughterhouse websites for procedures.
2.	Pigs should not be weighed earlier than 2–3 hours after feeding.
3.	A large height difference between the floor and the scale can make it harder to get pigs into the scale.
4.	The optimal slaughter weight depends on the chosen settlement model/slaughterhouse, price listing, and feed cost. Your advisor can help evaluate the delivery strategy and calculate the optimal slaughter weight to achieve the best contribution margin per pen place.
5.	Remember that changes in weight limits, for example, due to holidays, can affect weight limits for 4–6 weeks. There may be differences between slaughterhouses.
7.	<p>Compare the result with the guideline table showing the relationship between live weight and slaughter weight and days to delivery.</p> <p>Before you begin weighing the pigs, prepare a small note with min. and max. pig weight based on days to slaughter, expected postponed slaughters, current weight limits, etc. Bring the note to the section – this helps you remember the thresholds for which pigs should be sent for slaughter. Remember, the desired slaughter weight may vary depending on the pen. Is it a pen where the first two pigs are ready for delivery? Or a pen where the section needs to be emptied quickly?</p> <p><u>Example with desired slaughter weight of 88 kg:</u> Identify, mark and register pigs 4 days before slaughter. Pigs are delivered every 7 days.</p> <p>Use the table in appendix 9: 88 kg slaughter weight requires 113 kg live weight. Subtract 4 days of growth from registration to slaughter. Subtract half a week's growth to find the smallest pigs in the group. Total: $113 - 4 - 3.5 = 105.5$ kg. The minimum weight of 105.5 kg is the threshold for whether a pig should be registered for slaughter or not. This number is adjusted in the following week.</p>
9.	<p>Use only approved marking sprays.</p> <p>When weighing for two-week delivery, note that some “week-2” pigs may change growth rate compared to expectations. In doubt? – weigh again! Also check whether the marking colour will last for 2 weeks.</p>
10.	It is important to place tattoos correctly on both hams of the pig. Illegible or missing tattoos result in deductions in settlement. Check that all needles in the tattoo hammer digits are intact.