Managing food waste? Help save our bacon.

African swine fever (ASF) is a contagious disease of pigs that’s spreading rapidly and will devastate our pork industry if it enters Australia.

ASF is not a danger to human health or food safety. However food waste management plays an important role in protecting our pigs.

It’s vital we keep ASF out of Australia and we need your help. Do your bit to protect Australia by following good food waste management processes.

People food is not pig food.

Never feed swill to pigs.

Swill is food waste, household, commercial or industrial, that contains animal matter, such as meat, meat products and eggs or has had contact with meat products. Feeding swill to pigs is illegal.

Feeding swill to pigs has been directly linked to outbreaks of ASF, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and other devastating livestock diseases overseas.

Swill includes:

- meat and meat products
- dairy products from overseas
- pies, pizza and sausage rolls
- table scraps
- discarded cooking oils
- anything that has been in contact with swill via collection, storage or transportation containers.

You could be liable for penalties of up to $31,400 for offences related to swill feeding. Offences include feeding pigs swill, storing swill on a property with pigs, allowing pigs access to swill and supplying swill to another person, knowing that it will be fed to pigs.

Banning swill feeding provides an important defence against serious livestock diseases.
Dispose of food waste responsibly.

Where there’s swill there’s a way.

Any business managing food waste such as restaurants, bakeries, cafes, market stall holders, hotels and fast food outlets have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. This is vital to keeping ASF out of Australia.

Prohibited food waste (swill) should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection by the council or commercial waste service for disposal in landfill or for composting at an appropriate recycling facility.

Develop a plan for recycling your food waste and include:

- An outline of what types of food waste can and cannot be donated to pig owners or those intending to feed pigs.
- Specific storage and collection instructions.
- Signed food donation applicant agreements and a register of all agreements for approved donations.
- Identified and trained staff equipped to manage food waste donations.

For more information on developing a food recycling plan, go to www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.

Report swill feeding.

If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, report it confidentially to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888.

If it looks suss, call us 1800 675 888.