



EFP pig module



We are proud to announce, in a first for pig welfare, accreditation for the Winterbotham Darby (WD) European Farm Partnership (EFP) pig module. It is the only accredited standard of its kind for Europe and covers the entire supply chain; breeding, rearing, finishing, transport and slaughter. Fundamentally the standard is for higher welfare systems and takes into account health and welfare factors such as free farrowing, increased space and a stimulating environment. The standard covers antibiotic usage and medicine, feed, veterinary procedures, biosecurity and pest control. As a result, those farms audited against the pig module (in France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland and Germany) will meet or exceed current UK supermarket or retail requirements.

An extensively and thoroughly researched document, the standard was written by our animal welfare specialists, then presented to a technical working group. As part of the accreditation process there were also desk-based reviews and on-farm audits carried out by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

The UKAS-accredited EFP Pig module (UKAS ISO/IEC 17065:2012), will be audited by certification body KIWA Agri Food, on behalf of Winterbotham Darby. The European Farm Partnership brings together farmers, suppliers, industry partners and retailers and lays the foundation for the standard.

David Houghton,

Technical Director for Winterbotham Darby:
“Through a collaborative effort, working with our supply partners, farmers, retailers and NGOs we’ve now produced the first pig welfare standard of its kind. It can be implemented across the whole of Europe, taking into consideration the different production systems. It is a tiered system which we can use to encourage farmers to continually improve their standards. This is a fantastic accomplishment, not just for us, but also a step forward in pig welfare.”

Ian Burton,

General Manager of Kiwa Agri Food:
“I am really delighted that Kiwa Agri Food has achieved this well deserved accreditation to certify the pig module for Winterbotham Darby’s European Farm Partnership Animal Welfare Scheme. It reflects our ambition to facilitate ever higher standards in the sector and advance animal welfare across Europe.”

EFP tiers and standards

EFP Bronze Tier

(based on the existing WD Pig Scheme)

The bronze standard is considered to be above legislation and in line with/above Red Tractor standard.

- Move to farrowing crates 5 days prior to farrow (rather than 7)
- Higher space requirements for sows and gilts
- Increased daily checks at breeding farms
- Increased veterinary visits
- The scheme includes the abattoir/stunning/slaughter/killing



WD thought it was important to recognise and reward the existing farms that have been working to the WD Pig Scheme over past years by having the EFP accredited bronze tier standard equivalent to the WD Pig Scheme standard.



In addition the following areas are higher than the EFP Bronze Tier:

- Space requirements at all stages
- Environmental enrichment
- Emergency water supply
- Fallen stock management

EFP Silver Tier

(EFP Bronze plus trials on the aspirational clauses from the WD Pig Scheme)

Significant trials underway for the higher welfare gold tier commitments:

- Freedom farrowing
- Non-confinement insemination
- No surgical castration
- No teeth clipping/grinding
- No tail docking
- Bedding being provided at all stages

EFP Gold Tier

All higher welfare gold tier requirements in place:

- 100% freedom farrowing
- 100% non-confinement insemination
- 100% no surgical castration
- 100% no teeth clipping/grinding
- 100% no tail docking
- 100% bedding being provided at all stages

In addition the following areas are higher than the EFP Silver Tier:

- Increased space requirements at all stages
- Water testing
- Emergency water supply
- Air testing
- Unit plan and corrective actions
- Strict delivery rules
- Increased welfare during transport (drinkers, ventilation, bedding)

