

# SWINE GARBAGE FEEDING

The [Swine Health Protection Act](#), passed in 1980, regulates feeding human waste to pigs, also known as garbage feeding. This practice can spread diseases, particularly when contaminated meat is fed to pigs, leading to costly outbreaks worldwide.

In Washington, there are about 5,000 breeding sows and 18,000 exhibition swine. The state sees an average of 3,330 swine imports annually from 23 states. Washington's swine herd includes many small, hobby farms, making pigs difficult to track during disease outbreaks. As a port state, Washington also faces risks from international travelers bringing in pork products. WSDA is actively working to prevent and prepare for diseases like ASF.



## ● REPORT ILLEGAL GARBAGE FEEDING ●



[agr.wa.gov](http://agr.wa.gov)

**PROHIBITED GARBAGE FEEDING:** Feeding meat or meat products to pigs is a high-risk practice for spreading diseases like ASF and Foot and Mouth Disease. Washington is seeking legislation in 2025 to repeal certain laws and strengthen enforcement on garbage feeding.

**PERMITTED GARBAGE FEEDING:** In Washington, garbage feeding can only occur with a license granted by the WSDA Director. This requires an inspection to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. Garbage from your own household is exempt.

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