SITE OPERATION REPORT

WOODVILLE PIG FARMS LTD,
WOODVILLE,
BALLYMACKEY,
NENAGH,
CO. TIPPERARY

2020

ATTACHMENT 4.8.1.

CURRENT LICENCE REF: P0467-02

Application Ref: LA004791

1.0 Introduction

The site of the proposed development is located in the rural townland of Woodville in North Tipperary (Eastings 196520 Northings 182050).

The piggery location is c. 9.6 km north-east of Nenagh town, c. 4.5 km north of the village of Toomevara, c. 6.3 km north-west of the village of Moneygall and c. 5.7 km south of the town of Cloughjordan in North Tipperary.

The current pig breeding farm at Woodville houses 920 sows, 109 served gilts, 12 boars and 3,850 weaners. The term "breeding" refers to the production of pigs from birth up to weaner weight (c. 32-40 kg) after which they are sent to finisher housing. Woodville Pig Farms Ltd also operate an existing pig facility at Ballyknockane with a capacity for 8000 fattening pigs which is also included in the Woodville Pig Farms Ltd EPA licence.

All proposed developments are to occur on the Woodville pig rearing farm. There would be no alterations to the animal numbers, operation or structures at Ballyknockane.

Planning permission has been sought to demolish existing gilt and weaner housing and to construct sow and weaner housing of a modern design. It has also been proposed to construct a new pre-finisher house for slow growing weaners and an external slurry tank at the Woodville farm (Tipperary Co Co Planning File Reference No: 20211).

2.0 Description of the Site

The site will comprise pig houses, ancillary structures and equipment necessary for the accommodation, management and husbandry of pigs, and the administration of the enterprise.

The pig houses have been designed for the industry. Structures of this type are common in Ireland and the best available techniques to minimise emissions and to maximise welfare conditions for animals and staff alike are standard.

The design of the pig houses complies with BAT housing systems for sows and weaners as identified in the IPPC Reference Document on BAT for Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs (July 2003).

Walls would be constructed from insulated cavity blocks and insulated pre-cast concrete. Rooves, gables and side cladding would consist of dark green box profile cladding. Building frames would be constructed from steel and timber purloins.

All tanks constructed beneath the buildings would also be fitted with a leak detection system.

The interior design of the buildings would be industry standard for pigs and include a state of the art ventilation system, suspended ceiling, heating system, insulated internal walls and stainless steel / PVC finishes.

3.0 Description of Proposed Operations

A brief description of the main processes carried out at the Woodville rearing site:

Sow Cycle

- Following farrowing, the suckling period for the sow is 28 days on average.
- At weaning, the sow is moved back into the service area where she is fed ad lib until she returns to cycle at approximately 5-7 days.
- After a gestation period of c. 114 days within the loose sow rooms, the pre-farrowing sow is moved to the farrowing rooms 4-5 days before farrowing.
- Sows will normally have anywhere from 11 to 13 pigs per litter. The national average for sow farrowing is 2.32 to 2.38 litters per sow per year (Teagasc, 2019).

Weaner Production

- Piglets are born in farrowing rooms. Approximately 28 days after farrowing the piglets, at c. 6 to 8 kg, would be weaned and placed in the 1st stage weaner house for approximately 4 weeks.
- At c. 18 to 20 kg the pigs are moved on to the 2nd stage weaner house. The pigs would stay here for about six to eight weeks or until the pigs weigh approximately 32-40 kg.
- At the last stage of production, the pigs would spend approximately 16 weeks in a finishing unit until they reached a market weight of c. 112 kg or are returned to the breeding herd as replacement sows.

The main input materials to be used in the proposed development would be the same as the inputs for the current site, for example, water, animal feed, and electricity. The pig feed is industry standard pig rations, appropriate to the nutritional requirements of the pigs. Electricity (Eirgrid) is used to power all of the processes and services on the site.

There are also small inputs of veterinary medicines administered in accordance with relevant regulations (e.g. injectable iron, vaccines, anthelmintics and antibiotic). Other small inputs include detergents, disinfectants, and pest control products.

To ensure the health of stock, all new pigs entering the site are vaccinated (i.e. vaccinated against *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* which causes pneumonia in pigs) on arrival and again three weeks later. New-born piglets are often vaccinated early too.

Health of stock and the potential threat of animal disease is a key management issue in the pig production process. To that end, protocols are in place to minimise the risk of disease.

All staff entering the site must shower in and have a change of clothing.

Non-essential personnel are restricted from entering the site and persons that have recently visited another pig farm (last 4 days) are prohibited from entering the site.

Vehicles such as delivery trucks and on-site vehicles are cleaned regularly to minimise the chance of transferring diseases between sites.

Pig pens are washed down at least once a week between batches. Presently the pens/rooms are washed down first using a detergent and power hose. When clean disinfectant is sprayed over

the entire area. This procedure would be the same in the proposed new buildings. Soiled water generation is minimised through the efficient use of wash-water during cleaning.

The principal animal welfare protocols practiced on the site include:

Dry Sow / Gilt House(s)

- ensure all sows/gilts have adequate feed and water;
- check health status and treat accordingly;
- check sows/gilts returning to cycle after service;
- scrape excess faeces from behind sows/gilts.

Farrowing House(s)

- ensure all sows have adequate feed and water;
- check the health status of this area and treat as required;
- check house temperature and heat pad temperature;
- check and record births and deaths;
- remove excess faeces, farrowing debris, dead and mummified pigs at the time of farrowing for hygiene purposes;
- manually remove all faeces at weaning to reduce water waste at power washing.

Weaner House(s)

- ensure all pigs have adequate feed and water;
- check the health status of this area;
- check temperature and ventilation rates;
- check for water wastage via drinkers.

The enterprise on the site produces pigs and produces pig slurry as a co-product. Pig pens are washed down at least once a week, the washings from which would go directly into the slurry tanks. Slurry volume would also be derived from washings and rainfall on “dirty yard” areas around the buildings.

The use of pig slurry from this installation on lands owned by other farmers is required to be in accordance with the terms prescribed in the Fertilisers and Soil Improvers Order (S.I. 253 of 2008) and the Nitrates Regulations (S.I. 605 of 2017).

Under Schedule C.2.3. of the sites EPA IE licence (P0467-02), surface water discharges are visually inspected weekly and sampled quarterly (subject to rainfall collected at the sample point) for COD. There are no thresholds set on COD monitoring at SW2 under the sites licence.

Under Schedule C.6.1. of the sites EPA IE licence (P0467-02),groundwater monitoring wells are monitored biannually for COD, Nitrate, Total ammonia, Faecal coliforms, and Total coliforms. There are no thresholds set on ambient groundwater monitoring under the sites licence.

4.0 Summary

The main activities on the proposed site are summarised as follows:

- Breeding of pigs;
- Feeding and rearing of pigs for transfer to finishing site (Ballyknockane);
- Delivery of feed to farm;
- Feeding of pigs via an automated feed and drinking water systems;
- Removal of pig slurry from slurry tanks periodically;
- Removal of fallen animals when required;
- Cleaning/disinfecting of pig pens between batches.