

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

All pigs must have permanent access to enrichment. Enrichment classed as 'optimal' may be used alone, while 'suboptimal' enrichment must be used in combination with additional different enrichment from any category. Objects categorised as 'marginal' interest may only be used when 'optimal' or 'suboptimal' enrichment is also provided.

Defra's Code of Practice for the welfare of pigs states that enrichment must be safe, hygienic and *should ideally* have the following characteristics:

- **Edible** – so that pigs can eat or smell them
- **Chewable** – so that pigs can bite them
- **Investigable** – so that pigs can investigate them
- **Manipulable** – so that pigs can change their location, appearance, or structure

Red Tractor follows the definitions and categorisation of enrichment as outlined in Defra's Code of practice for the welfare of pigs:

- **Optimal** – materials possessing all the characteristics listed above and therefore, such materials can be used alone
- **Suboptimal** – materials possessing most of the characteristics listed above, and therefore such materials should be used in combination with other materials to improve the enrichment experience of the pig
- **Marginal interest** – materials of limited interest to pigs, which are not considered capable of fulfilling their essential needs for enrichment purposes and therefore must be used in conjunction with optimal or suboptimal materials

The following table, which is not an exhaustive list, provides guidance on the suitability and categorisation of commonly used enrichment.

	Examples
Optimal	Cereal straws and dried grasses (provided as bedding) Cereal straws and dried grasses (provided in a rack/dispenser and kept topped up) Silage Grass cuttings Root vegetables (except parsnips which are toxic to pigs)
Suboptimal	Cereal straws and dried grasses (provided in a rack/dispenser but only limited amount provided) Compressed straw in cylinder Wood shavings, sawdust, bark Sawdust briquette (suspended or fixed) Sand Shredded paper Soft untreated wood Cardboard Natural rope Hessian sack/pieces Mineral block/lick
Marginal interest	Chain Rubber Soft plastic pipe Balls/football Hard plastic