Strange pig discoveries

Twelve researched stories, each tied to a source.

The pig is easy to take for granted. Look a little closer, and the official record is much stranger. These are not legends. Where two official sentences disagree, this sheet keeps both.

1. "Other sows" are officially two kinds of animal at once

The official England footnote is: "Other sows are those either being suckled or dry sows kept for further breeding." That one sentence defines a whole official column. Source: Livestock populations in England at 1 June 2026.

2. The female breeding herd is only 77% of breeding pigs

The official wording is that the female breeding herd "accounts for 77% of breeding pigs." Breeding pigs are given separately as 322 thousand, and the herd as 246 thousand. Source: the same England release.

3. This sheet does not add 322 thousand to 3.5 million

Breeding pigs are 322 thousand. Fattening pigs "stood at 3.5 million." The official total is 3.8 million. The official total is the official total. Source: the same England release.

4. Other sows were the category that did not rise

The official sentence is: "Increases were seen across each category within the breeding herd apart from the other sows category." In the table, other sows are 34,309 in 2026, after 35,060 in 2025. Source: the same England release.

5. A United Kingdom heading is not an England footnote

Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2025 heads a column "Other sows for breeding." The England footnote is not applied to that heading here, and an England 2026 figure is not subtracted from a United Kingdom 2025 figure. Sources: AUK 2025, Chapter 2; the England 2026 release.

6. Pigs get an extra official check

For pig and poultry sectors, "an additional data collection exercise is carried out to assure the quality of the pig and poultry data." Cattle results, in the same release, are sourced from the Cattle Tracing System. Source: the England 2026 release.

7. A 1950 newspaper called it a "Pigloo"

The Science Museum Group's Daily Herald catalogue records a photograph of 10 January 1950, titled "Happy in a 'Pigloo'," "showing an aluminum pig sty at Grove Dale Farm, St. Barr." The museum keeps those spellings, and so does this sheet. Source: Science Museum Group, object 1983-5236/46104.

8. For decades, insulin came from pig pancreases

The Science Museum Group holds a freeze-dried pig pancreas "as used for insulin production." The collection note says pig pancreases "were ground up in large numbers to extract insulin. Since 1982, insulin has been made from bacteria genetically modified in the laboratory to produce human insulin." Source: Science Museum Group, object 1994-461.

9. An admiral refused to fight "a squabble about a pig"

The US National Park Service records that Rear Admiral Lambert Baynes would not "involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig." The official FAQ says no fire was exchanged, and that the only casualty was the pig. Source: San Juan Island National Historical Park.

10. The man behind Robert's Rules of Order dug a gun pit

The official park history says a redoubt was "excavated under the direction of Lieutenant Henry M. Robert (future author of Robert's Rules of Order)." Source: the same park history.

11. The rangers still do not know who ate the pig

The official FAQ says: "We do not know who ate the pig (a question we're asked everyday during the summer months)." The name "Pig War" "was coined in jest many years after the incident." Source: NPS Frequently Asked Questions.

12. In 2001 an England order deleted the definition of "swill"

SI 2001/1704, made on 3 May 2001 and in force on 24 May 2001, provided that "the definition of 'swill' shall be deleted." A later official report records that in 2001, 74 premises in the UK were licensed to process swill and 93 were licensed to feed it. Sources: SI 2001/1704; Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, The introduction of the ban on swill feeding.

ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless. typographic sheet, no photographs. Read the stories at pigs.farmyard.im. Checked 17 November 2026.