Use of lidocaine in pigs

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Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/892 amending Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the classification of the substance lidocaine with respect to its maximum residue limit in foodstuffs of animal origin

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) allows the use of lidocaine as a local anaesthetic in piglets up to 7 days of age, for pain relief prior to castration. This new Regulation permits the injection of lidocaine into the scrotum, testicles, and spermatic cord (lidocaine was previously allowed to be used only on the skin or on damaged tissues.) The new conditions of use are approved based on an evaluation by the European Medicines Agency, which concluded there is no risk for consumers.

Timeline

The new conditions of use apply from **14 May 2026**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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