

Swine Care Basics

AN INFOGRAPHIC FOR SWINE OWNERS

Vital Signs

Temperature: 101.5-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit

Resting Heart Rate:
adult: 70-80 beats/minute
growing: 70-90 beats/minute

Resting Respiration Rate:
adult: 13-18 breaths/minute
growing: 25-40 breaths per minute

Swine require at least 1/10 Acre per animal



Monogastrics

- Simple, one chambered stomach, similar to the human stomach
- Typically, swine will eat a dry pelleted feed- cereal grains are ground and mixed with other dry ingredients to make a complete feed

Nutritional Requirements

- Rations are balanced to meet the animal's needs.
- Pigs require essential amino acid balance not just crude protein %.
- Growing animals are typically fed free choice while adults are fed by size and body condition.
- Lactating sows require higher rates of protein and energy than gestating sows and will need supplementation.
- Younger animals need higher levels of protein.

BODY CONDITION SCORING

Image	1	2	3	4	5
Image					
Score	1	2	3	4	5
Condition	Emaciated	Thin	Ideal	Fat	Obese
Detection of Ribs, Back Bone, "H" Bones and Pin Bones	Obvious	Easily detected with pressure	Barely felt with firm pressure	None	None

Taken from "Assessing Sow Body Condition" by R.D.Coffey, G.R. Parker, and K.M. Laurent (ASC-158; 1999)

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Reproduction:

- Gestation length: 114 days or 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days
- Sows average 8-12 pigs/litter
- Gilts are bred for the first time around 6 months of age
- Gilts come into heat every 21 days
- Sows will come into heat 3-7 days after weaning

Other:

Terminology

- Sow - adult female that has had piglets
- Boar - intact adult male
- Gilt - young female that has not had piglets
- Barrow - castrated male
- Pig or Piglet - very young (baby) swine
- Hog - domestic swine grown for slaughter

Terminal vs maternal breeds. Different breeds have varying carcass characteristics and suitability for pasture. Research what fits best with your system.

Marketing:

There are several marketing options for selling pork. Live animal sales are less common than selling meat.

- Livestock Sales
- Private Treaty/On Farm Sales - Piglets or Breeding Animals
- Selling Meat Cuts- Retail or Wholesale
- If transporting live animals on state roads, they must have tags provided or approved by the NCDA.



Piglet
2-4 lbs at
birth



Feeder Pig
40-60 lbs
2 months



Finished Market Hog
250-280
6 months