

Show Pig Care

Supplies you need to properly care for your show pig:

- Feed and feeder/pan
 - Clip on plastic feeders hung on the fence work the best
 - Make sure they are hung at the right height where it is not too low and the pig is eating on the ground and not too high where he has to put his front feet in it to reach the feed.
 - Drill holes in the back of the feeder to wire to fence so they can't bump.
- Water with self dispenser
 - Automatic nipple waters are ideal
 - If you use tube waters or barrels with a nipple on them, BE SURE to clean them out weekly and that they are filled up every morning and every night.
 - Be sure water is cool, if you wouldn't drink it...don't ask your pig to
- Medications and administration equipment
 - "Push pull" syringes are the easiest way to give shots of any kind
- Available scales
- Brush(es)
 - Soft, horse hair brush
- Hair care supplies
 - Refer to back pages for suggested products.
- Show whip, pipe
- Positive, Want to Attitude

Environment and Facilities for show pigs:

- BASIC NEEDS OF PIGS
 - Space → 6' x 10' or larger
 - Nutrition → Fresh supply of water and feed
 - Shelter → Protection from extreme weather conditions (mainly drafts) and sun (to prevent sunburn on white hogs)
 - Temperature Control → Ideal temp 65-75 degrees
- BEDDING OPTIONS
 - Concrete with plenty of shavings
 - Easiest to clean, easiest to get skin & hair right, easiest to maintain
 - Make sure has light broom finish, treat new concrete with Vinegar
 - Dirt pens (prefer sand)



- Good if have structural issues
 - Still good idea to use shavings, rake and level surface often
- Individual pens
 - lessens the likelihood of one getting hurt by another and more importantly, allows you to know EXACTLY how much pig is getting to eat.
- TEMPERATURE
 - Changes through the day, needs to be thought about before heading to school or work or going to bed
 - Comfortable in summer and winter
 - Will not gain correctly, eat right or look the part if too cold or too hot
 - Winter
 - Block wind & draft
 - Heat lamps if 60° or colder- place them where they are at least 12 inches and no more than 18 inches from the top of the pig's back when it is standing up.
 - Add straw to bedding if extremely cold (under 45°)
 - Summer
 - Fans if over 80°
 - Misters or rinse several times a day if over 90°
- CLEANING & DISINFECTING
 - ESSENTIAL to clean and disinfect your pens between each season of pigs.
 - Power wash and disinfect each pen before bringing in a new set
 - On a daily basis,
 - Keep the shavings as dry and clean as possible
 - Wet, dirty shavings are a breeding ground for disease and infection
 - Helps control the amount of flies that are around to bother you and your pig!
 - Completely clean and re-bed pen once a week
- WHAT ELSE?
 - Practice show ring that they can use to train or practice in.
 - Holding pens and a placing pen next to and inside the ring to practice penning your pig
 - You can add alley ways and gates just like they have in the holding ring at shows. This will give you and your pig the practice of working through that type of system.

Daily schedules with your pig:

- FEEDING ROUTINE
 - Single most important thing you can do to ensure success with your pig
 - Feed your pig at the same time every morning and every night.
 - Their body learns to expect to get fed at a certain time and they will get hungry and have a better appetite when they are on a routine.
- DAILY
 - Brush and work the skin and hair on your pig.
 - One of the easiest ways for your pig to look “THE PART” in the show ring is to have impeccable skin and hair.
 - Only need to wash your pig (with soap) once a week.
 - Need to wash them enough to keep their feet and legs from getting stained, but over-washing will dry out their skin and they don't need to be washed when it is lower than 65 degrees outside.

- Once you have your pig calmed down where you can approach him/her in the pen and brush them, then they are ready to take out of the pen and start training to show.
 - If you take them out before you have them calmed down to this point, they will only be scared of you and will run away.
- See checklist at end of this handout for things to check for daily

Nutrition and Feeding:

- Feed your pig at the same time every morning and every night.
- Train them to eat
 - Once they are adjusted and on feed good, give them 20 minutes to eat, then pull their pan
- Feed pigs separately
- Every pig, like every person, does not look the same in terms of muscle and fat cover.
 - These are the two main things that you can work to change with feed.
 - The amount of protein that you feed your pig depends on what stage of their life they are in and how much muscle he/she has and needs.
 - Lowering or increasing protein DOES NOT necessarily affect how much weight they gain.
 - Protein mainly affects how much and what type of muscle they develop.
 - Fat cover is another main area that you can change with feed or supplements. Some pigs get fatter easier than others and some pigs have to be fed a lot of fat to look right.
- Beyond what your pig looks like, what they weigh and the number of days left until the show can affect what type of feed ration your pig needs to be eating.
 - Weigh your pig once week, or if that is not possible at least once every other week so that you can calculate how much they are gaining on a daily basis.

Here is an example of how you calculate average daily gain:

Fred weighed his pig on Saturday, August 1st at 5 pm (before he fed that night) and it weighed 180 pounds. He weighed it the exact same time of day (5 pm) the next Saturday (7 days from the previous weight) and it weighed 194 pounds. Then he calculated his pig's average daily gain (ADG):

$194 - 180 = 14$ pounds $14 \text{ pounds} / 7 \text{ days} = 2$ pounds a day

Fred's pig, on average, gained 2 pounds a day. If there are 54 days left until he weighs his pig in at the show, then he can estimate that his pig could weigh in at:

$54 \text{ days} \times 2 \text{ pounds per day} = 108$ pounds $194 + 108 = 302$ pounds

Obviously, Fred needs to back his pig down some on how much weight he is gaining a day because 302 pounds is over the weight limit at the show that he is going to. Since he caught this early, he can make the appropriate adjustment to his pig's ration and have him only gain 1.5 pounds a day, which will make him weigh 275 pounds on the day of the weigh in. This is much easier to manage than the 302 pound mark that he was headed to make before.

- Pick one day of the week to weigh, no matter what day you pick, always weigh your pig on the same day each week.

- Also need to weigh him at the same time every week.
- It is also much better to weigh them BEFORE you feed. This can GREATLY influence how much your pig weighs.

CHECKLIST TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR SHOWPIG

<u>DAILY:</u>	<u>WEEKLY:</u>	<u>EVERY TWO WEEKS:</u>
✓ Cough	✓ Weigh (same time & day each time)	✓ Worm (alternate with Ivermectin for external and internal parasites and a product that will treat whip worms)
✓ Loose Stools		
✓ Thrifty, feeling well		
✓ Eat everything AM & PM		
✓ Any joint swelling		
✓ Walking, not limping		
✓ Water working		
✓ Skin (red bumps or irritation?)		
✓ Temperature in barn		

Clipping Instructions:

OA & BLEND

1 OR 1A

OO GUARD OR BACKDRAG (PREFERRED)

-OA = 5/16

-1 = 7/16

-1A = 9/16

-10# blades on small clipper

-Red speed-o-guides on clippers

-Go against the grain

-DO NOT clip legs (OA on insides if needed)

-Tail with O or OA

-Clip tight on belly and under jowl, but DON'T come up on sides

-Take your time and try not to make any noticeable lines

Showmanship Questions

Feed Category

- Are pigs monogastric or ruminant? What does that mean?
- What do you feed the pig?
 - Not necessarily brand of feed, but protein & fat levels, Grower/Finisher ration, Pellet vs Meal.
- What are the two most abundant ingredients in the majority of pig diets?
- How much protein level is normally in pig feed?
- What's a good fat level for your pig feed?
- What is lysine?
- How much weight per day do pigs typically gain or is your pig gaining?
- How many pounds of feed does it take to get one pound of gain?
- How many pounds of feed do you feed your pig per day, do you feed once or twice per day?
- What supplement(s) are you feeding? Why?
- What percent of body weight do they eat per day?

Market & Carcass Category

- What's a typical market weight range?
- What does your pig weigh? What should it weigh at market weight?
- What is the meat product called that pigs produce?
- What are the four lean cuts of a market hog?
- What is one of the most important cuts of pork? Why? Where on the body does it come from?
- Where do pork chops come from?
- Where does ham come from?
- What is an acceptable fat thickness range for pigs?
- What is the ideal fat thickness?
- What is a good loin eye area for market hogs?
- Where do they break the carcass? Where do they measure loin eye thickness?
- What is the fat called in the loin eye?
- What does PSE stand for?
- What is the dressing percentage of pigs?
- Why is the dressing percentage of pigs higher than other livestock species?

General Questions

- What is one problem do you see facing the show pig industry? And what do you think a potential solution is?
- What does a producer generally do to "process" a baby pig when it is born?
- What is the gestation period of a sow?
- How often do gilts or sows come into estrus?



- What is drug withdrawal?
 - Might ask if you have given your pig any medication and then what is the withdrawal on that drug?
- What breed is your pig?
- What is that breed known for?
 - York
 - Hampshire
 - Duroc –
 - Berkshire –
 - Chester
 - Spot
 - Poland
 - For cross breeds – know what they are crossed with
- What is the breed association that handles the records and shows of Hampshires, Yorkshires, Landraces, and Durocs?
- What group takes care of Chesters, Polands, and Spots.
- Be able to read a pedigree
 - Check NSR site, and find the 4-H Swine handbook – good resource for showmanship questions
- What did you do to train the pig for the show?
- What do you do daily to take care of your pig?
- What products do you use for skin and coat?
- What is your favorite part of showing pigs?
- Who helps you with you pig at home?
- How did you clip the pig and prepare it for the show?
- What's good about your pig, what's bad about your pig?
- Know the show rules – clipping hair length, etc.
- What is the ear notch of your pig (know how to read other's pigs ear notches also)
- When was your pig born?
- Why do pig breeders dock tails?

When answering questions, leave your pig. Answer question, then go back to your pig.



Packing your Showbox and Trailer for the Show:

Washing

- Short hose
- Sprayer
- Shampoo
- Waterless Shampoo
- Couple large towels
- Couple smaller towels

Paperwork

- Entry verification from Ag teacher
- Copy of validation form with ear notch and tag
- Texas Bred Certificates
- Breeding gilts- original registration papers
- Health papers (if required)
- Copy of premium book
- Copy of weight breaks

Skin and Hair

- Skin conditioner you have been using at home
- 2 Brushes (no oil brush and one used for oil)
- Baby oil
- Spray Bottle

Showing

- Whip or Pipe
- Safety pins or Belt clip

Feeding

- Feed
- Measuring cup
- ***All the supplements you were feeding at the house
- Feeder
- Tube water
- Beet pulp & oats (even if not being fed at home)
- Water bucket

Misc

- Sole paint
- Hoof & Heal
- Wire
- Pliers
- Sliding panel with gate
- Aspirin Free
- Probiotic paste
- Electrolytes
- Heat lamp (if allowed)
- Extension cords
- Plenty of shavings
- Straw (if cold and allowed)
- Scissors
- Razor combs
- Rubbing Alcohol

