Youth Swine Projects

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The Pig's Right Ear is the Litter Ear

The Pig's Left Ear is the Individual Ear
What would be the litter number and individual number of this animal?
• The right (litter) ear is equal to $9+3+3+1=16$
• The left (pig) ear is equal to 3
• This is the 16-3 pig
Advantages

- Outstanding program
- Low project cost
- Space requirements are small
- Market project- short term
- Good market demand
Overall Costs

- Price of a pig
- Building a pen
- Medications
- Feed
- Other Supplies
Pig Cost

- Can spend a lot or a little
- High dollar pig not taken care of is just a high dollar pig
- Management is the key
- Buy one from a reputable breeder
Feed Cost

- Remember that it takes about 3 lbs. of feed for 1 lb of gain
- 250 lb pig started out as 50 lb pig, it gains 200 lbs.
- Need 600 lbs. of feed (3 x 200)
- Cost of 50 lb bag of feed x 12 = cost
- Example – 12 x 20.00 = $240.00
Parts Id

- Need to know the parts of the animal
- Should help in selection
- Should help understand the judge’s placing
- Judges may ask questions about parts in showmanship
- May want to know wholesale cuts
The First Step!

- Snout
- Jowl
- Knee
- Cannon Bone
- Pastern
- Foot (toes)
- Elbow
- Side
- Flanks (Fore and Rear)
- Belly
- Stifle Joint
- Ham
- Rump
- Loin
- Back
- Hock
- Neck
- Ear
- Head
- Snout
- Jowl
- Knee
- Pastern
- Dewclaw
- Cannon Bone
- Foot (toes)
1. Hook
2. Teat
3. Neck
4. Ear
5. Shoulder
6. Rump
7. Loin
8. Back
9. Tail
10. Vulva
11. Rear flank
12. Ham
13. 
14. Side
15. Belly
16. Elbow
17. Fore Flank
18. Jowl
19. Snout
Selection

- Structurally sound
- Long bodied
- Wide Chest floor
- Natural Muscling and Thickness
- Fame
- Level topped
Evaluating Structure

LEVEL DESIGN
Evaluating Volume

RIB SHAPE

DEPTH OF BODY

LENGTH OF BODY

WIDTH OF CHEST
Evaluating Muscle!

- LOIN OR TOP
- STIFLE
- FOREARM
- HAM
- WIDTH OF BASE
Pen Size and Housing

- Build pen before you buy your pig
- Good site selection, well drained, provides shade
- Big enough for a 280 lb pig (16x10)
- Easy loading and unloading
- 16 foot hog panels, with steel t-post and good corner posts.
- Don’t forget the gate!!!
Feed

- A lot of different feeds on the market
- Find what is available in your area
- Feed a feed at least 16% protein
- Remember that some feeds are medicated, so make sure to read the label
- Never feed table scraps or other undesirable things
Feeding Methods- Full feeding-

- Keep feed out 24 hrs. a day. A pig will regulate itself to the right amount of consumption.
- Most people will feed to 200 lbs. then pan feed. Good method if pig is little and needs to grow fast
- Problems – not looking at animals everyday. Not seeing if pig is not eating.
- Pigs can gain weight faster than you realize
Pan Feeding

- This option gives you a good idea of what the pig is consuming, only eats the amount you want them to eat.
- Limits the amount of waste
- You are seeing your animal two times a day
- Catch problems faster
- Helps maintain your animal’s weight
- Try to feed the same time in the mornings and the evenings
Water

- This is the most important factor in feeding a hog.
- Needs to be cool, clean, and fresh water.
- Nipple system or pan watering will work.
- Nipple should be placed where it is not in the sun, or the water line.
- Make sure the pig can reach the nipple
Nipple Watering System
Water (cont’d)

- Pan Watering - make sure to clean out the pan daily, usually at feeding.
- Rubber pans usually the best. Can place it in a old tire to kept the pig from turning it over.
- Remember to locate the pan out of direct sunlight.
Pan Watering System
Vaccination and De-worming

- When you buy your pig it’s a good thing to de-worm it as soon as you get it home.
- De-worm every 3 to 4 weeks
- Products to use- Atgard, Ivomec, and Safeguard. Alternate between them.
- We only use safeguard once a year, for whip worms.
Diseases / Illnesses

- Pneumonia - which causes labored breathing, coughing, sneezing, loss of appetite, and high fever
- Mycoplasma Arthritis - stiff or swollen joints and loss of appetite
- Scours - loose or watery bowel movements
- Swine Pox - large sores or boil-like lesions on the belly, eyes, and ears; high fever, and loss of appetite. Hog is contagious until the lesions scab over.
- Call the veterinarian if one of these occur.
Weight Management

- Pigs need to be weighed to find out what they are gaining (ADG)
- We start when we do our state fair paperwork, then weigh again 2 weeks later. Take 2nd weight and subtract the initial weight, then divided by the number of days between weighing equals average daily gain. (Don’t change the amount of feed you are feeding)
- Take the ADG and multiply by the number of days to your show, to get your finished weight. If you need to change your feed amount then weigh again in two week, if not then we weigh about every 30 days.
Exercising

- Market hogs need exercise just like we do. An ideal situation would be to have a large exercise pen (50x100) that is free of obstacles. Start out slowly and work your way up to 30 minutes a day. Try to start about 3 weeks before your first show, but once you start don’t stop. Do it in the cool part of the day.

- This is a good way to work on showmanship techniques. Walk and work your pig just like you would during the show.
Grooming

- This starts at home
- Don’t wait until the day of the show and expect the pig to look clean and fresh.
- Start at least two weeks before your show and wash every other day, then four days before wash every day. If skin is getting dry and flaky, you can use conditioners on your pig.
- If you pan feed, this is a good time to spend brushing your pig, so they get use to you.
Clipping

- Don’t clip shorter than $3/8$ of an inch. Try to do this at home before you go to the show. Most shows will not let you clip there.
- Clip the head with a smaller guard on the clippers than the rest of the body. Try to blend the hairs together.
Show Supplies

- Brushes
- Hose and nozzle
- Soap
- Whip or show stick
- Rags
- Water pans
- Feed and feed pans
- Show sheen

- Spray bottles
- Pen divider
- Fan
- Extension Cord
- Medicine and syringes
- Water bucket
Showmanship Information

• Parts identification
• Feed information, amount and what kind
• Kind of pig (breed)
• Ear Notches
• Important facts about the hog industry
Questions???