MANAGEMENT OF YOUTH SWINE PROJECT

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MARKET HOG PROGRAM

- Outstanding program
- Low project cost
- Space requirements are small
- Market project - short term
- Good market demand
QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Are you committed to the project?
- Are you willing to work?
- What about parent involvement?
- What about money?
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
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 22 = cost

Example – 12 x $22.00 = $264.00
Selection

- Structurally sound
- Long bodied
- Wide Chest floor
- Natural Muscling and Thickness
- Fame
- Level topped
F. Developing A Swine Evaluation System

Swine classes are usually different from the other species because the four animals are loose in a pen. Each animal in a class is identified by a number on its back. Since the animals are moving around loose in the pen and you are judging while they walk, it is very important that you see and evaluate each animal and compare it with the others in the class. To make this possible, someone drives the pigs while the contestants observe them from outside the pen. The pen should be at least 20 feet in diameter. To compare the animals, you must analyze them from a distance, not directly above them.

First, examine each pig individually. Set your "sights" on the first one to get out by himself, go over him, evaluating him in comparison to the ideal. Note his good points and his weaknesses.

Do this for each pig individually, before you begin to compare the pigs as this will save time during the comparison stage of your judging.

There are four ways that you can observe swine:

**Rear View**

- Analyze each animal for:
  - Correct turn over top - 1
  - Width through center of ham - 2
  - Uniform muscle thickness from upper to lower ham - 3
  - Width between hind legs - 4
  - Fat deposits in twist (crotch) - 5
  - Muscle pattern - 6
  - Correctness of rear feet and legs - 7

Notice the inverted V shape of the crotch in trim hogs A & C. Fat hogs have an inverted U shape in their crotch area (B and D).
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
Swine Selection and Evaluation

A. Major Parts and Wholesale Cuts
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!!!
Many different feeds available – Moorman’s, Evergreen, Farmland, Purina, etc.

Select one that is 18% CP and 10% Lysine, if possible

Pan feeding vs. Full feed

Stay on a schedule

Don’t feed table scraps
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.
FULL FEEDING (CONT’D)

- Problems – kids are 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
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.
- Use safeguard at least once 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.
- Check for lice and mites
WEIGHING AND MANAGEMENT

- Start after July 15 deadline
- Count days to County and State Fair
- Adjust the feed to spilt your hogs
- Re-weigh about every 30 days
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.
GROOMING

- Start washing at least one week prior to show
- Show Sheen – some judges like it, some don’t
- State Fair – no clipping, do it before you get there
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
SHOWING

- Make sure you know what they are doing before they go into the ring.
- Make sure you have the right equipment when they get to the ring.
- Make sure you watch the show and listen to the judge.
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Need to have good eye contact, and don’t get between the judge and the pig.
SHOWMANSHIP INFORMATION

- Parts identification
- Feed information, amount and what kind
- Kind of pig (breed)
- Ear Notches
- Important facts about the hog industry
There are a lot of protein supplements on the market. Be careful using them. Read the label, and follow it.

To much of a supplement can crash a pig in a hurry, it can also make a pig get muscle bound to where it cannot walk.

Most of the feed on the market has enough protein in it that a supplement is not needed.
We get a lot of questions about sunburned pigs. Remember, if your pig comes from a confined house they will lay in the sun.

You can use different products to help them recover from sunburn- Scarlet Oil, Aloe Vera, Sun Block.

Never use baby oil on your pig, the oil will not let the pig’s skin breathe.
QUESTIONS???