



Knight's Feed Show Pig Guide

SHELTER AND FACILITIES:

The pen where the pig is kept needs to be covered and kept as dry as possible. A 60 square foot area to house the pig is sufficient. If the floor of the housing is concrete, you need to add some type of bedding, preferably shavings. Pigs can get sick very easily, so their housing needs to be where the pig can stay dry and warm. Heat lamps can be used for the cold nights/days. And if the pen does not have solid sides or walls, you can use tarps to keep the wind off the pigs during cold months. And the opposite is also true in that the housing needs to have good ventilation so the pigs can stay cool during hot months. The housing area should be kept clean.

Pigs need exercise, so they need to be walked or let out in an area that they can be on dirt. A 360 square foot area would be sufficient. It is recommended that you exercise your pig for about 1 hour each day. Pigs can get sunburn very easy, so their housing needs to be covered, and their exercise area needs to be covered or in the shade.

MATERIALS:

Materials that can be used to build the pens are boards or hog panels. The height of the fencing should be at least 4 feet or higher. Make sure there are no sharp objects or edges that the pig could cut themselves on. And make sure the pen and exercise areas are free of debris, roots, holes, and other tripping hazards that could injure your pig.

FEEDING:

Select the feeder that will be best for you to use. If you choose an automatic feeder, it is recommended that you do not dump 50 lbs. of feed in at one time. It will take a long time for the pig to eat that amount and the feed will become

moldy and be wasted. It is recommended that you weigh out enough feed for 1-2 days at a time. But be sure the feeder is under cover where it can stay dry. And check the feeder to make sure the feed has not become moldy.

A fence feeder is another option for feeding. When using a fence feeder, you will divide your pig's daily feed amount in half and feed 2 meals per day, approximately 12 hours between feedings. Make sure the feeders are cleaned every day to prevent mold. Also make sure your pig always has an endless supply of clean water.

It is important that you know how much feed your pig is consuming, so weighing the feed is important. Using an inexpensive kitchen-type scale is sufficient. Pigs should consume at least 2% to 3% of their body weight per day. If you are not weighing the feed, you do not know how much feed they are consuming, and you can't make proper adjustments when needed. Weighing your pig is also important, so weighing your pig weekly or biweekly is the best option. You need to know how your pig is growing to know what to feed them.

When feeding, within 45 minutes to 1 hour, if your pig is leaving more than 1/3 lb. of feed uneaten, reduce the amount of feed by ¼ to ½ lb. for 2-3 days. Remove the uneaten portion of feed from the feeder after each feeding. Once your pig begins to finish the full portion, begin to increase the feeding again by ¼ to ½ lb.

If you cannot monitor the morning feedings, consider feeding less in the morning and more at night. For example, feed about 40% of the daily feeding in the morning and 60% at night.

HEALTH:

Pig immune systems can be very weak, and they can get sick very easily. It is very important to pay attention to their breathing, their appetite, their temperature, and their activity. Don't ignore symptoms. If you have a concern or a question, you should contact your vet as soon as possible.

Probiotic: (Gut health)

It is best to use a feed that includes probiotic supplements in the mix. If your feed does not contain probiotics, there are supplements on the market that can be used. Probiotics ensure a healthy G.I. tract by providing good bacteria. This is important to maintain a healthy appetite.

Deworming:

Every 30 days your pig should be dewormed. The easiest way to do this is to add it to their feed using a pelleted de-wormer such as Safe-Guard. Follow the recommended instructions on the packaging. This is an important part of the process and should be done consistently.

WEIGHT GAIN:

Ideal averages are between 1.75 lbs. and 2 lbs. per day. This is another reason weighing your pig weekly or biweekly (or as often as possible) is important. You need to know where you're at, so you know where you need to go.

CHOOSING YOUR PIG:

The weight of the pig you are choosing is something very important to consider. You need to keep in mind the number of days on feed before your show, combined with your average daily gain. You do not want to select a pig that is too small and risk not making weight. But you also must consider heavier pigs gaining too much weight if your show has a top out weight.

Example:

60 lb. pig at purchase

100 days on feed

Average daily gain of 1.75 lbs./day (175 lbs. gained)

Final weight = 235 lbs.

In conclusion, the three most important things to remember:

Feed your pig daily, make sure they have clean water, and make sure they are healthy. As you can see from the example, there is not much room for error in making weight if your pig goes off feed for even 1-2 days.

For further question pertaining to Show pigs please contact

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