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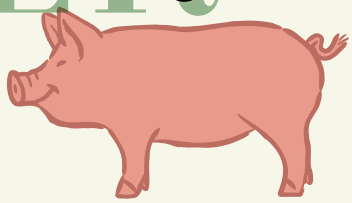
NEWSLETTER



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS WITH YOUR SWINE PROJECT (ESPECIALLY FOR A FAIR OR LIVESTOCK SHOW) INVOLVES PLANNING HOUSING (BARN/PEN), TRANSPORTATION (TRAILER), AND NUTRITION (FEED) WELL BEFORE YOU GET THE PIG. HERE'S A SIMPLE GUIDE TO HELP YOU GET STARTED. 🐖🌽

BARN / PEN SETUP

YOUR PIG NEEDS A CLEAN, SAFE, AND COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE.
KEY THINGS TO PREPARE:

- BE SAFE WITH HEATERS IN BARNS.
- DRY BEDDING: USE STRAW OR WOOD SHAVINGS.
- WATER ACCESS: AUTOMATIC WATERER OR HEAVY WATER BUCKET THAT CAN'T BE TIPPED.

BARN TIPS

- KEEP THE PEN DRY AND CLEAN TO PREVENT DISEASE.
- MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO SHARP EDGES OR HOLES PIGS COULD GET STUCK IN.
- PLACE FEED AND WATER ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE PEN TO REDUCE WASTE.

TRAILER FOR TRANSPORT

A TRAILER IS NEEDED TO BRING YOUR PIG HOME AND TO THE FAIR.
IMPORTANT FEATURES:

- NON-SLIP FLOOR (RUBBER MATS OR TEXTURED METAL).
- GOOD VENTILATION FOR AIRFLOW.
- SECURE GATE/LATCH SO PIGS CAN'T ESCAPE.
- LOW LOADING HEIGHT OR RAMP FOR EASIER LOADING.

TRANSPORT TIPS

- NEVER OVERCROWD.
- USE BEDDING TO PREVENT SLIPPING.
- AVOID HAULING DURING THE HOTTEST PART OF THE DAY.

FEED AND NUTRITION

- FEED IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST FACTORS IN HOW WELL YOUR PIG GROWS. TALK WITH YOUR BREEDER ABOUT FEED.
- TYPICAL FEEDING PROGRAM:
- · DETERMINE WHERE YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE YOUR FEED.
- START WITH A 16–18% PROTEIN GROWER FEED.
- AS THE PIG GETS BIGGER, SWITCH TO A 14–16% FINISHER FEED.
- FEED 2–3 TIMES PER DAY AT CONSISTENT TIMES.
- ALWAYS PROVIDE CLEAN WATER.

EXTRA TIPS

- USE A PIG FEEDER TO REDUCE WASTE.
- MONITOR WEIGHT WEEKLY.
- ADJUST FEED IF PIGS ARE GAINING TOO FAST OR TOO SLOW.

BASIC EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

✔ FEED PAN OR AUTOMATIC FEEDER
✔ WATERER OR HEAVY BUCKET
✔ BRUSH FOR CLEANING THE PIG
✔ SHOW WHIP
✔ BEDDING (STRAW/SHAVINGS)
✔ SCALE ACCESS FOR WEIGHING

✅ GOAL: MOST MARKET PIGS GROW FROM 50–70 LB TO ABOUT 260–290 LB IN AROUND 4–5 MONTHS, DEPENDING ON THE PROJECT TIMELINE.

REMINDERS

MAY 1ST, 2026 POSSESSION DATE

MAY 15TH, 2026

VIRTUAL TAGGING FORM DUE

JUNE 30TH, 2026

2 EDUCATION CREDITS DUE

MINIMUM WEIGHT FOR FAIR: 225 LBS.

MAXIMUM WEIGHT FOR FAIR: 315 LBS.

FAIR WORKBEE REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 1 HOUR. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR YOUR WORKBEE USING THE GREEN LINK BELOW!

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