

4-H Swine Bowl Learning Information

1. In selling commercial market hogs today, what is the most important carcass trait that has an influence on the price?
A. Percent lean.
2. What 3 things are needed to compute percent lean?
A. Market weight, backfat thickness and loin eye area.
3. How many functional teats does a gilt need to be registered?
A. At least 6 on each side.
4. What is the preferred site for intramuscular injections?
A. The neck.
5. What are some of the advantages of AI in swine production?
A. Disease control and herd improvement.
6. What is a performance index?
A. A mathematical tool for ranking animals on the basis of their productivity and efficiency.
7. What is the average dressing percent of a hog? How do you calculate it?
A. 72%; $(\text{Carcass weight} - \text{live weight}) \times 100$.
8. How old should boars be before being bred to sows?
A. 8 months
9. How many pounds and how old should gilts be before being bred?
A. At least 250 lbs. and at least 8 months old.
10. When does the first heat occur after a sow has farrowed?
A. 3 to 5 days after the pigs are weaned.
11. What is the average number of litters a sow can produce per year?
A. 2.0 to 2.2
12. When should a farrowing sow be washed?
A. 3 to 6 days prior to farrowing. Use warm soapy water to remove worm eggs, dirt and manure.
13. How should baby pig teeth be cut?
A. The needle teeth on the upper and lower jaws should have the top 1/3 cut off.
14. In commercial hog farms, tails are docked to prevent what?
A. Injury from tail biting.
15. When should castrating be done?
A. 7-14 days of age.
16. When should pigs first be introduced to their own feed?

- A. When pigs are 2 to 3 weeks of age.
17. At what age are pigs usually weaned?
A. 3 to 8 weeks old.
18. What are amino acids?
A. Building blocks of proteins. Chemically, they are short carbon chains with an amine (nitrogen) group attached.
19. What mineral do baby pigs raised on concrete need to have added to their diet?
A. Iron.
20. What are the traditional strengths of the following breeds of swine?
A. Hampshire: Carcass
B. Duroc: Growth and efficiency
C. Landrace: Maternal
21. Name 3 indexes used by breeders.
A. Maternal Line Index, Sow Productivity Index and Terminal Line Index.
22. True or False: The amino acids Lysine is commonly supplemented in swine rations.
A. True.
23. What is the length of estrus in swine?
A. 24-72 hours.
24. How long does ovulation last in swine?
A. 35-45 hours.
25. How long is the gestation period?
A. 114 days, or approximately 3 months, 3 days and 3 weeks.
26. True or False: You should provide a heat lamp in cool weather to keep baby pigs from getting cold.
A. True
27. True or False: Ear notching is done to improve airflow over the ears.
A. False. It is used to identify pigs and litters.
28. An adult pig's normal temperature is _____?
A. 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit
29. What are some samples of high protein feeds?
A. Soybean oil, fish meal and alfalfa meal.
30. How often should fresh water be given to a pig?
A. Daily, 2-5 pounds for each 1 pound of dry feed given. These needs can double in high temperatures.
31. True or False: You can overfeed a sow.

- A. True. Overfeeding is a frequent error. Do not self feed pregnant sows or gilts. Limit energy feeds.
32. What does A.I. stand for?
A. Artificial Insemination.
33. Which of these breeds has erect ears: Yorkshire, Landrace or Chester White?
A. Yorkshire has erect ears.
34. What do you call a male animal that has been castrated before reaching sexual maturity?
A. Barrow.
35. On the universal ear notching system, the left ear is used for individual or litter I.D.?
A. Individual.
36. What is a Boar?
A. Male hog of any age that is not castrated.
37. Name 4 breeds of swine.
A. Hampshire, Yorkshire, Duroc, Landrace, Poland China, Chester White, Berkshire, Spotted, Tamworth, Pietrain, etc.
38. Should shelter be provided for market hogs?
A. Yes, shelter from the elements such as heat, wind and rain should be provided for your growing market hog. If the animal is not provided shelter and protected against these elements, it can become stressed and this in turn can affect its growth and health.
39. Is it recommended to provide market and feeder pigs "Full: (unlimited) feed"?
A. Yes.
40. True or False: Hampshire pigs' coloring can be described as black with six white points, on the feet, the tip of the tail and the face.
A. False, that would be a Berkshire.
41. True or False: Durocs are white in color.
A. False, they are various shades of red.
42. Can a dirty pen hurt a pig?
A. Yes, dirty pens can provide a place for pathogens and parasites to grow that can infect the pig and cause disease.
43. True or False: Pigs are considered the least intelligent of all domesticated animals.
A. False.

Swine Terms

1. Barrow - Male animal that has been castrated before reaching sexual maturity
2. Boar - Male hog of any age that is not castrated.
3. Breed - Animals of like, color , type, and other characteristics similar to those of parents or past generations. Some breeds of swine are Berkshire, Hampshire, Duroc, Chester White, Poland China, Yorkshire, Spotted, Tamworth and Pietrain.
4. Castrate - to remove the testicles of male animals.
5. Dam - a female parent.
6. Feeder - A weaned animal that is ready for feeding or that is being fed to market.
7. Finish - Degree of fatness.
8. Fitting - Grooming an animal for show or sale.
9. Gilt - Female pig that has not had a litter.
10. Grade Animal - An animal that has one or both parents not registered with a breed association.
11. Parturition - Act of giving birth.
12. Pedigree - A table that gives a line of ancestors for an animal; A genealogical tree.
13. Purebred Animal - An animal of a pure breed where the ancestry is recorded.
14. Daily Ration - the total feed given any animal during a 24 hour period.
15. Registered Animal - Purebred animal that has a registration certificate and number issued by the breed association. The animal's name is recorded together with the names of the sire and the dam.
16. Genetics - the study of how animal or plant characteristics are passed from parents to offspring.
17. Farrow - the act of a pig giving birth.
18. Lactation - The process of an animal producing milk.
19. Creep Area - An area accessible to nursing pigs (but not to the sow) where supplemental feed is provided.
20. Crossbred - the progeny of purebred parents of different breeds, but of the same species.

21. Gestation Period - The time interval between conception and farrowing.
22. Runts - Small, undersized or weak pigs in a litter.
23. Shrink - weight loss.
24. Self Feed or Free Feed - Unlimited feed available at all times.
25. Sow - A female hog that has had at least one litter.
26. Yield - The percent of boneless, trimmed retail cuts of meat that can be harvested from an animal.
27. In heat - Means the gilt or sow is receptive to the boar.
28. Weaning - The time when the young pigs separated from the sow
29. Guard Rails - Rails installed in farrowing pens or houses to help prevent the sow from hurting or crushing the baby pigs.
30. Feeder Pigs - Weaned pigs that progress through growing and finishing.