

Show Pig Care

Supplies you need to properly care for your show pig:

- Feed and feeder
 - Clip on plastic feeders hung on the fence work the best
 - Make sure they are hung at the right height where it is not too low and the pig is eating on the ground and not too high where he has to put his front feet in it to reach the feed.
 - Drill holes in the back of the feeder to wire to fence so they can't bump.
- Water with self dispenser
 - Automatic waters are ideal
 - If you use tube waters or barrels with a nipple on them, BE SURE to clean them out weekly and that they are filled up every morning and every night.
 - Be sure water is cool, if you wouldn't drink it...don't ask your pig to
- Medications and administration equipment
 - "Push pull" or "quick shot" syringes are the easiest way to give shots of any kind
 - "Slap-Shot" attachments can also be used to make giving medicine easier.
- Available scales
 - Whether scales are at your on barn, or a nearby facility, scales are important to keep records of gain and plan ahead for your endpoint show.
- Brush(es)
 - Soft, horse hair brush are ideal
- Hair care supplies
 - Many options...baby oil, any type of conditioner or lotion will work
- Show whip, pipe
- Positive, Want to Attitude

Environment and Facilities for show pigs:

- BASIC NEEDS OF PIGS
 - Space → 6' x 10' ideal
 - Nutrition → Fresh supply of water and feed
 - Shelter → Protection from extreme weather conditions (mainly drafts) and sun (to prevent sunburn on white hogs)
- Temperature Control → Ideal temp 65-75 degrees.
- BEDDING OPTIONS
 - Concrete with plenty of shavings

- Easiest to clean, easiest to get skin & hair right, easiest to maintain
- Make sure has light broom finish, treat new concrete with Vinegar
- Dirt pens (prefer sand)
 - Good if have structural issues
 - Still good idea to use shavings, especially in bedding (sleeping) area of pen, rake and level surface often
- Individual pens
 - Lessens the likelihood of one getting hurt by another and more importantly, allows you to know EXACTLY how much pig is getting to eat.
- TEMPERATURE
 - Changes through the day, needs to be thought about before heading to school or work or going to bed
 - Comfortable in summer and winter
 - Will not gain correctly, eat right or look the part if too cold or too hot
 - Winter
 - Block wind & draft
 - Heat lamps if 60° or colder- place them where they are at least 12 inches and no more than 18 inches from the top of the pig's back when it is standing up.
 - Add straw to bedding if extremely cold (under 45°)
 - Summer
 - Fans if over 80°
 - Mistors or rinse several times a day if over 90°
- CLEANING & DISINFECTING
 - ESSENTIAL to clean and disinfect your pens between each season of pigs.
 - Power wash and disinfect each pen before bringing in a new set
 - On a daily basis,
 - Keep the shavings as dry and clean as possible
 - Wet, dirty shavings are a breeding ground for disease and infection
 - Helps control the amount of flies that are around to bother you and your pig!
 - Completely clean and re-bed pen once a week
- WHAT ELSE?
 - Practice show ring that they can use to train or practice in.
 - Holding pens and a placing pen next to and inside the ring to practice penning your pig
 - You can add alley ways and gates just like they have in the holding ring at shows. This will give you and your pig the practice of working through that type of system.

Daily schedules with your pig:

- FEEDING ROUTINE
 - Single most important thing you can do to ensure success with your pig
 - Feed your pig at the same time every morning and every night.
 - Their body learns to expect to get fed at a certain time and they will get hungry and have a better appetite when they are on a routine.
- DAILY
 - Brush and work the skin and hair on your pig.
 - One of the easiest ways for your pig to look “THE PART” in the show ring is to have impeccable skin and hair.



- Only need to wash your pig (with soap) once a week.
 - Need to wash them enough to keep their feet and legs from getting stained, but over-washing will dry out their skin and they don't need to be washed when it is lower than 65 degrees outside.
- Once you have your pig calmed down where you can approach him/her in the pen and brush them, then they are ready to take out of the pen and start training to show. (THE EARLIER THE BETTER!)
 - If you take them out before you have them calmed down to this point, they will only be scared of you and will run away.
- See checklist at end of this handout for things to check for daily

Nutrition and Feeding:

- Feed your pig at the same time every morning and every night.
- Train them to eat
 - Once they are adjusted and on feed good, give them 20 minutes to eat, then pull their feed
- Feed pigs separately
- Every pig, like every person, does not look the same in terms of muscle and fat cover.
 - These are the two main things that you can work to change with feed.
 - The amount of protein that you feed your pig depends on what stage of their life they are in and how much muscle he/she has and needs.
 - Lowering or increasing protein DOES NOT necessarily affect how much weight they gain.
 - Protein mainly affects how much and what type of muscle they develop.
 - Fat cover is another main area that you can change with feed and/or supplements. Some pigs get fatter easier than others and some pigs have to be fed a lot of fat to look right.
- Beyond what your pig looks like, what they weigh and the number of days left until the show can affect what type of feed ration your pig needs to be eating.
 - Weigh your pig once week, or if that is not possible at least once every other week so that you can calculate how much they are gaining on a daily basis.

Here is an example of how you calculate average daily gain:

Fred weighed his pig on Saturday, August 1st at 5 pm (after he fed that night) and it weighed 150 pounds. He weighed it the exact same time of day (5 pm) the next Saturday (7 days from the previous weight) and it weighed 164 pounds. Then he calculated his pig's average daily gain (ADG):

$$166 - 150 = 16 \text{ pounds} \quad 16 \text{ pounds} / 7 \text{ days} = 2.3 \text{ pounds a day}$$

Fred's pig, on average, gained 2 pounds a day. If there are 54 days left until he weighs his pig in at the show, then he can estimate that his pig could weigh in at:

$$60 \text{ days} \times 2.3 \text{ pounds per day} = 138 \text{ pounds} \quad 166 + 138 = 304 \text{ pounds}$$

Obviously, Fred needs to back his pig down some on how much weight he is gaining a day because 304 pounds is over the weight limit at the show that he is going to. Since he caught this early, he

can make the appropriate adjustment to his pig's ration and have his gain slowed down until Fred's pig can gain 2-2.5 lbs a day in the last 20-30 days prior to the show and not exceed the maximum weight at the show. This is much more effective to have a plan, and hold his pig earlier, so he may feed to get the desired look towards the end and closer to the show instead of waiting and having to manage his pigs weight the last few weeks leading up to the show.

- Pick one day of the week to weigh, no matter what day you pick, always weigh your pig on the same day each week.
- Also need to weigh him at the same time every week.
- It is also much better to weigh them AFTER you feed. This can GREATLY influence how much your pig weighs. You show them full, you weigh them full.

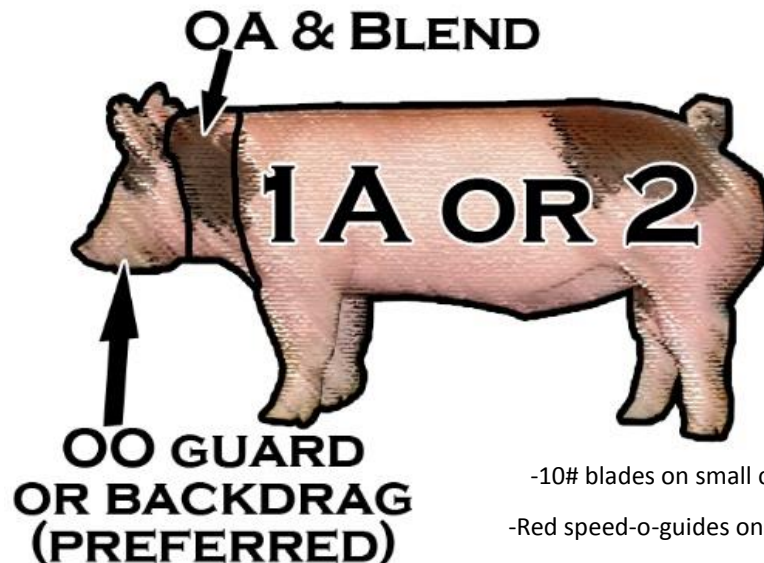
CHECKLIST TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR SHOWPIG

<u>DAILY:</u>	<u>WEEKLY:</u>	<u>EVERY TWO WEEKS:</u>
✓ Cough	✓ Weigh (same time & day each time)	✓ Worm (alternate with Ivermectin for external and internal parasites and then a product that will treat whip worms)
✓ Loose Stools		
✓ Thrifty, feeling well		
✓ Eat everything AM & PM		
✓ Any joint swelling		
✓ Walking, not limping		
✓ Water working		
✓ Skin (red bumps or irritation?)		
✓ Temperature in barn		

Clipping

Instructions:

- OA = 5/16
- 1 = 7/16
- 1A = 9/16
- 2 = 11/16



- 10# blades on small clipper
- Red speed-o-guides on clippers
- Go against the grain
- DO NOT clip legs



-Clip tight on belly and under jowl, but DON'T come up on sides

-Take your time and try not to make any noticeable lines