



# Champion's Row Swine Clinic



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## Information and Strategies To Enhance Your Swine Project

### INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES FOR:

- Management of Newly Purchased Pig
- Pig Selection and Feeding Strategies
- Show Pig Nutrition
- Application of Paylean™
- Show day Preparation and Showmanship

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# I. Pig Selection and Feeding Strategies (Clark Straka)

## 1. Selection of your show pig

- Breed preference---Select and feed the breeds of hogs that you prefer. You will do a better job of care taking if you like the kind of pig you're feeding.
- When selecting a breed of pigs to show understand the purpose and positive attributes of each breed and the classification guidelines for breed registration.

### ***Barrow Show Classification Standards Taken from National Swine Registry***



#### **Chester White**

- Must possess Chester White Breed Character.
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Must be solid white in color, no color on the skin larger than a silver dollar, and no colored hair.
- Ears must be down and medium size.
- Any signs of weighted ear tags or evidence of past existence of such ear tags are determined to be not permissible and are grounds for disqualification.



#### **Yorkshire**

- Must be white in color and possess Yorkshire Breed Character, (ears must be erect).
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Must NOT have any colored hair other than white.
- Must NOT have colored skin pigmentation larger than one U.S. minted silver dollar.
- Must NOT have masking above the eyes larger than a silver dollar.



#### **Hampshire**

- Must be black in color with a white belt starting on the front leg. The belt may partially or totally encircle the body.
- Must possess Hampshire Breed Character, (ears must be erect and not rounded).
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Must NOT have any white hair or indications of streaking on the forehead.
- Must NOT have any red hair.



#### **Duroc**

- Must be red in color and possess Duroc Breed Character (ears must be down and medium size).
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Must NOT have any white hair located on the animal.
- Must NOT have any black hair.
- Must NOT have more than three black spots on the skin and none of these spots can be larger than two inches in diameter.
- Must NOT have any shading or indication of a belt.



### **Spotted**

- Must be black and white in color.
- Must possess Spotted Breed Character.
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Ears must be down and reasonably sized.
- Any red tinted or sandy brown spots are ineligible.
- No solid black head from ears forward.
- No distinct white belt pattern (hair or skin) encircling and extending down and onto each shoulder.



### **Poland China**

- Must possess Poland China Breed Character.
- Must be ear notched with seven days of birth.
- Must be black with six white points (face, legs and tail) with an occasional splash of white on the body. A hog may not possess more than one black leg and be determined a Poland China. (Tail docking is permissible eliminating that white point).
- Must have ears down.
- Must NOT have evidence of belt formation.
- Cannot have any red or sandy hair and/or pigment.
- Hogs that have weighted ear tags or evidence of tampering with possible ear tags are ineligible.

## **2. Develop a Budget**

- Plan and review a complete budget to include the purchase of the pig, feed and water, feed additives, show supplies, show registration fees, vaccinations, and any miscellaneous costs.

## **3. Prepare Facilities**

- Before you purchase a pig, have all the necessary facilities ready to receive your pig. (Shelter, feed, water source, medicine, bedding.)



### **Berkshire**

- A black and white animal with erect ears exhibiting Berkshire character.
- A Berkshire must have white on all four legs, face and tail (unless tail is docked).
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- A Berkshire must NOT have a solid white or a solid black face from the ears forward.
- A Berkshire must NOT have a solid black nose (rim of nose).
- White is allowed on the ears; but NO solid white may appear on the ears.
- One occasional splash of white may appear only on the lower one-half of the body.



### **Landrace**

- Must be white in color and possess Landrace Breed Character, (ears must be down).
- Must be ear notched within seven days of birth.
- Must NOT allow any color hair other than white.
- Must NOT allow more than three spots of skin pigmentation.
- Must NOT allow any spot of skin pigmentation larger than one U.S. minted quarter.

#### **4. Where to purchase a Pig?**

- Select farms that are known to produce high quality high health pigs. **Don't** purchase a pig that appears to have been or is presently sick.
- Select a breeder that can provide service following your purchase. These types of breeders will usually be able to provide guidance and assistance if a problem arises.
- If possible evaluate the genetic make-up of the sire and dam. This process can be useful in evaluating the genetic potential of each litter of pigs and can help you evaluate the potential outcome of your selection.
- Evaluate offspring of a prior mating of the sire and dam of your proposed pig selection. Full siblings are somewhat more predictable than half siblings however; this process will allow you to more closely predict the growth and development curve and physical make-up of your pig selection. Having evaluated full siblings or half siblings you have a better idea of what to expect from your pig.

#### **5. Physical Characteristics to consider when selecting a pig**

- Muscle
  - Muscular shape to it's top line (loin)
  - Thick muscular ham
- Leanness
  - Free of excess fat
  - Clean topped
  - Free of excess fat through the lower 1/3 of body (jowl and belly)
- Structural Correctness
  - Sound walking (long fluid strides off all four legs)
  - Heavy boned (clean jointed)
  - Big evenly sized toes
- Balance and Eye-appeal
  - Long bodied
  - Long fronted (neck and head)
  - Tall fronted (length of front legs)
  - Level top line
  - Long level rump
  - High tail setting
  - Big Shouldered (Wide chested)
  - Spring of Rib (Bold ribbed)
  - Wide walking on both front and rear legs

## 6. *Ideal Size and Age of Pig to Purchase*

- The ideal age of your show pig when shown at the last show should be 6 to 6 1/2 months of age. Know how many days from purchase to the last show, so you will know what size of pig to select. The following table can be used as a tool.
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<i>Pigs Rate of Gain</i>	<i>Weight of Pig When Purchased</i>							
	<b>30 lbs</b>	<b>40 lbs</b>	<b>50 lbs</b>	<b>60 lbs</b>	<b>70 lbs</b>	<b>80 lbs</b>	<b>90 lbs</b>	<b>100 lbs</b>
<b>1.5 lbs</b>	147 days	140 days	133 days	127 days	120 days	113 days	107 days	100 days
<b>1.7 lbs</b>	129 days	124 days	118 days	112 days	106 days	100 days	94 days	88 days
<b>1.9 lbs</b>	116 days	111 days	105 days	100 days	95 days	89 days	84 days	79 days
<b>2.1 lbs</b>	105 days	100 days	95 days	90 days	86 days	81 days	76 days	71 days

**# of Days to Reach 250 lbs**  
**\*1.7 to 1.8 lbs is the average Rate of Gain for Most Pigs**

- Most pigs are 8-10 weeks of age before you can begin to select with any accuracy. Before this age the predictability of projecting the outcome of a pig's conformation is not as accurate.

## 7. *Feeding Strategies*

- Water is the most important nutrient. A rule of thumb is don't make your pig drink any water that you wouldn't drink.
- It is critical that a show pig receives a show quality feed. Most pig diets are based upon research with pigs that are 55-58% lean. Most of the pigs winning shows are 63-66% lean. Show pigs need an extra boost in their feeds formulation to maximize muscle development and maintain the look of a show pig.
  - Pigs weighing 25-50 lbs. should be fed Excel-R-Ate.
  - Pigs weighing 50-120 lbs. should be fed Show Grower.
  - Pigs weighing 120-280 lbs. should be fed Showtime.
- By the time a pig weighs 200 pounds it has grown 90% of the muscle it is going to develop. So if you need to slow a pig's rate of gain wait until it weighs at least 200 pounds. If you slow them down before this, the pig will never grow the amount of muscle he is genetically capable of having.
- No two pigs feed out the same so it is critical to properly manage their nutrition the last 30 days to ensure the pig looks the best it possibly can by show day.
- Weigh your pig at least once a week so you can target a terminal weight and adjust your feed accordingly.

- Pigs will need to be weighed every five days while manipulating weight.
- Feed additives help in meeting these enhanced needs. In addition they help maintain skin condition and hair coat quality.
- There are no secret formulas or recipes to feed your pig during the last 30 day's to make them a champion. The secret is, you have to be able to objectively look at each pig and figure out what feed additives will do the pig the most good. What works for one pig will not work for another.
  - Growth manipulation rations; Suther's Showtime, Rolled Oat Groats, Liquid Gold, Hands-On, and Beet Pulp.
- If you are going to use PAYLEAN™ wait until the final four weeks prior to show. Then start at a low level of 4.5 grams to 9.0 grams per ton of complete feed and then evaluate your pig's response.

## II. Management of Newly Purchased Pig (Red Goodson)

### ***Care for the new arrival:***

1. Reduce Stress:
  - a. Anytime you move a pig the movement will stress the pig. Anytime you put pigs together that are not used to being together it will cause them to be stressed. When you buy your pig and bring it home, your new pig can and will probably be stressed out. Stress can cause the pig to get sick, stop eating, or even get an ulcer. The first few days are very critical in determining how your pig will grow and how good it will grow and how good it will be by fair time.
2. Provide your pig with clean, dry, draft free, warm home.
  - a. Every two inches of bedding will raise the effective temperature to the pig by 10 degrees.
3. Make sure your pig drinks the water. It may take some time for her to figure out a new way of being watered.
  - a. Use more than one method of water availability the first 4-5 days.
4. Introduce Feed:
  - a. Slowly introduce your pig to her new feed. For the first week, feed your pig by hand two or three times a day letting her eat all she wants in fifteen minutes (if feeding her twice a day). If you feed her three times a day 10 minutes per feeding. If you start your pig on a self-feeder you will not have an idea if the pig is eating as much as it should. Remember that the first week is critical in how your pig is going to do later in the summer.
  - b. The first feed you introduce to your pig on arrival should contain the feed medication --Mecadox.
5. Health Status:
  - a. Monitor your pig for any signs of sickness. These signs may include lack of appetite, increased respiration rate, temperature, skin discoloration or overall lack of energy.
  - b. Consult a veterinarian immediately for the best outcome if your become sick.
6. Sunburn:
  - a. Make sure your pig does not sunburn. If they are in a pen where they can lay in the sun they will need to be protected with sunscreen SPF 30. Pigs of all colors can sunburn. Bad sunburn will make the pig sick, he will quit eating, and his skin will blister.

## ***Management Techniques***

1. At least twice a day check to see if your pick has plenty of fresh clean water.
2. If you are using a self-feeder, make sure the trough area is clean and there is not too much or too little feed coming through the opening.
3. Slightly elevate the feeder, gradually raising it up, as the pig gets bigger
4. Always provide a clean, dry place, for the pig to sleep.
  - If they are sleeping in dust they will develop lung problems and will not grow very well.
5. In the summer make sure the pig doesn't get too hot.
  - The pig needs to have a shaded area with air movement. It is much better to spray the pigs down and let the water evaporate off of the pig than have a mud hole for him. Mud holes are not good for the skin and hair and they attract flies.
6. It is important to spend time every day with your pig in order for him to tame down and get used to being handled.
  - Pigs are extremely smart and very easy to train.
  - The best way to tame them down is get in the pen and spend time with them.
  - One thing that works very well is to brush them when they are eating.
  - After the pigs have gotten accustomed to you it's time to start training them.
  - Take one pig out of the pen at a time and walk that pig to an open area where you can practice driving him.
  - It is ***important*** to use the same whip to drive them with that you will use when you show the pig.
7. Have Fun!!!
  - The time spent in working with your animal and learning about your project is far more valuable than the ribbon you receive. You can't control what animal the judge selects, you can control how much fun you have and how much you learn while taking care of your pig.
8. Remember management is one of the most important elements of being successful in the show ring. So develop a sound program and follow it

### III. Show Pig Nutrition (Wayne Schiefelbein)

#### **1. Factors For Growth And Development Of The Show Pig**

- Genetics – ability to produce large amounts of muscle and stay lean
- Nutrition – feeding program that allows an animal to express its potential
- Stresses – what could cause genetics and nutrition to fail?

#### **2. Growth And Development Rules Of Thumb**

- Birth to 50 lbs – foundation developed for major muscle accretion later, requires high levels of amino acids, and energy, milk products, highly digestible ingredients
- 50 to 60 pounds – beginning of growing period for major amounts of muscle development, minimize stresses of change during this time
- 50 to 200 pounds – pig's system set to produce muscle mass, 90 % or more of muscle present at time of show is produced during this phase, do not restrict protein or energy
- 200 to show – end of growing period where muscle growth is decreasing and nutrition is redirected to maintenance and fattening, requires managing energy, and all other nutrients while shaping final development, where add packs are valuable

#### **3. Feed Tag Analysis**

- Title & medications – position and phase of growth
- Nutrients & levels – lysine, fat, fiber and phosphorus are important
- Ingredients – full disclosure or collective terms are significant indicators of quality and consistency of growth response
- Feeding directions – WARNINGS & CAUTIONS – provide important feeding guidelines and legal application of drug compounds

#### **4. *Building A Nutrition Program To Build A Winner***

- Pig evaluation – especially around 200 pounds
- Stress forecast – effective temperature and health status are important
- Ongoing evaluation – age x current weight x desired show weight x time x desired shape of development
- Adjustments with nutrition programs and use of packs

## IV. Application of Paylean™ (Dr. Brian Kremer)

### **1. What is Paylean?**

- Paylean is a beta agonist
- Paylean increases gain and efficiency
- Paylean increases muscle and decreases the rate of fat growth

### **2. What does Paylean do for the show animal?**

- Paylean increases the size of the ham
- Paylean increases the muscle in the top of the pig
- Paylean does NOT decrease back fat depth
- Paylean makes the pig grow faster with less feed

### **3. How should be feed?**

- Paylean should be fed for 4-6 weeks prior to the show
- Paylean should be included in the feed at 4.5-18 grams per ton of complete feed
- Feed should contain .90-1.40 % lysine and at least 16% crude protein

### **4. What are some things to avoid when using Paylean?**

- Pigs must have free access to all the water they want to drink
- Paylean should not be feed to pigs being held
- Paylean must never be fed to pigs at rates in excess of 18 grams per ton of complete feed
- Paylean should never be fed to pigs longer than 6 weeks
- Paylean fed pigs should be handled to minimize stress

### **5. Paylean is an effective tool.**

- It will not turn a poor pig into a champion
- It allows you to have your pig at its best
- Responsible use is the key to making sure it is available long term

# V. Show Day Preparation & Showmanship (Galen McCune)

## 1. **Clipping your Pig**<sup>1</sup>

- Clipping is a tool used to help trim the long hairs of a pig to help give it a fresher, more attractive look. Clipping also helps to improve the muscle shape of pigs by removing long hairs that cover up the natural curves on a pig that indicate muscle expression.
- Clipping, when done correctly, can enhance the appearance of your pig, but when done incorrectly, it can make your pig look unattractive
  - When you feed your pig by hand, this is when you start to clip.
  - Use #2 (11/16) or #1 (7/16) guard over the entire body.
  - Start clipping from the rear of the pig moving your clippers up and forward, which will be against the grain (lay) of the hair
  - Be sure to clip all long hairs—this includes legs, belly, the entire underneath of the pig, as well as tail, ears and face. NEVER use a smaller guard to clip the top of your pig.
  - When clipping the tail, use your guard to clip the hair on the bottom 2/3 of the tail, and then just trim the long hairs on the end of the tail. You do not want to trim the hair all the way down on the whole tail so when the pig curls its tail it will look natural.
  - If you have a white or black pig, you can use a size lower guard (OA-5-16) to clip the underline, tail, neck, ears and face of the pig. If you have a red hog, do not change sizes of guards, as the hair clipped shorter will be lighter in color.
  - To restrain your hog to clip the head and face, use a soft rope that has a loop on the end. If you use a regular hog snare, place duct tape over the cable wire so the nose does not get scratched.
  - When you are done, brush off clipped hair and apply a light coat of oil.
  - If you clip your pig, it is important that you have prepared the hair prior to clipping. The use of baby oil will work to soften the hair and allow it trim more easily. Also, the hair will be hard and stand up and not lay down nicely if oil has not been previously applied.

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<sup>1</sup> Cited 2003 Ks. Jr. Swine Producer Day

## 2. Show Preparation<sup>2</sup>

### ○ ***One week before the show***

- If your pig is on a self-feeder, take your pig off and begin to hand feed. This will start to tighten up its middle
- Make sure your pig is bedded with wood shavings or a similar clean bedding that help the hair this last week. Avoid keeping the pig in a muddy pen prior to the show.
- Be sure the pig is used to eating and drinking out of the feed pan that you will use at the show.
- Wash your pig two to three times during this week with a mild soap. Rinse your pig completely, and brush dry. Then apply a light coat of baby or mineral oil to the hair coat. This will soften the hair, shine the skin, and will help develop a fresher appearance.
- Know all of the policies, requirements, and rules of the show.

### ○ ***One day before traveling to the show***

- Feed your pig only  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the normal daily ration. This will help your pig travel more comfortably. To keep your pig hydrated, you may want to begin using electrolytes in the water. You can use electrolytes in the water for the remainder of the time at the show as well.
- When loading your pigs for the show, do not overcrowd and keep them comfortable.

### ○ ***At the Show***

- Calmly move your pig to the correct pen after you unload.
- Be sure that there is plenty of clean dry bedding for your pig at all times.
- Give your pig a drink of fresh water. Also, give your pig about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a regular feeding. This can help to calm and relax the pig.
- Weigh your pig in at its natural weight.

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<sup>2</sup> Cited 2003 KS. Jr. Swine Producer Day

- After weighing in, never full feed your pig. This can cause digestive upset and cause them to go off of feed for several days.
  - Feed your pig to give them a natural look.
  - Always provide all the water they want to drink. If you restrict water consumption, you will cause your pig to go stale in the matter of a few hours.
  - That evening when the weather and space allows exercise your pig to help its joints stay loose and flexible.
- **Show Morning**
    - Feed and water your pig the first thing. Your pig will be hungry, so get it fed.
    - Give enough feed and water to get a proper fill to make the pig look its best. Never overfeed first thing in the morning, as your pig will get a big belly. Remember, you can always feed again later in the morning or afternoon if your pig looks like it could use more before you go into the ring.
    - Cleaning your pig
      - Wash pig with gentle soap and thoroughly rinse.
      - Rub a hand cleaner (Go-Jo) on your pig and let set for a couple minutes and then rinse. These products will help remove dirt and add a shine and luster to the pig's hair.
      - Brush the hair so it correctly to ensure that it lays properly (brush front to back)
      - Before returning your pig to its pen, make sure all dirt and manure has been removed. Add additional bedding if needed.
- **Show Time**
    - Give your pig a small drink of water.
    - Make sure that your pig is brushed off so no dirt or bedding is present.
    - Be sure to have a proper driving stick and small pocket brush.
    - Sprinkle a small amount of water on your pig to give it a fresh look. NEVER use any type of oil before going into the ring.

- ***In the show ring***
  - Once you enter the ring, give the judge a good look and go to the other end of the ring. Do not let your pig get close to the entrance gate and bother other pigs that are entering the ring.
  - Once all pigs are in the ring, bring your pig to the judge, keeping a distance of 8 to 15 feet away. Keep your pig between you and the judge. NEVER get between the judge and your pig.
  - Always know where your pig and the judge are located while in the show ring.
  - Always have a free hand (your small brush should be carried in a pocket.)
  - Use your driving tool sparingly and only when needed. Light taps on the sides of the shoulder, forearm and neck will help maneuver your pig. All the practicing at home will pay off.
  - Avoid large groups of pigs moving together. Break free from the pack and get into the open. You should be thinking about where the judge is, where he/she is going, and how to drive your pig into position for evaluation.
  - When asked to pen your pig, focus only on that and do not worry anymore about the judge. First, start driving your pig to the pen you were instructed to go to. Get to the pen or very close to it, go open the gate, return to your pig and then drive your pig into the pen. Never take someone else's open pen.
  - After you are in the pen, brush off your pig and squat down in the back of the pen, keeping your pig in the front of the pen with its head on the side that the pen opens. This will make it easier to let your pig out of the pen when asked.
  - When you are instructed to let your pig out of the pen, open the gate, drive your pig out, and then shut your gate. Give the judge a good look and then move to another area and allow the other show men/show woman to let their pigs out.
  - Avoid chasing your pig; this will only scare it more.
  - NEVER EVER look outside the ring for instructions. After the show, please visit with those who may have constructive comments for you to improve. Listen and take those comments in a positive way so you can do better next time.

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