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SWINE Management

• from weaning to market

H. G. ZAVORAL

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Swine Management

Would you like to make more money on the pigs you market? It's possible. In 1954, the average Minnesota farmer weaned 6.8 pigs and raised 6.5 pigs per sow. In the same year, Minnesota's top swine producers weaned 9.3 pigs per sow and saved 9.13 pigs from an average of 18 sows per farm.

This folder won't guarantee you these returns. However, some of the management principles will point the way to greater returns to you from your hogs.

Feeding Management

Give pigs enough room at self-feeders.

1. The number of pigs per linear foot of self-feeder space or pigs per self-feeder hole should be:

Size	On dry lot	On pasture
Weaning to 75 lbs.....	4	4-5
75 lbs. to market.....	3	3-4

A 10-foot self-feeder open to pigs on both sides provides 20 linear feet of feeding space.

Give protein supplement enough space in the self-feeder.

2. The percentage of self-feeder space given to protein supplement should be:

Size	On dry lot	On pasture
	per cent	per cent
Weaning to 75 lbs.....	25	20-25
75 lbs. to 125 lbs.....	20	15-20
125 lbs. to market.....	15	10-15

3. Allot three self-feeder holes, or three linear feet of mineral box space, for 100 pigs when salt or a mineral mixture is fed free choice.

Provide enough trough for hand feeding and watering.

4. For hand feeding or hand watering in troughs, the length of the trough per pig should be:

Size	Feet of trough per pig
Weaning to 75 lbs.....	.75
75 lbs. to 125 lbs.....	1.00
125 lbs. to market.....	1.25

A 10-foot trough is considered to provide 10 feet of feeder space whether pigs eat from one or both sides.

Provide enough feeding floor for confined pigs.

- When pigs are confined from weaning to market, provide 15 square feet of feeding floor space per pig if pigs are fed from troughs and 10 square feet of feeding floor space if fed from self-feeders. This is in addition to sleeping space.

Watering

- Provide one automatic watering cup for each 20 pigs. (An automatic waterer with two openings should be considered two cups.)
- Provide at least a 25-gallon waterer for 10 pigs per day in the summer and 15-gallon in the winter.
- Keep drinking water above 35° to 40° F. during the winter.

General Management

- Provide the following area of shelter:

Size	Summer (Shade or housing)	Winter (Housing)
	square feet	square feet
Weaning to 75 lbs.....	7	6
75 lbs. to 125 lbs.....	9	8
125 lbs. to market.....	12	10

- Use sanitary hog wallows during hot weather. Up to 50 pigs can be accommodated per 100 square feet of wallow if shade or shelter is nearby.
- Ring pigs if rooting becomes a problem.
- Practice strict sanitation to prevent infestation to control roundworms in swine. Such a program follows:
 - Clean the hog house and scrub it thoroughly with boiling lye solution. (1 can of lye to 20 gallons of boiling water.)
 - Wash the sows, especially their sides and udders, with warm, soapy water.
 - Haul pigs farrowed in a permanent house to clean pastures.
 - Keep the pigs on clean pastures until they are at least 4 months old.

If such a program is not effectively carried out, worm pigs soon after weaning and repeat later if needed.

Use sodium fluoride for removing large roundworms from swine. Under experimental conditions, the best treatment was to feed pigs for one day on a

mixture containing one part by weight of sodium fluoride (technical grade) and 99 parts by weight of dry ground feed.

Do not fully fast animals before this treatment. Give about half feed to the pigs the day before treatment. In the morning of treatment, feed as much medicated feed as they would normally eat during the whole day.

If pigs are not used to dry, ground feed, feed them nonmedicated dry feed for one or two days before dosing.

Remember sodium fluoride is poisonous. Label containers conspicuously and store out of reach of children.

Cadmium has also given satisfactory results. Producers claim it is not as severe on the insides of little pigs as sodium fluoride. There are also other new trade products for worming which your veterinarian can recommend to you.

13. Treat for mange and lice at weaning and whenever needed thereafter. Benzene hexachloride (BHC), lindane, or chlordane are recommended.
14. On good legume or legume-grass pasture, allow 20 growing-fattening pigs per acre on a full-feeding program and 10 to 15 per acre on a limited feeding program.
15. Do not run pigs of widely varying weights together. The range in weight should not exceed 20 per cent above or below the average.

Figures on Swine Management

The following tables and recommendations will give you information on many management and feeding practices that affect your returns from hogs.

Effect of Birth Weight on Future Growth

Birth weight	Born dead	Average weaning	
		Weaned	weight at 56 days*
lbs.	per cent	per cent	lbs.
1.5	16	13	18
2.0	6	49	21
2.5	4	67	25
3.0	4	77	28
3.5	3	86	30
4.0	1	84	35

* On modern rations, heavier weaning weights may be expected.

Suggested Protein Levels for Swine Rations

	Per cent
Pig up to 75 lbs.	14-16
Pig 75 to 150 lbs.	12-14
Pig 150 to 225 lbs.	10-12
Bred sows	14-15
Milking sows	16-17

Average Feed Consumption per Pig

Pigs weighing lbs.	Average daily feed consumption per pig lbs.	Percentage of body weight pigs eat
50	2.1	5.2
100	4.1	4.1
200	7.2	3.6
300	8.1	2.7

Weights: 1 pound equals 454 grams—1 gram equals 1,000 milligrams. Antibiotics and vitamins are used in small amounts. They must be properly mixed with other feeds. Mechanical mixers are best. Reliable companies manufacture protein feed supplements, complete rations, and pre-mixes that contain vitamins and antibiotics. Use these according to their instructions.

Average Weight per Pig at Different Ages

Age	Weight lbs.
Birth	2 to 3
1 week	4 to 6
2 weeks	7 to 9
3 weeks	10 to 12
4 weeks	13 to 15
5 weeks	16 to 19
6 weeks	20 to 24
7 weeks	25 to 30
8 weeks	28 to 37

Facts About Swine Management

1. Gestation period for sows will average 114 days or 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days.
2. A gilt farrowing at 11 months of age will, on an average, farrow one less pig per litter than gilts farrowing at 12 months of age.
3. One hundred pounds of either skim milk or buttermilk, as feed for hogs, is worth about one-half

the market value of one bushel of corn. For example, if corn is worth \$1.50 per bushel, 100 pounds of buttermilk or skim milk has a feeding value of 75 cents. One hundred pounds is approximately 12 gallons. Whey is worth a little less than one-half as much as either skim milk or buttermilk.

4. The corn-hog ratio is the relation between price of corn and price of hogs. It tells how many bushels of corn 100 pounds of hogs will buy. For example, if hogs sell for \$16.50 a hundredweight and corn sells for \$1.50 per bushel, the corn-hog ratio is 11 to 1. This 11 to 1 ratio is considered about the break-even point for the average farmer. Efficient farmers can do better while the inefficient ones lose money at an 11 to 1 ratio.

5. Market at lighter weights. Consumers are demanding leaner, smaller cuts of meat. Meat-type hogs marketed at 200 to 220 pounds will best meet consumer needs. Lard is a surplus product. One average 300-pound hog will produce as much lard as two average 200-pound hogs.

2-4-6-8-10

Many good hog raisers follow this schedule:

- 2—CREEP FEED just before 2 weeks
- 4—CASTRATE at 4 weeks
- 6—VACCINATE at 6 weeks
- 8—WEAN at 8 weeks
- 10—WORM AND TREAT FOR MANGE at 10 weeks



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