

*Note: I am enrolled in a swine project and feeding two pigs this summer just like youth members and their projects.*

Title: How do you do Mr. Pig?

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I got my pigs! Adams and Siren are their names. They are a Yorkshire cross. Adams, named after the second president of the United States, is a large frame, heavy muscled pig. I rated him good for trimness, excellent for muscling, and good for structure and balance. I estimate that he should weigh 280 pounds by fair time. Siren, named after the fire truck siren, is also a large frame, heavy muscled pig. I rated him average for trimness, excellent for muscling and average for structure and balance. I estimate that he should weigh 280 pounds by fair time.



They both weighed 100 lbs when I got them. I started hand feeding the pigs 3 scoops of pelleted feed morning and night. One scoop of pelleted feed weighs 1 lb. The pigs were cleaning up the 3 scoops per feeding so I increased that to 5 scoops but that was too much. They had a lot left over! Feed needs to be kept fresh so I decreased the amount fed. The heat has caused the pigs to eat less. I also make sure their water nipple

has cool water, the hose I have connecting the nipple and the water tank is covered to keep it in the shade.

I have Adams and Siren pinned in a smaller part of the large pen for now. I can work with them and they can get to know me better. Since I hand feed them they come up to me and know I want to be their friend. I have starting brushing them too. I brush them front to rear and slightly downward. Adams especially likes his belly brushed. Siren still likes to run away from me. I hope I can touch him soon.

I started using the show stick with my pigs. They did not respond well to the tapping. Adams bit the stick and Siren was running and playing. As my pigs get use to me tapping them and moving around in the smaller pen. I will let my pigs out into the larger part of the corral. This way we can take daily walks and teach my pigs to respond to the tapping. These walks should also condition the muscles of my pigs. As I walk with Adams, I lightly tap him on the left side of the neck and shoulder to make him turn right. Tap him on the right to turn left. When Adams is walking straight, I gently tap him on the top of the back between the shoulder blades. Eventually he will learn that if I tap him on the top of the back I mean for him to walk straight.

My pigs are planning to attend a few summer shows. As I go to the summer shows, I need to evaluate the health of my pigs before I go and after I come home. Biosecurity is very important. I am going to learn more about that at Swine Camp. If I or my pig show flu like symptoms I will stay home and let the show management know. Pigs can show similar flu symptoms as humans.

How is your project going? Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- What does your pig weigh?
- What should it weigh at fair time?
- How much is your pig eating? Is the water cool to the touch?
- What does your scoop of feed weigh?
- Is your pig healthy?
- How are you practicing for the fair?
- Are you going to Swine Camp?? See you there!

