

Swine- Beginning Planning & Record Sheet

One of your market project goals should be to have a market ready animal. Knowing what your animal weighs now and the estimated end weight will help you be successful in achieving your market ready goal.

General Project Information

Youth Name: _____ Weigh-in Date: _____

Animal Tag Number: _____ Weight: _____

Animal Breed: _____ ESTIMATED FINAL WT: _____

Vaccinations (circle): wormer, 8-way type, Other (list): _____

Estimate Average Daily Gain (ADG) for your pig

Est. finished weight	Beginning weight	Total required gain	Days in feeding period	Required daily gain
_____	-	_____	÷	_____ = _____

Ask yourself these questions

1. What does market ready mean? Is your estimated final weight an ideal market weight for the Pork Industry?
2. The national average for ADG is 1.8 lbs/day. Is your required ADG achievable?
3. Typical influences in ADG can be feed, water, weather, and illness. How will you manage these?

Feeding Your Pig-

Consistency is the key to feeding. When feeding animals make sure they are fed at the same time every day and that when you have to change batches or increase the feed it is done slowly over a two to three day period.

Hand feeding is feeding a known amount of feed to each pig. Hand feeding is done when taming pigs to get to know them better and watching pig weights to help the pig to its ideal market weight.

Self-feeders can be used when feeding large groups of pigs. Check the feeder daily making sure there is feed present and that the feed is flowing to the bottom correctly.

List your concentrates (grain): _____

List any other feeds: _____

Describe your feeding method i.e.; self feeders or by hand, no. of times, fed in a trough or feed pan, etc.

Think about this.....

1. What happens if your animal does not have the ADG you predicted?
2. If your animal is not market ready by fair time, what happens?

How much do you feed?

For pigs it takes three to four (3-4) pounds of feed for each pound an animal gains. If you know the number of pounds your pig must gain per day you can estimate the amount of feed you will need per day. Faster gaining animals will require less feed per pound of gain. More waste also means more total feed required.

Feed:

Required daily gain _____ X 4 lbs = _____ lbs of feed needed per day

Keep in mind smaller pigs cannot consume as much as larger pigs. Refer to the table below.

Pig Weight (lb)	Daily Feed Intake (lb)
50-75	2.85
75-125	4.46
125-150	5.58
150-200	6.35
200-225	6.69
225-250	6.8
250-270	7.3

Think about this.....

1. How much does one scoop weigh? Is one scoop of grain enough pounds to feed per feeding?
2. How many scoops should you feed?

Protein

Protein is the most important nutrient in a swine ration. Protein is needed to build bone and muscle. If your pig is the lean and heavy muscle type you will need to feed a higher protein content feed. Pigs need 18% (for 50 lbs pigs) to 14% (for 250 lbs pigs) of protein in order to grow properly. Amino Acids make up proteins. The right balance of amino acids is critical. Amino acids that need to be supplemented include lysine, tryptophan, threonine, and methionine.

Read your feed label and fill in the information below.

Name of Feed: _____ Protein content: _____

List of ingredients: _____

Think about this.....

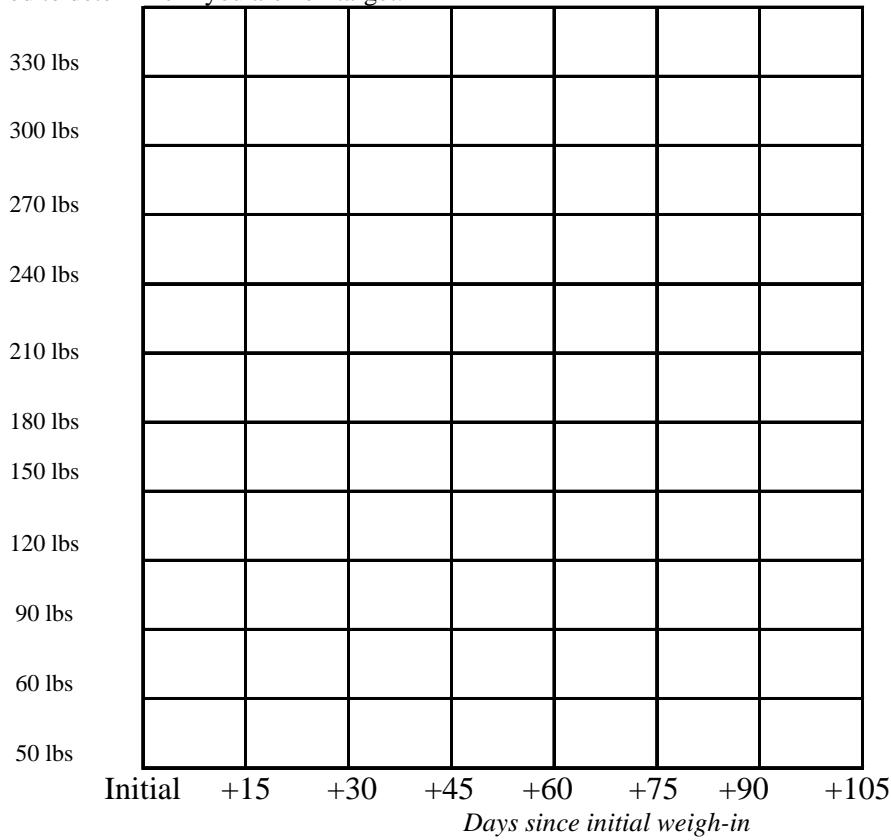
1. What is the main protein source (ingredient) in your feed?
2. Is your feed providing additional amino acids?
3. If pigs can only eat so much a day (table) how can they get the required protein?

Water

Water is important for survival. Explain how your pig receives fresh clean water.

Market Swine Growth Chart

To achieve success with your 4-H Market Swine project, it is important you know the estimated final weight of your animal and your progress toward that goal throughout the feeding period. The chart below enables you to plot the predicted growth curve (immediately after the initial weigh-in) and then plot the actual weight of your animal at various times during the feeding period to determine if you are “on target.”



Initial weigh-in date: _____ Initial animal weight: _____

Number of days in feeding period: _____ Estimated final weight: _____

1. Mark the initial weight at the appropriate location on the left-hand side of the table.
2. Mark the estimated final weight at the appropriate location for the number of days in the feeding period.
3. Connect these two points with a straight line. This is your predicted rate of growth.
4. Record your animal’s weight in the table below and the chart above each time it is weighed during the feeding period. Connect this point with the previous actual weight. Is the actual growth curve above or below your predicted growth line? Why?

Progressive Project Weight Record

Weigh date								
Days since last weigh date	XXXXX							
Current weight								
A.D.G. (since last weigh date)	XXXXX							
Overall A.D.G.	XXXXX							

Tracking animal weight can tell you where your animal is compared to your goal. After each weigh day ask yourself; do you need to feed more grain or add any supplements?

Typical influences in A.D.G. can be feed, water, weather, and illness. Ask yourself is the A.D.G. normal? What caused any problems?