

*Note: Last year I fed a steer project and this year I am going to enroll in a swine project and take two pigs.*

Title: My pig pen

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My animal facility is set up for cattle. So, I need to make a few adjustments to my pen. That way the pigs I get don't get out on the road.

I need to make sure I give them enough space so they grow to their potential. I found in my swine manuals that pigs weighing 150 lbs to market weight should have 8 feet squared per pig. So my two pigs at market weight need at least 128 square feet (8ft x 8ft x 2 pigs).



If I have less space, than that my pigs will eat more feed but have less weight gain and my pigs may start tail biting and this could cause some pigs to bleed to death. I don't want that, I like pigs and it would cost me money.

My pen also needs space for exercising, a sleeping area that should be cool, dry, and draft free, and needs to have shade and protection from the wind and cold. My pen will have a dirt floor so I need to make sure and put the water so it will drain off and not make a big mud hole.

My fences need to be adjusted so the pigs don't squeeze thru them. I purchased some galvanized panels and lined the pen with them. That should do it, I hope.



I thought it interesting the manuals stated that finishing pigs (150lbs to market weight) like a 50-75°F temperature range. I will mount a thermometer to my shed to make sure my pigs are comfortable.

I did not know you could toilet train pigs! Pigs toilet train better in rectangular pens than in square pens so I will design my pen to be at least twice as long as it is wide. Pigs will usually dung in a wet area so I will wet down the bathroom area where I want the pigs to deposit manure. When my pigs arrive, I will hold them in the bathroom area for two hours before they get the whole pen so the pigs know to dump in the right spot.

My pig pen is in the corral under a one sided loafing shed that is 80 feet long and 16 feet wide; plenty of room for two pigs to roam. I need to watch the temperature and make sure my pigs stay cool. I have an automatic water tank for the cattle. So, I put a hog nipple waterer in a post at the right height for my pigs. I then connected a short garden hose to the water valve and the hog nipple. It works great! My two hole feeder is adjusted to the right height, on the fence, so the pigs can reach the feed and learn to hold their heads up. All I need now is feed, some straw for the bed, and the pigs.

My pen is ready for my project, is yours?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- How big is my pig pen? Is that big enough?
- Does my pen protect my pigs from wind and sunshine?
- Where do I want the bathroom area?
- Is the feeder and waterer working correctly?

