



Your Pig Calendar

October

- Begin breeding sows and gilts for next year state fair and KJLS pigs

November

- Monitor bred sows and gilts closely making sure they have clean and dry places to escape the weather. If you choose to raise your own pigs you should consult your local vet and set up a good vaccine program to protect your herd.

December

- Continue to monitor shelters and pigs.

January

- County fair pigs are born. Early to mid January pigs typically works best for late July fairs.

February

- State fair and KJLS pigs are born

March

- State fair and KJLS pigs are born. Mid to late march pig sales start up. Refer to Farm Talk for dates and locations

April

- Pig sales continue and Spring Shows begin and continue through June

May

- Tag and weigh market hogs

June

- One month before fair worm pigs. Always follow label directions before administering to any animal. Pay close attention to withdrawal times before given the dose prior to the County Fair.

July

- County Fair!

August

- KJLS entries due
- Continue to work with state fair pigs

September

- Begin breeding sows and gilts for next year county fair

Starting your pig off right

Allow free access to feed and clean water at all times

From 50 to 150 lb a 1.20% to 1.30% total lysine diet is generally fed

From 150 lb until show day, a diet from 0.90 to 1.0% total lysine should be more than sufficient to meet the pigs needs for proper development.

Rules of thumb in determining feed costs:

1. The average amount that your pig will grow a day is between 1.7 and 2.0 pounds.
2. The average amount of feed your pig will consume a day is between 5 and 7 pounds per day.

****The amount of feed that it will take to feed a pig from 50 pounds is as follows (Assuming a 3:1 feed conversation; that is, for every three pounds of feed your pig eats, he/she will gain one pound of weight)

Clipping

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 appearance of muscle shape of your pig by removing long hairs that cover up their natural curves.

Clipping, when done correctly, can enhance the appearance of your pig, but when done incorrectly, it can make your pig look unattractive.

***If you choose to clip your pig, it ideally will be done 2-4 days before going to your show.**

o Prior to clipping - It is important that you have been applying some baby oil, mineral oil or other “show” skin conditioner for several days prior to clipping so the hair is soft and will trim easily. Also, if the hair is hard after clipping, it will stand up and not lay down nicely (i.e. your pig will look like a porcupine!).

o Washing with shampoo and conditioner (low cost human products work great) can dramatically improve the softness of hair, as well as allow your pig to become use to you touching it, especially around their head. When washing, a moderately stiff brush should be used to scrub off dead skin cells and dirty; however, you should be careful when doing so on fair-skinned white colored pigs so they do not have irritated skin from this.

o After washing, use a dry towel to remove excess water from your pig. Excess water can decrease the sharpness of your blades and dull them more quickly.

o Use a guard that leaves a minimum of 1/2” of hair. Because each brand of clipper blades may have a different name for the various sizes, please check to make sure you have a clipper guard that meets this minimum length before you start clipping.

o **NEVER** shave the hair off a pig – this makes your pig look unattractive and market purchasers can refuse these pigs due to the short hair length

o Begin by clipping the body first. Determining the desired length of the body that looks the best, will allow you to more easily blend the other sections of the pig together (i.e., the head and rump) Start clipping from the rear of the body moving your clippers up and forward, which will be against the grain (lay) of the hair.

o Be sure to clip all long hairs – this includes legs, belly, the entire underneath of the pig, as well as tail, ears and face.

o When clipping the face, be sure to use a smaller guard than the one used on the body to give the pigs face a clean and crisp look. Use this guard until the area between the cheek and the shoulder of the pig. Between the head and shoulder of the pig, you should use a guard that is the size in-between the one used on the head and the body, blending the two areas together.

o When clipping the tail, use your guard to clip the hair on the bottom 3/4 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 the tail so when the pig curls its tail it will look natural.

If you have a red hog, do not do a dramatic difference in guard width, as the hair clipped at different lengths will have contrasting red colors.

o Generally, you can clip the body of your pig while it is eating and unrestrained. However, if you have 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 over the cable wire so the nose does not scratch.

o When you are done, brush off clipped hair and apply a light coat of oil or skin conditioner

NEVER clip your pig at the show. This practice is to be done at home prior to leaving. Many shows have rules that do not permit clipping at the fair location.