

# Adams County Mini 4-H



Swine



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# SWINE FACTS

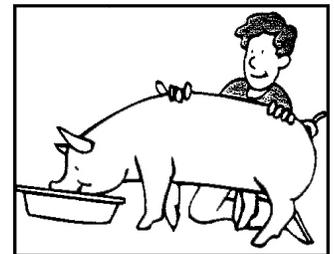
A female pig is called a **gilt**, a male pig a **boar**, a female pig with babies is a **sow**, a younger pig is a **pig** and a group of pigs a **herd**.

Pigs have sparse, coarse body hair and need shelter from the cold. In most cases, **straw** is used to keep pigs comfortable. The farmer cleans the building regularly removing manure and wet bedding. When the weather is hot, pigs need a shaded area from the hot sun with access to plentiful fresh drinking water. Pigs do not sweat so they keep their body cool by panting. The farmer can help keep the pigs cool by using fans and water sprinklers. Pigs need a balanced diet, just like people to grow strong and healthy. Corn, oats, milo, barley, soybean

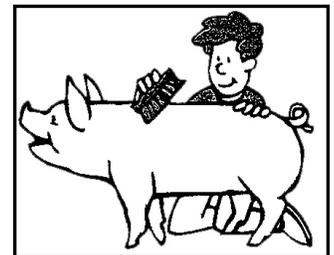
meal, minerals and vitamins are used to make up the pigs' **ration**. Special feed equipment is used so that many pigs can eat at the same time. Pigs drink water from metal water nipples, waterers or water tanks.

A **farrowing house** is where the sows of gilts give birth to their baby pigs. It takes 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days (114 days) from the time a sow or gilt is mated to the boar to the time that she gives birth (**farrows**). Eight to ten pigs are the average number of the litter per sow. The pigs range in size from 2 pounds to 4 pounds in weight. The sow calls to her pigs by grunting when it is time for them to nurse. The farmer may give **vaccinations**

to keep the pig herd healthy. When the pigs are **weaned** (because they no longer need the mother's milk) from the sow, they are put in another barn and they are now called **feeder pigs**. It takes about 4 1/2 to 6 months for the feeder pig to weigh 240-260 pounds. Most farmers then truck their pigs to a place called a **meat packing plant**.



Get to know the pig by spending time in its pen. Gently scratch or brush it, especially while it is eating. Always treat the pig with gentleness, respect and patience while training it. It'll take several times for the animal to know what you expect and for it to respond to your signals.



Brush the hair daily for at 1 month before the show. Begin washing the pig at least 2 weeks before the show. Use mild soap so it won't burn and chaff the hide.

### Show preparation Hints

After arriving at the show, rest the pig 6 to 12 hours. Keep the pen and area clean. Exercise the pig in the evening. If it's hot take along a fan. Feed the pig 1/2 to 2 hours before the show. Give the pig a small drink of water just before the class.

## TRAINING TIPS



Moved forward when gently tapped on the side (never hit the pig on the back or ham because it may bruise the pig).



Turned left with gentle pressure from the cane or whip on the right side of the head.



Turned right with gentle pressure from the cane or whip on the left side of the head.



Stopped or slowed down with the cane or whip in front of its snout.

## Mini 4-H Swine Record Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The pig you are showing belongs to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How do you know this person? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Were you able to help take care of the pig? \_\_\_\_\_

3a. If yes, what did you do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The average number of pigs per litter is? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why does a farmer give pigs shots or vaccinations?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. When the farmer is ready to sell his pigs to the meat packing plant, how much should the pigs weigh? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What did you like the most about Mini 4-H Pigs?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_