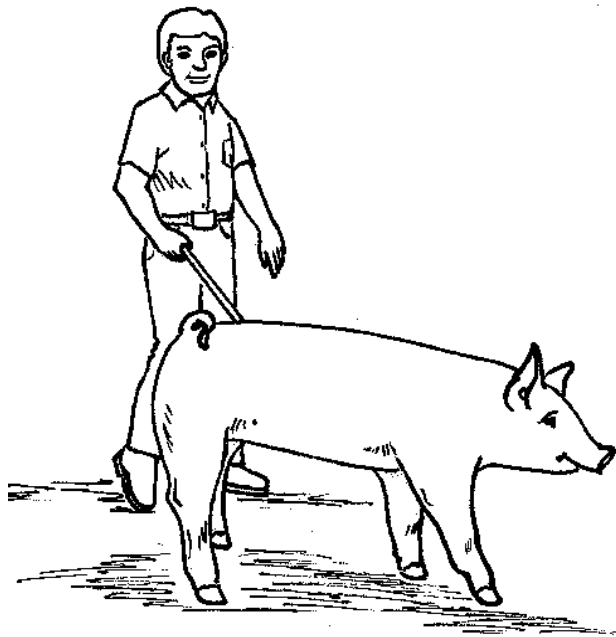


# Show Pig Selection Rich County 4-H

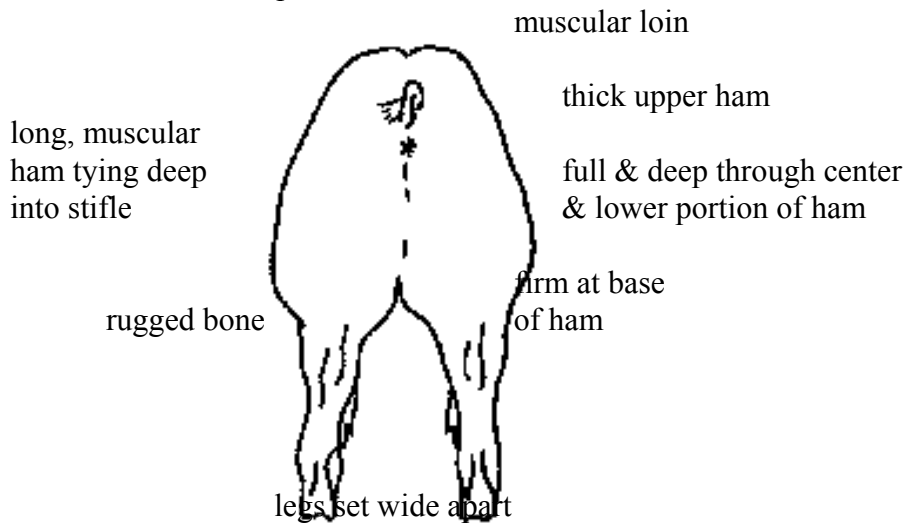
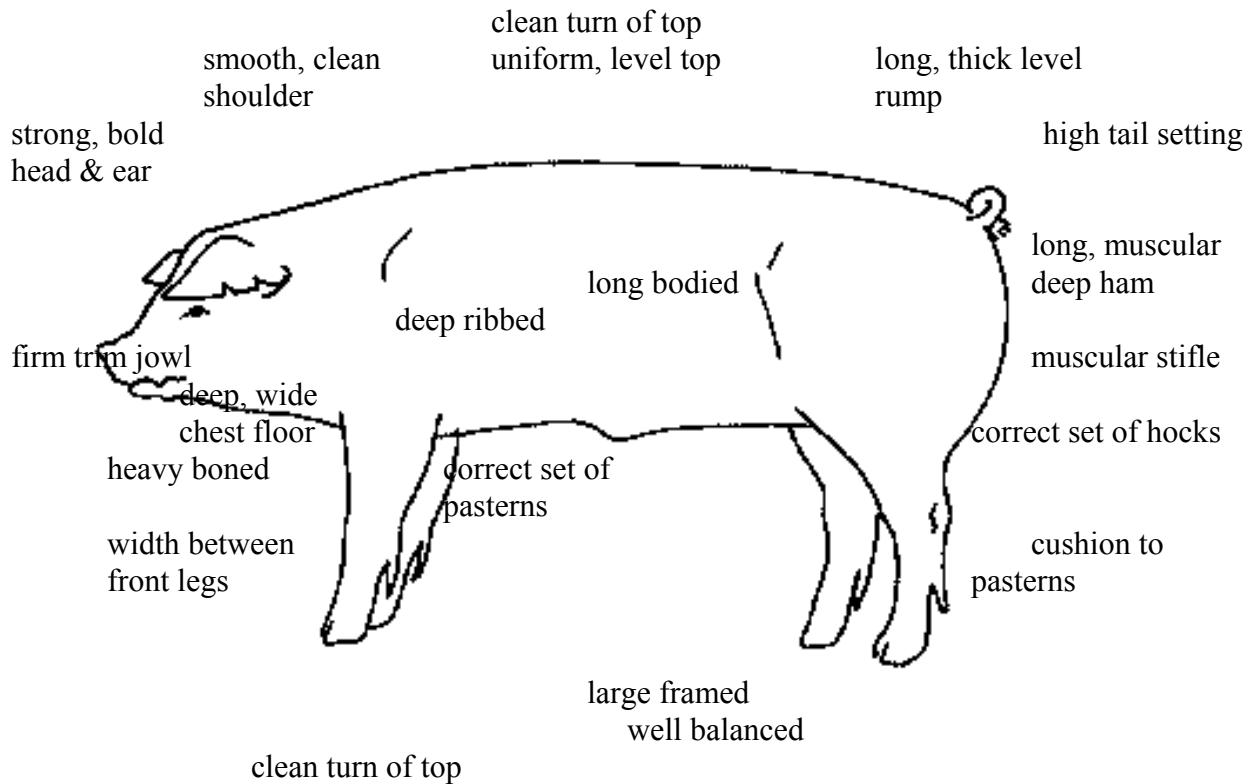


RICH CO. EXTENSION

**Utah State**  
**UNIVERSITY**

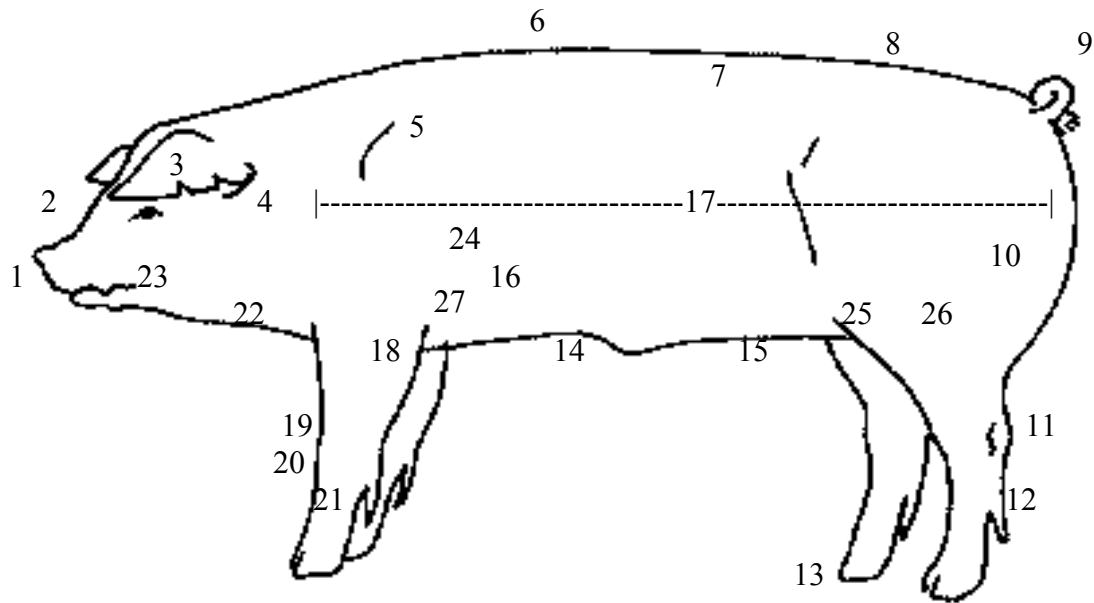


**Darrell Rothlisberger**  
**Rich County 4-H Agent**



# The Ideal Show Pig

## PARTS OF THE PIG



- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Snout     | 16. Belly        |
| 2. Face      | 17. Side         |
| 3. Ear       | 18. Elbow        |
| 4. Neck      | 19. Knee         |
| 5. Shoulder  | 20. Cannon bone  |
| 6. Back      | 21. Pastern      |
| 7. Loin      | 22. Jowl         |
| 8. Rump      | 23. Mouth        |
| 9. Tail      | 24. Rib          |
| 10. Ham      | 25. Flank        |
| 11. Hock     | 26. Stifle       |
| 12. Dew claw | 27. Elbow pocket |
| 13. Toe      |                  |

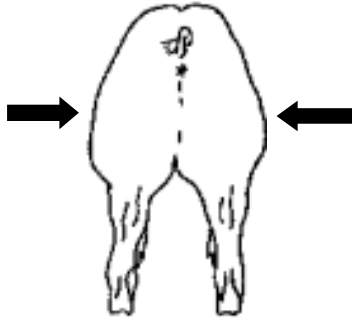
14. Sheath (Barrows  
& Boars)  
15. Teats

# SELECTION

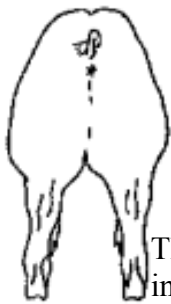
There are basic areas that you need to consider when selecting your show pig. They are Muscle, Structural Correctness, Capacity, Frame and Style, and Balance.

## MUSCLE

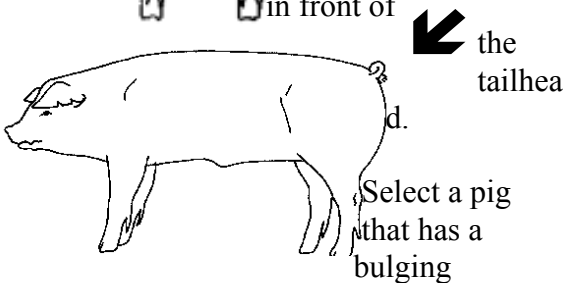
There are several indicators of muscle in pigs. The first place to look for muscle is the ham. The widest portion should be through the center of rump and ham.



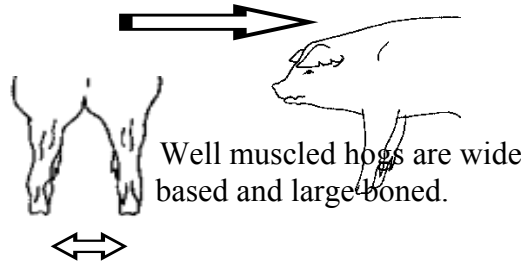
Heavily muscled hogs will have a groove down the top.



There will be a dimple in front of



forearm.



When viewed from the top look for a hour glass shape to the top. This will be a trim, heavy-muscled hog. It should be long and full in the rump, with the center of the ham being the widest part of the body. The shoulders should be wider than the loin, but not as thick as the ham. The loin will be uniform in width. When the hog walks there should be no evidence of fat over the top of the shoulders and the shoulders should move. Also, there should be no fat behind the shoulders or elbow pocket.

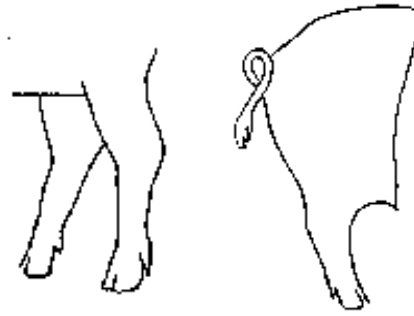


**Hour glass look**

## STRUCTURAL

## CORRECTNESS

This refers to how a pig's skeleton is put together, more specifically their bone structure. To be sure your pig is structurally correct, pick a pig that moves with ease and smoothness. They should take long strides. They also should have a proper angle to the pasterns and have flex to the joints like the hock, knee and shoulder. These joints should flex and the pig should take a long, flexible, fluid stride.



Poor hind leg structure

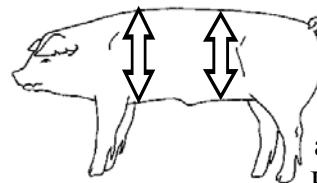


Proper front and rear leg structure

The pasterns should have an angle of 45 degrees and the hock should be at about a 22 degree angle for the best possible movement off the back end. Strong legs are important in market hogs. The bone should be large and the legs should be clean and solid looking.

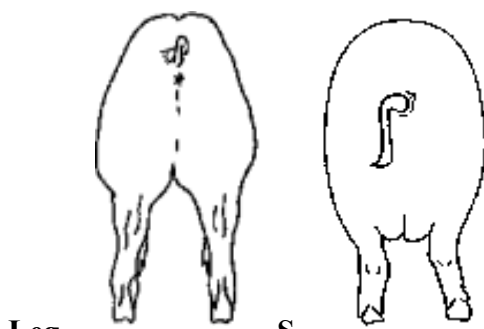
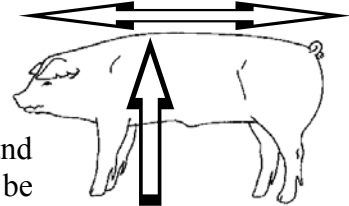
## CAPACITY

Pigs need to have adequate capacity to allow their internal organs to function properly and efficiently. They need to have a wide chest floor, a good spring of rib, and be deep sided in both the fore and rear flank. Remember that a deep sided hog can still be trim and neat in appearance.



## FRAME

A moderate framed hog will grow well and have adequate size. Select for a long-bodied, tall hog that stands well on their feet and legs. They should be large boned and show a lot of capacity, being boldly sprung at the ribs.



Proper on left - Poor on right

## STYLE AND BALANCE

A hog that has style and balance is one that holds its' head up when it walks, and is smooth in its overall appearance. They will be clean in the shoulder blades, jowl and underline. Hogs that are balanced stand wide and tall on straight legs, are uniform in the arch of their back, and their shoulder blades are close together.

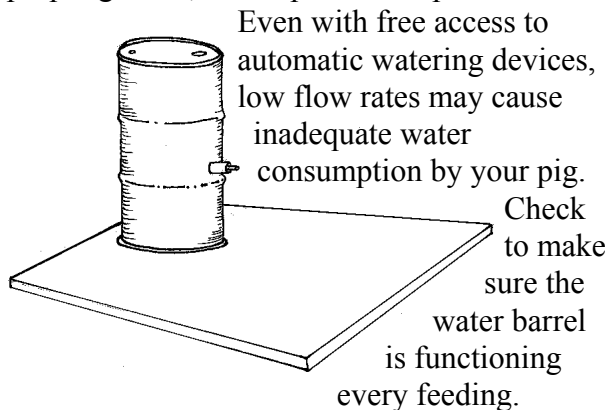
Select a trim hog that is free of excess fat. Fat gives the appearance of smoothness and shortness. A trim hog is clean behind the shoulders and down the top. The base of the ham should be firm, at the base of the hams (cut up or v-shaped) and the tail setting high, and the tailhead prominent.

## NUTRITION

There are five basic nutrients in pig rations. They are:

### i **Water** $\frac{3}{4}$

Water is the most important nutrient. It must be supplied in optimal amounts for proper growth, development and performance.



### i **Crude Protein** $\frac{3}{4}$

Proteins supply material to build body tissues. These include hair, hooves, skin, internal organs, and muscle. If an animal takes in more protein than it needs, the nitrogen that is attached to the protein molecules is passed off through urine and the material that is left is converted to energy or body fat.

Protein levels should range between 18 percent and 22 percent. When pigs are in the growing stage they will need higher protein levels for proper growth. In the fattening stages the protein levels can drop so the pig will get fat and not grow so fast.

### i **Metabolizable Energy (ME)** $\frac{3}{4}$

Carbohydrates or fats are important for proper maintenance of the body, growth, movement and heat production. This nutrient needs to be at efficient concentration levels. The proper use of ME depends on the level of other nutrients especially protein. Fat levels should range between 3.5 percent (finishing pigs) to 6.5 percent (growing pigs). Finishing pigs should be on the lower end of fat percentage and growing pigs need to be toward the higher percentage.

During the growing stages, the fat should be higher. During the finishing stages, the fat levels should be lower to help the pig get ready for market.

When pigs are growing they need energy. Which they use during the growth and development stages. They also use energy to eat and to maintain their high rate of body metabolism during these stages. When they get closer to market weight, the pig should be lean and not put on fat. Therefore, they need less energy.

**FAT TABLE**

Stage	Early Wean	Start	Grow	Finish
Weight	11-25	25-100	100-200	200-240+
Fat %	6.5	5.5	5.0-4.5	3.5

**i Minerals <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>**

The major minerals that need to be in your pigs diet are calcium, phosphorus, salt, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, iodine and selenium. They are critical for bone growth as well as other important body functions.

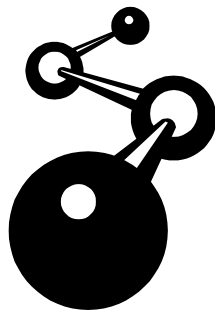
**i Vitamins <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>**

Vitamins are important for good health, performance, proper growth and body functions. The following 11 major nutrients should be in your ration A, D, E, K, riboflavin, pantothenic acid, choline. B12, biotin, and folic acid.

**PROTEINS  
and  
AMINO ACIDS**

Proteins are organic compounds made up of amino acids. There are ten “essential amino acids” needed by pigs. The most important of these is called Lysine.

Pigs are single stomach animals like people. Cattle and sheep are ruminant (four stomach) animals. They are able to produce essential amino acids in the first of the four stomachs called the



ruminant.

Muscle protein is composed of 20 different amino acids. Ten of these are “essential amino acids” and must be present in the pigs diet. The other ten can be made in the body if proper amounts of dietary nitrogen and energy are present.

The first limiting amino acid is Lysine. In other words, this is the first amino acid needed to turn protein into muscle.

Growing pigs need higher levels of Lysine. When a pig is growing they need muscle development.

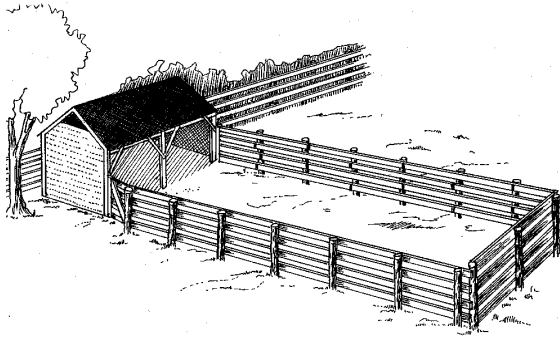
Finishing pigs need lower amounts of Lysine. If protein levels surpass the amount of Lysine in the diet, then the protein that is not converted into muscle is converted into energy or fat. Please note that the optimal protein levels change as the pig grows, gains weight and prepares for market readiness.

The following Table gives the minimum requirements of protein and lysine levels for pigs at different weight stages. Note that barrows require more Lysine than gilts.

**Protein Lysine Table**

Stage	Early Wean	Start	Grow	Finish
Weight (pounds)	11-25	25-100	100-200	200-240+
Protein percent	22%	21%	20%	18%
Lysine Percent	1.25%	1.15%	.95%	.75%

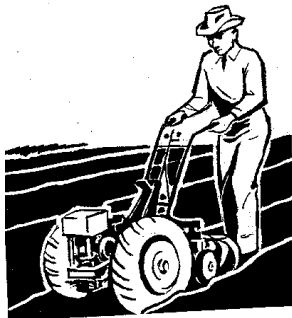
## FACILITIES AND PEN PREPARATION



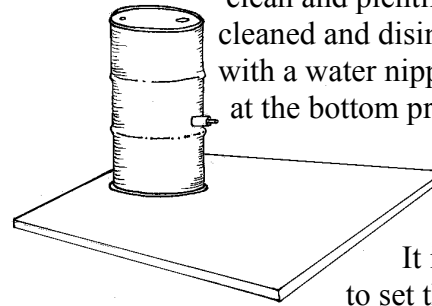
The ideal temperature for feeding pigs is around 60 to 70 degrees F. Provide adequate shade and protection from extreme temperatures whether hot or cold. Make sure your pen is secure and safe. There should be no sharp obstacles to cut or injure the pig. About two weeks before your pigs arrives, spray all pen areas and structures with a bleach mixture of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water. This will kill any bacteria that could cause your pig to get sick.

If you are building your pens for the first time, take careful considerations as to loading and unloading requirements. Make access easy to get pigs to their exercise area.

Keep the ground soft to enable the pigs to get exercise so they can build muscle as they move around the pen. Sand is the best pen surface. This strengthens your pig and helps them stay sound. However, you can roto-till the ground to help break it up and keep it soft.



Be sure your water supply is always clean and plentiful. A cleaned and disinfected barrel with a water nipple attached at the bottom provides a



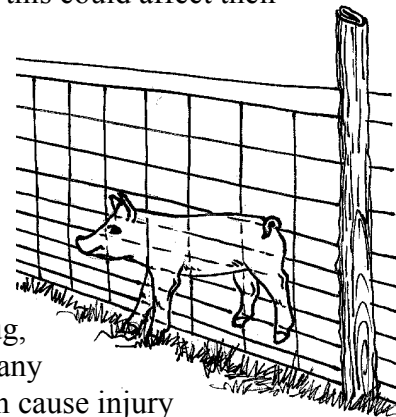
great water supply for show pigs.

It is a good idea to set the barrel on something or attach the nipple high enough so the pigs can easily access the water. A platform for them to stand on when drinking is one option. This decreases mud puddles and parasite infestations.

## EARLY CARE OF NEW PIGS

It is important to spend time in your pigs pen every day. If your pig is hard to get tamed down, try offering them treats like Vanilla Wafers. However, keep treats to a minimum as this could affect their eating habits.

While spending time in your pen keep it clean. Rake in any holes they have dug, and pick up any trash that can cause injury such as wire, broken feeders or pieces of plastic paper (they may swallow this and cause internal damage).



Touch your pig as often as possible. This can include brushing, scratching, rubbing, etc. Spending time with your pig helps you notice any changes in their behavior and or appearance, such as if they are getting sick, sunburned or other ailments that would



affect their rate of gain.

## FEEDING METHODS

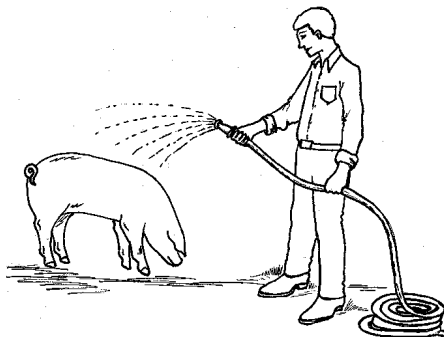


A self feeder is the best way to feed young growing pigs. If they have never been on a self feeder you can fasten the lid up so they will learn where to eat. After a few days they will learn to lift the lid, and you can

let it down. This allows them to feed whenever they want to, day or night. Some pigs stay on self feeders the entire time, others need to be hand fed when they start getting fat. This is noticeable when they start putting on fat in the jowl area or the elbow pocket, at approximately 170 pounds, give or take 10 pounds or so. If you have a large framed pig, you may not have to start hand feeding until they are heavier than this. However, if you have a smaller framed, more early maturing hog, hand feeding needs to start sooner to ensure that it is lean and market ready for the show.



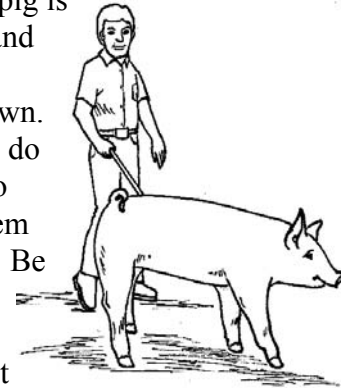
In the heat of the summer it is a good idea to wet down your pig several times a day. This cools them off and helps them eat.



## EXERCISE

Exercise should start about two months before the show. One half mile, three times a week is sufficient. You can increase this if your pig is getting fat and needs to be trimmed down.

Pigs do not sweat so don't let them get too hot. Be sure to exercise only when it



is cool, either in the early morning or late evening. If your pig does get too hot, let them cool down slowly. Do not pour cold water over them to cool them off. This can cause your pig to go into shock and die of a cardiac arrest (heart attack.).

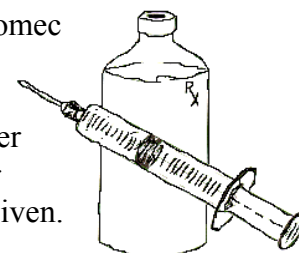
When walking your pig use a bat, slapper or cane. This teaches the pig to respond to commands such as turning. Don't hit it on the ham or hip because it will arch its back and look unnatural. Use gentle taps of the bat or cane around the head when getting it to turn. Never hit your pig hard. This can bruise the animal and cause damage.



## HEALTH

Any questions about a pig's health program can be answered by your local veterinarian. Internal and external parasites can be controlled with products such as Ivomec and Atguard.

Check with your breeder or seller to make sure proper vaccinations were given. These may include



vaccinations for Rhinitis, Ecoli, Dysentery (scours), Pseudo-rabies, Parvovirus.

The following may be indicators that your pig is sick:

- If your pig goes off its feed
- Gets scours
- Does not drink
- Goes off by themselves and lays down
- Other abnormal behavior

Contact your leader, breeder, Extension 4-H Agent, FFA advisor or veterinarian. They can help you decide what the problem is and what to do about it. There are some antibiotics you can keep on hand to give them a shot when they are sick. The main brands are LA 200, Penicillin and Naxel.

Always follow the label instructions and only give recommended dosages. If it is not recommended for use on swine only a vet can prescribe it for use.

## EQUIPMENT

Some basic items that you will need:

- Whip, bat, slapper, or cane
- Brush
- Spray bottle
- Shampoo
- Hair conditioner or oil
- Rubber feed pan
- Small water bucket

## PAPERS

Get a Bill of Sale from the seller or breeder. Ask about the appropriate Livestock Brand Inspection papers as well. For pigs coming into Utah from another state, call the Extension Office for procedures, laws and regulations from the Utah Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Department, for

entry into Utah.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

It is your responsibility to know the rules of the shows that you plan to attend. Different shows have different requirements whether it is county, state, jackpot or even national events. Call the representative for these shows to get a copy of the show premium book or rules.

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**NOTES**

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EXTENSION STAFF**

Wendy Rees

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“Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.”

