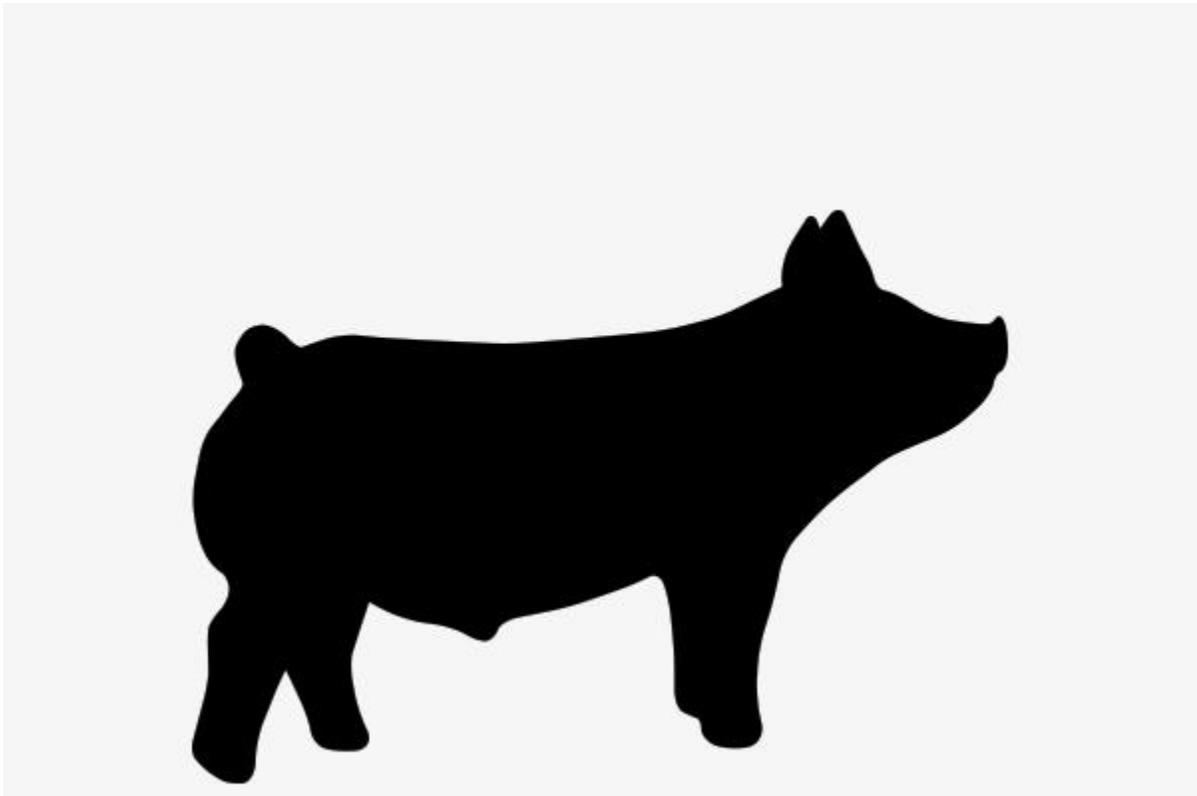


Pig Exhibitor Handbook



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The only
exhibitor you
should try to be
better than...
is the exhibitor
you were
yesterday

www.showmanshipathalter.com

BE ALL IN
OR GET ALL
OUT



I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to
us. Cats look down on us. Pigs
treat us as equals.

Winston Churchill

 BrainyQuote

Producing a champion show pig requires a lot of hard work, careful selection, a good home, a solid feeding program, and effective fitting and showing.

Of course nothing is **EVER** guaranteed!!!

CHOOSING A PIG

While considering what to look for in a pig, be completely familiar with the rules at the show. Know the weight limits!!! The pig's genetics and our management and nutrition program will determine the growth rate of the pig.

MAX WEIGHT is 290 lbs for the LP Livestock Show!!!

BODY VOLUME: Your top priority should be body volume. The best indicator of gaining ability is body capacity. Choose a pig with good width of skeleton, deep chest and rear flank, and adequate length of body. The frame size should be large enough to allow the pig to grow to heavy weights while limiting excess fat.

SKELETAL STRUCTURE: To obtain satisfactory performance from your pig they must have sound feet and legs. Adequate slope to the shoulders and good cushion for the front and hind legs will help the pig get up and down. The most important factor of skeletal soundness is a reasonably level topline.

MUSCLE STRUCTURE: The most desired muscle structure is thick and loose. Try to avoid tight, round, or bunched muscling. The two best indicators of good muscling in a young pig are prominence of the forearm and width and depth of the ham. Avoid pigs with short, steep rumps and narrow, thin hams. Check the pig for extra length of rump, squareness and thickness of the rump, and depth from the tail to the base of the ham

HIGH LEAN: FAT RATIO When viewed from the side, look for a clean, well-turned top; clean, trim crotch; and a prominent, clean shoulder and underline.

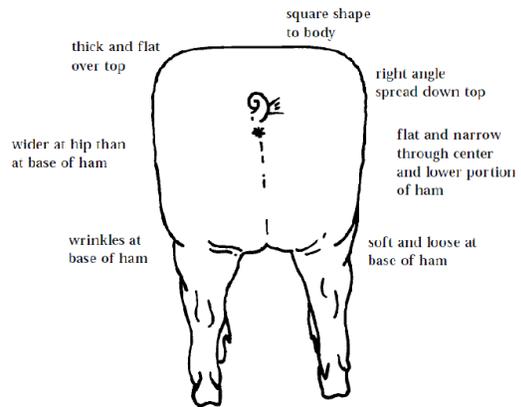
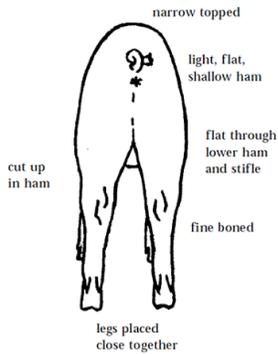
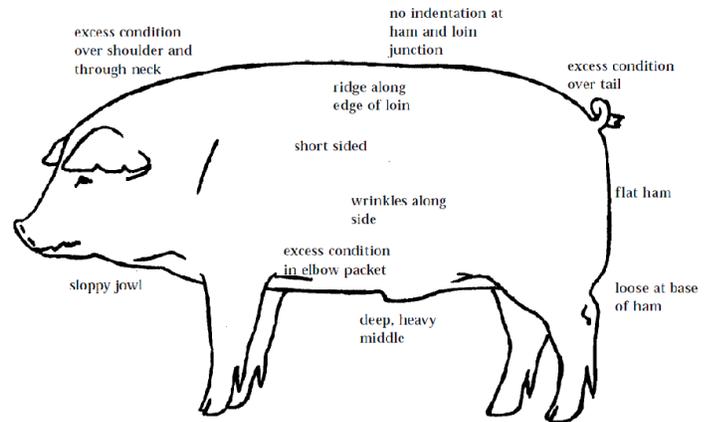
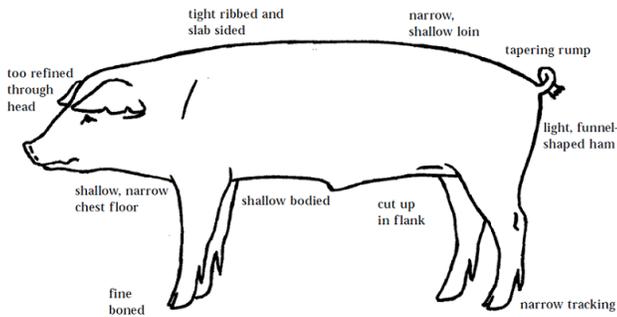
SERIOUS FAULTS IN PIGS: Crooked hind legs, hind legs that are too straight, bucked knees, short-bodied, stiff-gaited, and weak behind the shoulders. All of these faults will become worse with increased age and weight gain

Examples of Winners vs Dinks



Narrow, Shallow, Light-musled Market Barrow

Over-conditioned, Light-musled Market Barrow



THE PIG PEN: Remember, you need to provide a warm and dry pen at all times! The weather varies in our area so we know that it can drop below freezing or be above 60 within a day! **MAKE** sure that you are prepared! A **GOOD START** the first few days the pig is home, it is critical to provide comfortable, dry, draft-free quarters. This will help to reduce the stress from changing environments and being hauled.

Measure your pen and check with your pen neighbor to put up plywood around pens. Secure with heavy duty zip-ties!

2 heat lamps are recommended but 1 is mandatory! **RED BULBS!!**

SHAVINGS: PLEASE use micro, small, or pelleted flaked shavings!!! Large flake is the cheapest and it also is the least effective!! Especially with pigs!

HEALTH: An injection of antibiotics will help prevent secondary respiratory problems in an animal that is unusually stressed. You can call Dr. Peterson to get that shot!

Check for lethargy, goopy eyes, coughing, diarrhea, and fever. After about 7 to 10 days, the pig should be treated for roundworms. To eliminate the migrating larvae, retreat in 21 days! You can purchase dewormer at any feedstore!

IF YOUR PIG IS SICK CALL THE VET FIRST THEN NOTIFY ME!

NORMAL PIG TEMPS ARE 101.5° - 102.5° F If your pig looks sick take a rectal temp! If it is 103 or higher than a vet needs to be called **ASAP!**

DEWORMER!

Choose a designated date for deworming you pig! Example be 15th of every month! **SWITCH** the dewormer monthly. You can switch back and forth from paste or pellet!

Safeguard



**YOU MUST FOLLOW
GUIDELINES ON LABEL! THREE
DAYS OF THE PASTE!**



pellet



Ivermectin

ONE SHOT MONTHLY

FEEDING

You are allowed to use feeding plans outside of the advisor!!!!HOWEVER.....please keep me informed on how your pig is doing...any transitions....and changes....FEEL FREE TO ASK FOR MY HELP WHEN NEEDED!!!! I LIKE TO BE KEPT IN THE LOOP!!! WHEN YOU EXCLUDE ME FROM INFORMATION OR LEAVE ME OUT OF THE LOOP..... THEN I WILL TAKE THAT AS YOU DO NOT NEED MY HELP OR WOULD NOT LIKE MY HELP!

****** I encourage to get educated in feeding and feeds!!!! One way is to find REPUTABLE INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGABLE individuals that sell or market the feeds so that you are informed correctly and not based on one's opinion!! REMEMBER.....PIG FEEDING is a SCIENCE! YOU WILL NOT learn it in 1 day!!!! * * * * ***

My recommendations:

For excellent results, begin feeding a pig grower or starter formula up to 75 pounds of body weight!!! After pigs reach 75 pounds, we switch to a grower/finisher feed!

I suggest Linders, Mooremans or Sunglo feeds. For more info on each feed and plans go to below links!

Linders feed plan: <http://www.lindnershowfeeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/lindner-feedingguide-2018-final.pdf>

Mooremans:

https://www.admanimalnutrition.com/webcenter/content/conn/WCC1/uuid/dDocName%3Awctrp rd_001957

Sunglo: <https://www.sunglofeeds.com/hogs>

https://www.earlybirdgoodfield.com/Nutrition/PDF/sunglo_brochure_7-3-14_LR.pdf

Depending on your pig..... you will be **STARTING** off feeding AROUND 3lbs **a day!** **This amount does increase after certain weight breaks...You will be notified then!**

Six to eight weeks prior to the show, pigs should be weighed weekly to determine the amount of gain required. If pigs are gaining too fast or not enough.....feeding a measured amount divided into two or three daily feedings may be necessary.

As a general rule, four pounds of feed will produce one pound of gain!

Feed on a regular schedule twice a day!!!! AM AND PM! EX: 6AM 6PM

TREATS are nice but remember to limit the amount and not go crazy on them!!! Marshmallows, cookies.....etc.....**THIS IS A SHOW PIG NOT A PET!!!**



TRAINING

Do not try to control your pig through fear!!! You have to win a pig's confidence AND trust! Begin building this trust the first day! An excellent opportunity to gain the pig's trust is by hand-feeding.

Do not make a pet of your pig, but do gently scratch or brush him during feeding. The three signals you must teach your pig are:

1. To move him forward, tap him firmly on the side.
2. To make a left turn, apply gently pressure to the right side of the head.
3. For a right turn, apply the same pressure to the left side of the head. Drive the pig at least once a day!! DO NOT BEGIN doing this right away! Wait a week!

Suggested whips:

- Weaver brand dressage whips (black and white handle...some have them colored)

Thin, lightweight whips work best! **MAKE SURE THE LENGTH WORKS FOR YOU! TOO LONG OR TOO SHORT OF A WHIP IS AN ISSUE! YOU MAY GO THROUGH SEVERAL WHIPS BEFORE YOU FIND THE RIGHT ONE!**



SHOWMANSHIP

Clinics are scheduled WEEKLY!! WE DO THURSDAY NIGHTS 5-6PM

I can schedule a one on one time with you by appointment ONLY!

Guest speakers will be scheduled to come to the barn to help with showmanship. Time and date TBD

TIPS:

Always keep the hog between you and the judge; this provides the judge with a full view of your hog. When you move or change directions, switch the driving tool to the other hand. Try not to

use your hands or knees to drive the animal. Younger exhibitors may have to use their hands or knees at times.

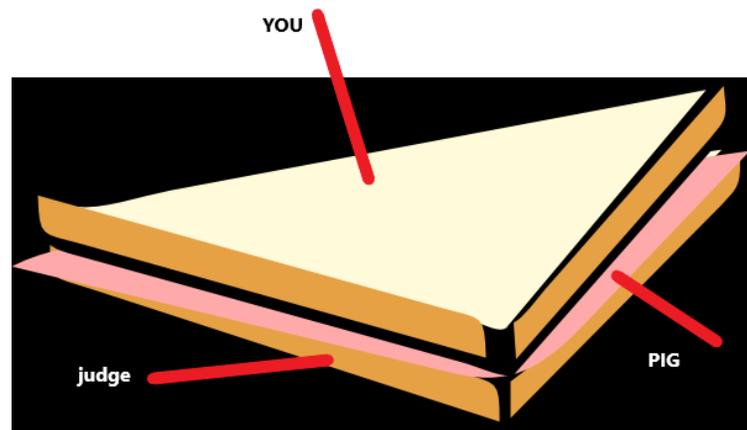
When walking your hog, calmly move with the hog, staying on the side opposite the judge. A slight bend at the waist may give you better control of the hog. Be relaxed. If you are calm, your hog will be calm and respond to your commands.

Be courteous at all times and aware of danger zones to avoid. One danger zone is groups of other hogs. If your hog gets in a group, let it work its way out. Do not block the view of another hog or exhibitor.

Another danger zone is a corner of the show ring. If your hog gets into a corner, place your brush on its snout. The hog will not like the bristles and should move from the corner.

Make eye contact with the judge. This is important because good eye contact ensures you will not miss a cue to be penned or to follow some other request. Also, the judge is more likely to look at your hog.

I think the #1 mistake a junior exhibitor can make while showing is simply over-showing their pig. Whether it be nerves or habit, a showman can definitely over use his or her driving tool which causes their pig to become unnatural in it's movement. It's important to let that hog be as natural as possible and remember to use your driving tool as more of a guidance.



I believe that showmanship starts with you! Your hog will only do as good at the show as much as you do at the barn!!! Make sure to put the work in at the barn and be well prepared for the show. It's important to have fun and learn from the older exhibitors. So many times you see young kids that do not do well but they never ask for help!!! Don't be afraid to ask questions!!!

SHEARING/GROOMING

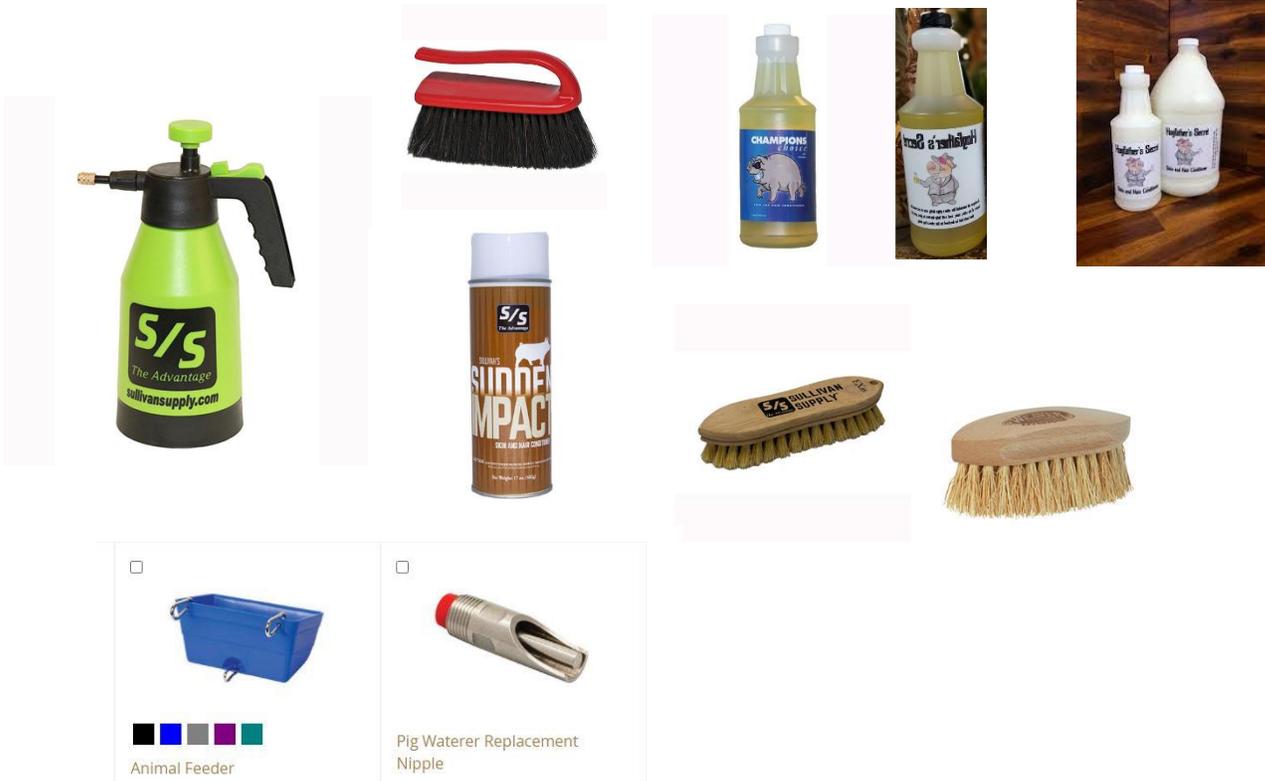
A natural, attractive appearance is the thing to seek in any fitted animal. **WE DON'T SHEAR PIGS BALD! WE ONLY SHEAR PIGS RIGHT BEFORE ITS DESIGNATED SHOW! PLEASE ASK FOR HELP OR NOTFY ME PRIOR TO DOING SO!**

We have a pair of clippers at the barn to use! If you need help certain days are scheduled to have me come help you do this!! **DO NOT** shear your pig **UNLESS** you know what you are doing!!! You can make a pig look very dumb on show day if this is done incorrectly!

You can secure this by cleanliness and proper grooming of the hair and skin. The best way to have a good hair and skin is clean, dry, well-bedded sleeping quarters; good nutrition; and grooming!

SUGGESTED SKIN PRODUCTS AND GROOMING TOOLS

- CONDITIONER AND OIL ARE CRITICAL TO SKIN HEALTH!
- SUNTANNING ONLY DARK PIGS! BE CAREFUL WITH SUNBURNING YOUR PIG!



Remember at all times to be a credit to your organization!!!

Always be courteous to other

showmen and officials!!!!

Always win or lose gracefully and fairly!!!!

And overall.....

HAVE FUN!!!!



-ERIKA ESPITIA

Ag Science Teacher @ La Porte High School