



MARKET SWINE Getting Started

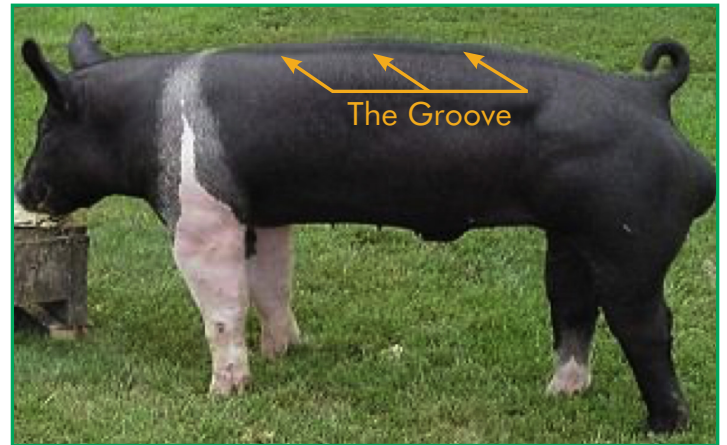
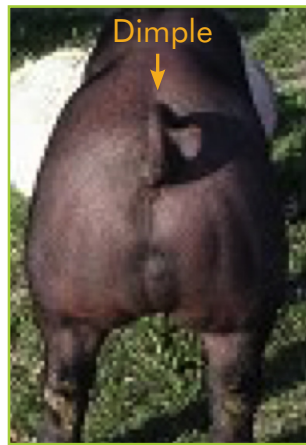
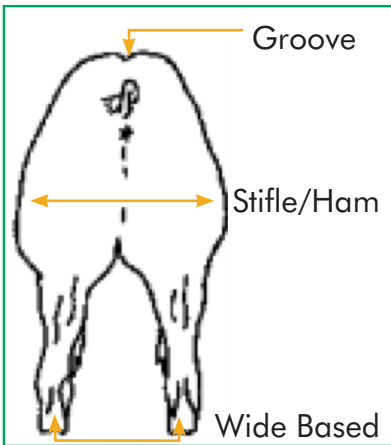
LESSON 2

What Do You Need To Know and Have when GETTING STARTING WITH A MARKET SWINE PROJECT



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A MARKET SWINE

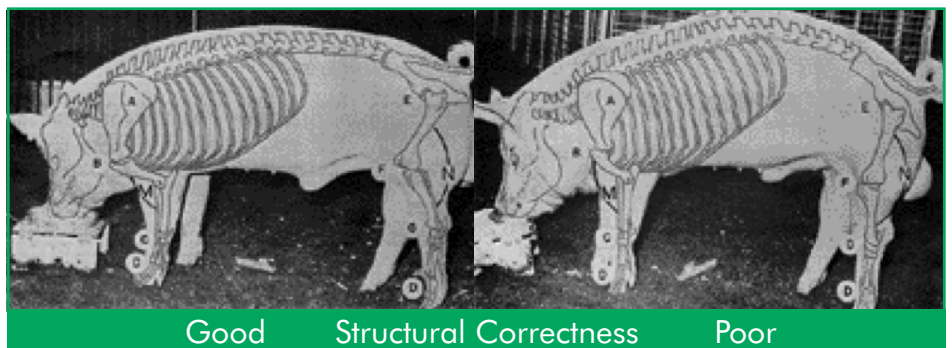
- **Age** A pig will be market ready at about 6-7 months old at county fair. In Sublette County, our cold springs make it more challenging to get good rates of gain, so look for a pig that is in the ballpark of 80-100 pounds.
- **Where do I find a good pig?** Most pig sales take place in the early spring, so you will want to be looking for ideas February-April. The Extension Office sends out fliers and information on sales in our area throughout the spring so watch for those. Your leader is also a great place to start. They often have resources and ideas of where to find a quality pig. You can choose either a male (barrow-has been castrated) or a female (gilt) pig.
- **Selection Criteria** Market swine selection should be based on muscle, frame, structural correctness, capacity, movement, style and balance of the animal.
 - **Muscle** Remember, this is what you are selling to the consumer. Select a pig that is moderate to heavy muscled. Know the indicators of muscle.



- **Frame** Select a pig that is long bodied and tall
- **Structural Correctness** This is how the pig is put together. A pig should move with ease, take long strides and its joints should be clean and be at the proper angle.

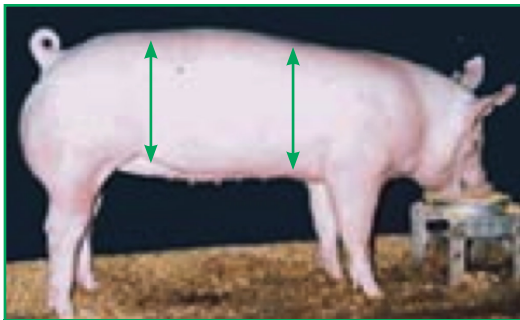


Frame: Long Bodied and Tall



Good Structural Correctness Poor

Livestock Fact Sheet



Capacity



Style and Balance

- **Capacity** This is the width of the mid-section (rib area) of the pig top to bottom. Look for deep bodied pigs that still have clean lines that balance.
- **Movement** Watch the pig walk and look for smooth movement paying attention to how the joints flex looking for smooth motion there as well. Be sure to watch from all angles, (top, side, rear and front views).
- **Style and balance** A pig that has style and balance will hold its head up when walking, will be smooth in its overall appearance and be clean made through its shoulders, jowl, top line and underline.



WHAT TO ASK THE PRODUCER ABOUT YOUR ANIMAL

- **Feed** Be sure to ask what brand of feed and how much your animal has been getting. It is ok to change feed brands, but make sure to do so slowly so that you avoid causing dietary stresses that can make your animal sick.
- **Health** Ask your seller what vaccinations the pig has had and when (common vaccinations they should have had are: Atropic Rhinitis, E.coli, Dysentary, Psuedo-rabies, Parvovirus, Erysipelas, De-worming). Discuss this with your veterinarian to see what they recommend as far as further treatment and a worming schedule.
- **Weight** Ask about birth weights and rate of gain if they have kept logs.
- **Bill of Sale** Don't forget that you **MUST** have a signed bill of sale for your animal. A health certificate from a licensed veterinarian is also required to cross state lines (and must be written within 30 days of travel). Make sure you get both of these!



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET YOUR ANIMAL HOME.

- **Insurance** Think about getting insurance on your market swine as you will invest significant amounts of money in the project. There are some insurance companies that will insure animals if they belong to your ranch, and others that will insure individual animals. You will need to shop around. The 4-H programs also offers insurance. For more information and a form go to: http://www.wyoming4h.org/4hsublette/?page_id=44
- **Feeding** Begin by feeding your animal what it has been getting to prevent added stress that could result in illness. Remember, you can switch brands but do so slowly by mixing with the current feed. Make sure you are using high quality, clean swine feed that is fresh (nutrients in feed break down over time). A self-feeder is a great way to feed as it helps keep food clean and dry. However, you may need to feed daily rations to help manage weight gain/loss at some point as well. The following table provides a good idea of the approximate amount of feed and protein content needed to adequately finish your pig.

Weight of Pig*	Feed Protein Content	Daily Feed Consumption
Birth to 40 pounds	At least 20%; some feeds contain as much as 30%	Less than 1.5 pounds
40 to 80 pounds	18-20%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	1.5 to 3.0 pounds
80 to 150 pounds	16-18%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	3.0-5.5 pounds
150 pounds and up	14-16%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	5.5-7.5 pounds

*For sows, boars and other non-show pigs that weigh over 200 pounds, provide a 14% feed. Pregnant sows and gilts need approximately 3 to 5 pounds of an 18% feed each day. Nursing sows should be fed 8 to 12 pounds of a 16% feed each day. Boars require approximately 4 to 6 pounds of a 16% feed each day, depending on how often they are used for breeding.

- **Calculating feed needs** You will need to weigh your animal regularly so that you know how much feed they should be getting. It is also very important to weigh your feed to insure you are feeding the correct amount. Swine convert on average 3 pounds of feed concentrate into 1 pound of gain. A good goal weight for your pig is in the 250-260 pound range. So, if you bring your pig home April 1st and it weighs 80 pounds, you will need to gain 170 pounds in the 17-18 weeks leading up to fair, or about 1.4 pounds per day. Needing 1.4 pounds per day x 3 pounds of feed = 4.5 pounds of feed it needs to eat per day to gain 1.4 pounds.
- **Identify as 4-H animal** All 4-H market swine will need to be owned and tagged with a state fair ear tag no later than June 1st each year. You will need to ask your club leader or the Extension Office about how your pig will get tagged. We allow members to tag as many animals as they wish (only one animal may be sold in the junior livestock sale) and we allow for families to tag an animal under more than one member's name.

The official rule on tagging family animals is: All youth entering market livestock in the Sublette County Fair must have that animal tagged by the appropriate program (4-H/FFA) by the tagging deadline for that species, June 1 of the program year. Youth are allowed to tag as many animals as they wish. Additionally, a "floater" animal may be tagged as a family animal with a listing of all children's names included with it. The family animal can be tagged for all children of the family as long as the animals are being raised together. The animal needs to be entered for show by each of the children by the fair deadline. At weigh-in time, the family can designate which child that animal is to be assigned to permanently. This animal is NOT eligible for state fair if tagged for all children. Alternatively, the "floater" animal may be tagged in an individual youth's name from the family, but still utilized by another youth in the family if necessary. In this case, the animal is only eligible for state fair if it is taken to state by the youth whom it is tagged under. If another family member utilizes the animal, it is not eligible for state fair. All other rules still apply to the family animal.