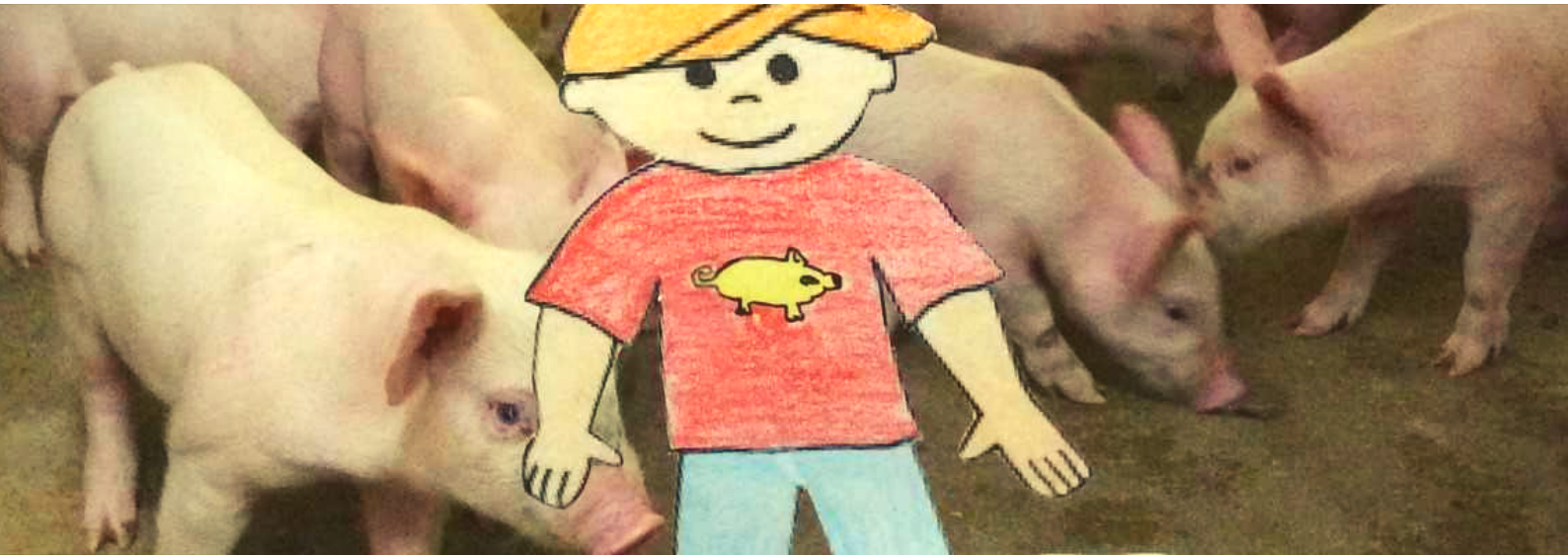


Flat Aggie ADVENTURES

Weaning Edition



DID YOU KNOW?



Wean means to accustom piglets to food other than its mother's milk.



Livestock is a word used to describe farm animals.



Transportation is the act of carrying from one place to another.



A **load out** is the location to transport the piglets.



Feed is food for livestock.



Weaned piglets are transported to a **nursery**.

WEANING

After about 21 days in the farrowing barns, it's time to wean the piglets!

Weaning is when piglets begin eating solid food in place of their mothers milk.

As you can see piglets can grow a lot in 21 days. This picture shows a wean age piglet on the left and a one day old piglet on the right.






TRANSPORTING PIGLETS

Above is a wean trailer backed up to the load out, ready to receive piglets. Once the piglets have been weaned and walked to the load out, they can then be loaded onto the trailer and taken to the nursery where they'll start the next phase of their growth.


FUN PIG FACTS

- A pig's coat feels coarse and bristly.
- A pig's hair can be black, brown, white, and spotted.


Major Swine Breeds




Duroc
The second-most recorded breed of swine in the United States, the red pigs with the drooping ears are valued for their product quality, carcass yield, fast growth and lean-gain efficiency. They also add value through their prolificacy and longevity in the female line. Much of the U.S. breed improvement has occurred in Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska.




Berkshire
The third-most recorded breed of swine in the United States, Berkshires are known for fast and efficient growth, reproductive efficiency, carcass yield and meat flavor and value. The first U.S. meeting of Berkshire breeders and importers was held in 1873, with the American Berkshire Association formed shortly after - making it the oldest swine registry in the world.




Poland China
In the early 1800s, Poland China hogs originated in Ohio. Today, Poland China hogs are known for their large frame, length of body, leanness and muscle. They also are excellent feeders, gaining well under good care and management. They also are quiet in their disposition.




Spotted
The spotted swine breed is characterized by large, black and white spots. Many breeders in central Indiana specialized in breeding Spotted hogs through the years. Today, Spots are known for their feed efficiency, rate of gain and carcass quality. In addition, commercial producers appreciate Spotted females for their productivity, docility and durability.




Landrace
White hogs with droopy ears, Landraces are the fifth-most recorded breed of swine in the United States. Known as "America's Sowherd," Landrace females are heavy milkers and often farrow large pigs. Crossing well with other breeds, Landraces often possess length of body, a high percentage of carcass weight in the ham and loin and the ideal amount of finish.




Chester White
Chester White originated in Chester County, PA, from which their name was formed. These white hogs were droopy, medium-sized ears are known for their mothering ability, durability and soundness. Packers also love their muscle quality.



Hampshire
The hogs with "the belt," Hampshires are the fourth-most recorded breed in the United States. Most popular in the Corn Belt, Hampshires are known for producing lean muscle, high carcass quality, minimal backfat and large loin eyes. Females also are known for their mothering ability, with longevity in the sow herd.



Yorkshire
The most-recorded breed of swine in North America, Yorkshires are white with erect ears. They are found in almost every state, with the highest populations being in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio. Yorkshires are known for their muscle, with a high proportion of lean meat and low backfat. Soundness and durability are additional strengths.



PIGLETS ON THE MOVE

Below Flat Aggie is moving piglets from the farrowing room to the load out, where they will be put onto a trailer.

We use red panels as a barrier and shakers to make noise; this way we can move the piglets where they need to go without having to physically make contact with them.

We move the piglets in small groups to prevent them from toppling over one another.



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