



Growing Pigs

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Objective of Presentation

- To provide information that may assist you to produce a good market hog.



Chesterwhite



Landrace



Pietrain



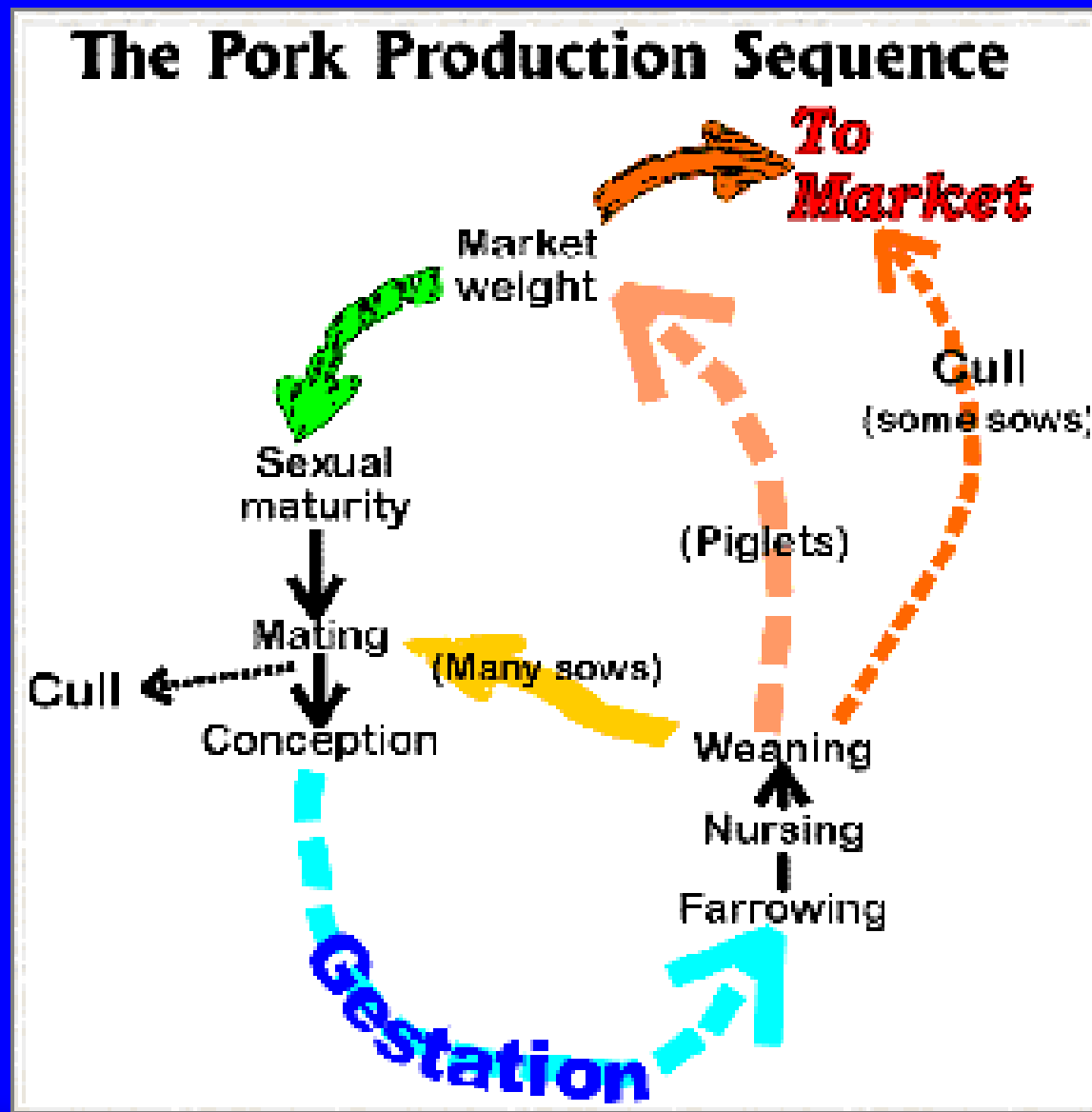
Duroc Breed



Hampshire



Image: Courtesy of Gordon King, Animal & Poultry Science, University of Guelph



Swine Rations

- 4-5 rations in a farrow to finish operations
- Bred sow
- Nurse sow (lactation)
- Starter pigs (20-40 lbs.)
- Grower pigs (40-120 lbs.)
- Finisher (120-market weight)



How do you know you are doing a good job at feeding?

- Feed Conversion
- What is it?
- Pounds of feed consumed per pound of live weight gain
- If you feed 300 lbs. of feed and your pig gained 100 lbs.
- Feed conversion = $300/100 = 3$



Data to Consider

- Under Florida growing climate from January to April (100 days)
- All being equal, expected average daily gain (ADG) is 1.70 lbs. live weight
- Ideal final weight 270 lbs.
- Minimum final weight 240 lbs.



What do I feed ?

- Commercial rations for grower /finisher normally have the adequate level of energy
- It is advisable to buy commercial feeds because they are balanced to meet the nutrients requirement of hogs



Why buy commercial rations?

- ✓ Pigs tend to consume enough feed to meet their energy requirements
- ✓ If ration is lacking in energy, they tend to eat more to make up for their needs
- ✓ Therefore the amount of feed required per pound of gain is higher for pigs consuming diets formulated with low energy ingredients /feedstuff.



Why buy commercial rations?

- ❑ If there is excess protein in the feed, then hogs will use up for energy to get rid of excess protein in the diet
- ❑ Commercial ration is generally balanced for energy, protein, vitamins and minerals
- ❑ It is a better option.



Factors affecting Feed Conversion - Genetics

- Feed intake levels varies between pigs of different genetic lines
- Genetics – selecting pigs for better feed conversion based on the performance of their parents. If they are good, then the off-springs are likely to be good
- Cross breeding – between different breeds. Weight gains tend to be higher for the offspring than their parents.

Factors affecting Feed Conversion - Environmental Temperatures

- ❑ Pigs do well within a certain temperature range called the comfort range (54-74 ° F)
- ❑ In general, temperatures above 74°F decrease feed intake which leads to reduced growth
- ❑ Temperatures below 54 ° F lead to increase feed intake, and the additional energy is used to keep animal warm, and not necessarily for growth
- ❑ Keep pigs in cool environment. Protect your pigs from cold conditions



Factors affecting Feed Conversion - Health

- ❑ Poor health reduces feed intake
- ❑ *Hogs infected with worms*
- ❑ *Moldy feeds with off-flavors* can reduce feed intake
- ❑ Look and smell you feed before purchase
- ❑ Water – provide fresh water at all times , clean watering bowl
- ❑ Are mice/rats/birds helping the pigs with their dinner?



Factors affecting Feed Conversion

- Ways feed is presented

- Pellets improves feed intake by 3-12 % as oppose to mash
- Wet feeds improve feed intake by about 6 % as oppose to dry feeds
- NB – wet feed if not fully eaten may encourage mold growth



Factors affecting Feed Conversion -Gender

- Barrows consume more than gilts
- Gilts may reduce intake when they come in heat



End of Presentation
Thank you for listening

