Pig Facts & Figures

Terminology
Sow: mature female
Boar: mature male
Gilt: young female not yet farrowed
Weaner: recently weaned or taken from sow
Feeders: from weaning to slaughter
Farrowing: sow giving birth

Biology
Normal body temperature: 101.6°F to 103.6°F
Age at puberty: 5-8 months
Heat period: 16-24 days and 1-3 days duration
Gestation period: 114 days
Productive life: 5-6 years

Productivity
2-3 litters per year of 8-12 piglets. At 225-250 lbs. market weight, a single sow can produce 2000-2500 lbs. of cut meat per year. Well cared for organic pigs can reach market weight of 225 lbs. in 6 months.

Housing and Space

Inside Housing:
- Piglet to weaner - 16 sq. ft.
- Weaner to finish - 40 sq. ft.
- Farrowing Sow - 40 sq. ft.

Paddocks
- Sows - 10 per acre with litter
- 15 per acre without litter
Wean to finish - 1000 sq. ft. per pig

Facts & Figures source: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association Fact Sheet #16
"Organic Pig Production," Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada

Your partner in all phases of organic swine production. We are here to help you succeed. Contact your Nature’s Trail consultant. (315) 549-8226.
Nature’s Trail Organic Swine Feeding Program

Nature’s Trail has developed a swine feeding program to assist farmers in optimizing performance while working in harmony with organic principles that restrict use of antibiotics and certain other feed ingredients. Our goal is to provide organic swine producers with high quality, palatable feed that promotes healthy growth, efficient weight gain, and good tasting meat at an affordable cost.

Tips for care and handling of pigs

Organic management for pigs focuses on prevention of health problems. Provide good quality feed, fresh air, plenty of fresh water, rotation of pasture, clean bedding, and shelter from the elements. overcrowding can result in fighting and injury. Providing something to keep them occupied can also help prevent fighting. In confined housing during cold weather, deep bedding will help with the retention of body heat. Clean pens frequently.

Pigs are naturally curious but can be easily trained to an electric fence. Use two wires at nose and shoulder height. Adults can usually be contained with one wire. Be sure barn and fencing is secure. Pigs cannot sweat. In hot weather, provide fans for airflow. If your pigs are on pasture, they should have shade and an adequate place to wallow. Sprinklers can also be used to keep them cool. Since pigs are not ruminants, roughage in the diet should be limited.

Approximate Weight at Weekly Intervals

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<tr>
<th>Weeks of Age</th>
<th>Weight (lbs.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>130</td>
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<td>205</td>
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<td>275</td>
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Intestinal parasites are a major concern for organic hog producers. Use of an approved dewormer is highly recommended. Keep areas where pigs are confined cleaned out and rotate pasture often to reduce exposure to parasites.

*Stock item. Other bagged feeds available on request. Minimum quantities apply.*