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Chair- Dairy Producers Rep.
434-4109

Arin Crooks
Vice Chair - Beef Superintendent
516-5965

Karla Witzig
Secretary- Goat Superintendent
822-6916

Joe Mumm
Grant County Fair Rep.
732-6250

Kelsi Retallick
Beef Producers Rep.
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Troy Noble
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348-6852

Bobbi Riedl
Goat Producers Rep.
574-5198

Scott Kramer
Rabbit/Poultry Producer Rep.
558-8641

Pam Frank
Rabbit/Poultry Superintendent
854-2900

Colton Vondra
Sheep Producers Rep.
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Jill Drinkwater
Sheep Superintendent
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Vacant
Swine Producers Rep.

Ryan Ingersoll
Swine Superintendent
778-0206

Hannah Recker
FFA Advisor Rep.
854-2261

Amanda Cauffman
4-H Adult Leaders Rep.
412-3462

Vacant
FFA Member Rep.

Sarah Mayer
4-H Member Rep.

Tim Slack
Auctioneer Rep.
723-4020

Charisse Orth
Extension Rep.
723-2125

DATE: April 14, 2026

TO: Potential Grant County Fair Swine Exhibitors

FROM: Ryan Weigel, Livestock Auction Advisory Committee Chair and
Charisse Orth, 4-H Program Educator

RE: Swine Identification for Grant County Fair

The Grant County Junior Fair Livestock Auction Committee is requiring all Grant County Fair swine exhibitors to identify their own swine projects by **May 29 by 4:00 pm**. The following is required for swine identification:

Remember: Market Gilts are allowed to show as market animals

All swine that will be at the Grant County Fair will need to be tagged with a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag. Exhibitors will be responsible for acquiring their own tagger. Please follow good biosecurity measures by disinfecting all tagging equipment before and after tagging in order to minimize the risk of spreading diseases. Below are some notes to consider before tagging. Options for tags are below.

- * The Extension Office has RFID tags available to tag animals that potentially will be exhibited at the Grant County Fair. Tags can be picked up Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Please do not request extra tags that will not be placed in Grant County Fair animals. The tags from the Extension Office require Allflex taggers. You can use your own RFID/EID tags also.
- * Or, when you purchase your swine, ask the producer if they have already or would be willing to tag your animal with a RFID tag. **Be sure the tag is a RFID tag.**
- * If you tag your own pig, purchase your own tagger.

Steps to Tagging/IDing Swine:

- RFID tags need to be placed in the animal's ear.
- **Fill out all of the ID form and mark if it's a gilt or barrow. Return form with a photo of the tag in the animal's ear by May 29 by 4:00 pm.** The numbers on the RFID need to be clear and able to be read in the picture. Completed forms and id pictures can be mailed or dropped off at the Extension Office or e-mailed to jenny.dixon@wisc.edu.

⇒ As part of the registration, each exhibitor will need to submit a photo of the RFID tag in the pig's ear with the tag number clearly showing. We will compare the exhibitor's name with both the written or typed RFID tag number on the identification form and the tag number that is shown in the submitted photo. Swine will also be checked at the fair to ensure accountability. An identification form is enclosed. Additional forms are available at <https://grant.extension.wisc.edu>. All swine must be identified with the Extension Office by **May 29 by 4:00 pm**. Members may identify under their immediate family and up to 10 pigs per member.

- OVER -

Remember to check the Grant County Fair book for complete rules and requirements to show and sell swine at the fair. The 2026 fair book can be found online at: <https://funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov/>.

******REMINDER******

Due to the Ractopamine-free swine production market specification/requirement throughout much of the U.S. pork packing industry the decision has been made by the Grant County Fair Board to ban the use of Ractopamine products (including but not limited to Paylean® or Engain®). It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure all feed fed to swine project is Ractopamine free. Random drug testing may occur at the 2026 Grant County Fair. Additional information enclosed.

Following are a few rules pertaining to the swine project:

- ◆ Swine exhibitors are reminded to contact processing plants to book their extra swine prior to the fair. The Grant County Fair is a terminal show, no swine are allowed to go back home. Bloomington Meats II, Weber's Processing, along with Avon Locker Plant are the options for processing plants. Note: Auction animals going to Avon Locker Plant will not be a part of the carcass show.
- ◆ All exhibitors in the junior division shall be members of 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, Scouting programs, breed groups, or any other recognized youth organization under adult leadership and with an approved educational program in the project area.
- ◆ Members in good standing who have completed 4th grade by the time of fair are eligible to sell one animal at the Grant County Fair in the Livestock Auction, as long as they have not reached their 20th birthday by January 1, 2026
- ◆ Exhibitors may not sell at more than 2 fairs after their scheduled high school graduation.
- ◆ All swine will be weighed in on Wednesday, August 19, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon). Swine will be allowed to enter the grounds on Wednesday starting at 9:00 am for vet check.
- ◆ The Grant County Fair Swine Show will start at 9:00 am on Thursday, August 20.
- ◆ The minimum weight for a market animal to sell will be 220 lbs. with the maximum weight being 315 lbs. Market swine outside the weight limit may show in a special "show only" class. They will not be eligible to show for champion. Market swine weighing less than 220 lbs. and more than 315 lbs. may not be sold at the auction. Change this year: Buyers will pay for exact weight of market swine sold in the auction up to 315 lbs.
- ◆ All swine exhibitors must be YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certified in order to show or sell their swine at the Grant County Fair. Enclosed you will find more information on that program. **A copy of your YQCA certificate must be submitted** to the Grant County Extension Office or the Grant County Fair Office prior to July 24 by 4:00 pm. No YQCA certificates will be accepted after 4:00 pm on July 24.
- ◆ Again this year, gilt show. Details on next page.

If you have any questions call the Extension Office at 608-723-2125 or the Grant County Fair Office at 608-723-2135.

Enclosures

2026 Grant County Fair Swine Identification Form
Due by May 29 at 4:00 pm

Family Last Name: _____

Premise ID Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of Parents or Guardians to be printed in fair sale program: _____

Exhibitor Name <i>(use additional forms if needed)</i>	Exhibitor Age <i>As of Jan. 1, 2026</i>	Exhibitor Grade <i>Currently In</i>	4-H Club/FFA Chapter/Organization

RFID Tag Number <i>Example: 840 111 111 111 111</i>	Circle One	RFID Tag Number <i>Example: 840 111 111 111 111</i>	Circle One	RFID Tag Number <i>Example: 840 111 111 111 111</i>	Circle One
	Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow
	Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow
	Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow
	Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow
	Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow		Gilt or Barrow

Include a photo of the RFID tag in the pig's ear. The photo must clearly show the RFID tag number. E-mail your identification form, including the required clear photo, to jenny.dixon@wisc.edu or return your registration packet to the Grant County Extension Office: 916 E. Elm Street, Suite A, Lancaster, WI 53813. **Deadline is May 29 by 4:00 pm.**

GILT SHOW IS BACK

Gilts have been added to the swine department!

Members in the swine project can show gilts in a separate market lot.

All swine rules apply to both gilts and barrows. See Department 3 in the fairbook online at funonforty.co.grant.wi.gov

Steps to ID and Show Gilts

DEADLINE MAY 29, 2026, BY 4:00 PM

- ◆ You **must** identify your gilt on the swine ID form by the 4:00 pm, May 29th deadline.
- ◆ Turn in the ID form along with a photo of the tag in the animal's ear by the 4:00 pm, May 29th deadline.

DEADLINE JULY 24, 2026 BY 4:00 PM

- ◆ You are only allowed to enter 3 market swine animals total. You must choose what 3 market hogs you will be bringing at the time you submit your fair entry.
- ◆ When you submit your fair entry form you **must** enter whether you are exhibiting in the barrow or gilt lot (see fair book, Department 3)
- ◆ Gilts will be placed in the light, medium, and heavy weight classes on Wednesday of fair during weigh-ins, just like the barrow show.
- ◆ We will have Champion and Reserve Champion Gilt trophies along with Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Gilt trophies.
- ◆ Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Gilt winners will compete with the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Barrow winners for an Overall Supreme Champion.

For any questions regarding showing gilts, please contact Amy Olson, Grant County Fair Director, at (608) 723-2135 or by email at aolson@co.grant.wi.gov

Checklist

REMEMBER:

1. No exhibitor may enter both open and junior class
2. Exhibitors must have completed 4th grade prior to fair to sell in the Livestock Auction
3. Exhibitors may not sell at more than 2 fairs after their scheduled high school graduation
4. Members may only exhibit in the department in which they carry a project
5. Members exhibiting livestock, including dairy, must upon request be able to show that animals exhibited have been cared for by the exhibitor for a period of at least 3 months previous to the fair
6. Livestock exhibitors shall have a copy of the required health certificates or test reports for inspection by the department at the fair
Swine – 30 day health papers
7. Look at the department and have the proper paperwork done including animal identification deadlines, YQCA certificates, and registration forms
8. Be sure to check out the current Fair Book for rules that may apply to your exhibit

Department 3 Swine

Forms needed to show swine at the Grant County Fair

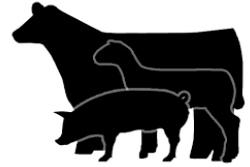
A completed identification form, RFID tagged, and picture of the RFID tag in the ear must be submitted to the Grant County Extension Office by **4:00pm on May 29, 2026**.

1. [Junior Class Entry Form](#)
2. [Animal ID & Vet Check Information Sheet](#) Bring with you to the fair
3. [YQCA Certificate - yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) is the website to get certified to sell and show for swine
Youth must be YQCA certified and a copy of your YQCA Certificate must be turned in with your entry by the Fair entry deadline of July 24. **No YQCA certificates will be accepted after 4:00pm on July 24, 2026.**
4. *All exhibitors who plan to stay overnight must register by completing the [Registration Form for an Overnight Pass](#)*

Forms needed to participate in the livestock auction. Due to Hybrid Livestock Auction, proper sale pictures of you and your animal together will be taken at the Grant County Fair. These will also be used as the buyer's appreciation pictures.

1. [Junior Class Entry Form](#) (with animal listed in a market class)
2. [Consignement Sheet](#)
3. [Animal ID & Vet Check Information Sheet](#) Bring with you to the Fair.

YQCA Information



The Livestock Auction Committee has confirmed the requirements to sell an animal in the Grant County Fair Jr. Livestock Auction, Saturday of the Fair. Again, this year **ALL swine exhibitors showing or selling** and **all market exhibitors wishing to sell any other species** in the auction must be YQCA certified. A copy of your YQCA certificate must be turned in to the Extension Office prior to the July 24 by 4:00 pm deadline.

This interactive program provides youth a number of options for an annual quality assurance certification. YQCA was created for youth in the Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, and Swine projects. This program gives families more flexibility in acquiring this much needed information which trains youth in improving the care of food animals and promoting a higher level of consumer food safety. The livestock industry and businesses are constantly striving for high quality, wholesome products; therefore, youth in food animal projects should assist in this effort.

Please go to <https://yqcaprogram.org> in order to register. Upon signing up for a course, you will then pay for that course with a credit card. Please email help@yqcaprogram.org for any assistance you need in creating or signing up in the YQCA system.

- **Online Training** (\$12.00/youth) This type of training is at your own pace. yqcaprogram.org/
- **In-Person Training** (\$3.00/youth) **Online registration is still required. If low registration, training may be cancelled. Make sure to register.** In-person training is scheduled for:
 - April 19 at 2:00 pm, South Room at the Youth & Ag Center, Lancaster—**pre-registration required.**
 - Youth can attend other counties/trainings that are listed on the online registration system.

Once you have registered and completed the course, you will log back into your YQCA account and download a certificate. **You must turn your certificate into the office at anytime before 4:00 pm on July 24, 2026.**

You can download and email the certificate attachment to jenny.dixon@wisc.edu or print it out and mail or drop off at the Grant County Extension Office.

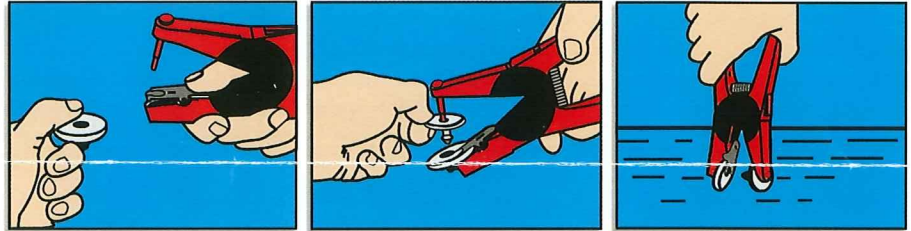


Allflex®

THE SYSTEM THAT WORKS
Electronic Identification

Application Instructions for Allflex Electronic Identification Ear Tags

Apply Allflex Electronic ID Tags with the Red Universal Total Tagger. Use the red blunt pin and remove the black insert from the base of the jaws.



1. To load, depress spring clip and insert the female EID tag. Ensure that the raised portion of the tag, which encloses the transponder chip, is placed in the open portion of the jaws.
2. Slip the male tag completely onto the blunt applicator pin. Squeeze the jaws together lightly to ensure the male shaft is in line with the female.
3. Dip the jaws of the applicator holding the tag into an antiseptic or disinfectant solution.



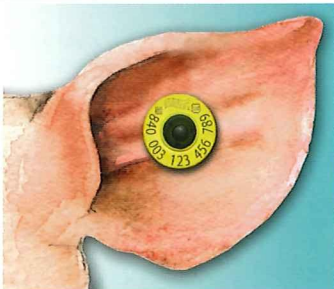
Recommended EID Tag Placement

Application site must be free of foreign debris prior to placement of tags on the animal. Review application instruction prior to tagging.

IMPORTANT: Caution, "Free Air Space" is critical for proper healing and retention. Inspect placement after tagging to ensure there is sufficient space between ear and EID tag.

FOR CATTLE

1. The EID tag should be placed in the middle of the ear between the two cartilage ribs close to the head.
2. The female portion of the tag should be on the inside of the ear with EID tag application. Note that this is a thicker part of the ear. Application may be more difficult than when applying a visual tag.



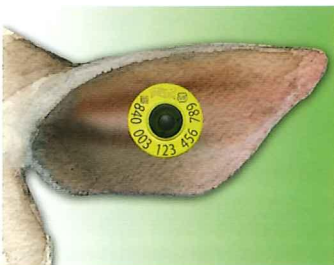
FOR SWINE

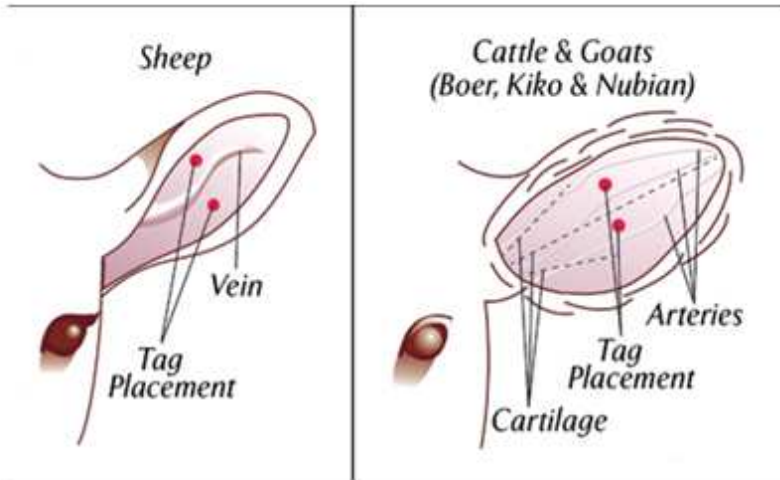
1. Place the EID tag in the middle or thicker part of the ear
2. The male tag should be on the outside of the ear and the female (or EID tag) should be placed on the inside of the ear. Tag retention is improved when male tag lays flush against the back side of the ear.

IMPORTANT: Tag application may vary based on breed type and ear size.

FOR SHEEP

1. Place the EID tag in between the cartilage ribs of the ear, near the first quarter of the ear (closest to the head)
2. The female portion of the tag should be placed on the inside of the ear.





Ear tag placement diagram provided by Premier1Supplies.com



Ear tag placement example – cattle.



Ractopamine Free: A Wisconsin Response for Exhibitors

Adapted with permission from Ohio State University Extension, "A Ractopamine-Free Swine Project"

Introduction:

Ractopamine-free swine production is now a market specification/requirement throughout much of the U.S. pork packing industry. Ractopamine (sold under the trade names Paylean® or Engain® for swine, and Optaflexx® or Actogain® for cattle and other generic derivatives) is an approved product used to increase lean growth rate. The use of ractopamine in pig diets has specifically been banned in many international pork and pork product markets. Ractopamine remains an FDA approved product that can be legally fed in the U.S. at approved levels and approved time periods in the life of a market destined hog, but restrictions from trade partners have led to its removal from most production systems. Many U.S. pork packers have determined they will not purchase ractopamine-fed pigs in order to meet market demands, maintain trade requirements, and help protect markets that account for upwards of 25% of the total value of annual U.S. pork sales. In response, proper processes to remove ractopamine are needed in all instances where the pork (meat) or pork products (internal organs, blood, fat, etc.) may enter a market that has been designed as ractopamine-free. Swine producers, exhibitors, feed industry participants, and transportation participants all maintain a role when meeting the packer specification for ractopamine-free swine. Steps you can take as a pig producer and industry participant to assist removal of ractopamine from your pigs' feed and environment, and which may provide access to ractopamine-free markets, are outlined below.

What is Ractopamine Hydrochloride?

A beta-adrenergic agonist that when fed according to label directions can improve pig growth rate, carcass composition and feed conversion efficiency.

What does Ractopamine-Free Mean?

The pig has never been fed or exposed to ractopamine sources from birth to harvest.

Ractopamine Removal (Focal Areas)

Your pig:

Whether you purchase or raise your pig, you have a responsibility to meet the packer's specifications. In the case of a ractopamine-free market, this means you have the responsibility to provide a pig that will meet the specifications and meet any testing procedure that a packer chooses. Meeting a ractopamine-free expectation means you need to understand the status of any pig(s) you purchase and/or raise on your own farm comply: 1) by not feeding or 2) by not exposing your purchased and/or home reared pigs to ractopamine in any form.

Expect your fair or exhibition to secure a signed affidavit from a parent or legal guardian stating that pigs under their control have never been offered ractopamine.

Your Feed Supply:

Do not purchase feed or top-dress products that contain ractopamine. Read the label and work directly with your feed supplier to assure that the feed you use is free of ractopamine. Be careful if you have feed left over from a previous group that may contain ractopamine. Left over feeds with a potential to be containing or previously exposed to ractopamine in storage will need to be discarded. Be aware of top-dress products in your feed supply storage areas. These products are more concentrated, and even in very small amounts, can lead to cross contamination concerns if contact is made with other feed, bags, tools, feeders, etc.

If you produce your feed on your farm and you have previously added ractopamine to your feeds, your job cleaning up is a bit harder. Home grinders, mixers, augers, feed storage units, etc. that have been exposed to ractopamine may carry residual dust in any compartment. These small particles often cling to surfaces due to electrostatic forces and can cross-contaminate when not fully cleaned between batches.

To clean an on-farm feed production and processing system, consider the following: 1. Remove clean-out doors and empty all compartments. 2. Consider using a vacuum to collect small particles, 3. Dry wipe with cloth and 4. Use water, detergents/soap, and a thorough clean

water rinse to remove any remaining material. Note: water is not always friendly to feed mixing and processing equipment and a thorough drying process prior to the next batch will be necessary to avoid molds. Also, remember to lubricate any grease fittings, bearings, etc. as water can shorten their lifespan. Finally, grind, mix, or auger a plain feed ingredient, such as corn, in a small quantity to flush the system. Proper disposal of flushed grain is important.

Your Feeders, Pans, Feed Tanks:

The primary concern with feeders, pans and feed tanks, etc. is residual or left-over feed or feed dust that may have contained ractopamine. Feeders, pans and feed tanks should be thoroughly cleaned with a detergent or soap and water, disinfected and dried prior to adding new feed. Because feed and the pigs' saliva create a biofilm on surfaces, it is very important to use a cleaning product that will dissolve this biofilm.

Your Pig's Environment:

Any porous material, penning, gating, fans and fan housings, and residual manure/bedding have a risk for containing ractopamine if you have fed it in the past. Even your shoes and boots can be a risk. Thorough cleaning with a detergent or soap and water, disinfecting, and drying will help reduce the risk.

If you have pigs in the same environment but intend to feed a diet with and without ractopamine, be certain to not allow urine, feces, bedding materials, or feed to cross-contaminate the groups. Cross-contamination risk is tremendous if they attempt to feed some of your pigs a diet containing ractopamine and others a diet free of ractopamine.

Trailers (Transport to Exhibition):

Remember to do a complete wash, disinfection and drying of transport trailers and vehicles between loads/transport of pigs. If you have pigs of unknown status, pen separate from others in the trailer to the best of your ability. Maintaining separation of feces, urine, and bedding materials is not easy, thus understand there can be risks of cross-contamination. Clean and disinfect between species when hauling cattle and swine to avoid cross contamination from cattle that may have been fed ractopamine. Proper transport cleanliness will reduce risk of ractopamine contamination and can improve pig health. As with the pig's environment, if you have part of your herd fed ractopamine and part remaining free, segregation on the trailer and in any other venue is critical to avoid cross-contamination.

At Exhibition:

The assumption is that other exhibitors and their parents/guardians/friends are honest and are following the established rules. Do the right thing! Don't offer ractopamine if the rules indicate this is not acceptable for the fair or exhibition because of the market access

endpoint for these pigs.

Trailers (Transport to Packing Plants):

Use only trailers that have been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and dried prior to loading. Use truckers that have met Transport Quality Assurance Training (TQA) standards. Transporters certified in TQA understand the biosecurity and food security obligations that are responsible for in transport. Use only fresh shavings (or sand in hot months) as bedding materials as they originate from sources that would not likely ever have exposure to ractopamine.

Testing for Ractopamine

Product testing to assure the safety of ractopamine when fed at approved levels and duration have been completed in collaboration with the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), and tolerance levels for acceptability in human food are established. Testing technology advances have allowed detection of ractopamine at levels much less than those deemed safe by the FDA for human consumption. Packers have the right and the ability to test pigs they purchase and can use the testing precision and frequency that they determine meets the requirements of their markets.

Published studies have indicated that ractopamine presence in hair has been proven at 42 days post removal of ractopamine when fed at an approved level. Elimination of ractopamine from the body is primarily through urine, with studies confirming a detectable presence of ractopamine in urine of animals for up to seven days following the feeding of ractopamine at an approved level. Saliva is another fluid that can be used to detect ractopamine presence; however, the duration of ractopamine presence in saliva is not fully known.

Fairs that need to ensure ractopamine free pigs may be asked by processors to test fair animals. Be prepared for that to occur.

Take Home Points

- Ractopamine-free means that a pig has never been fed or exposed to ractopamine – from the time of birth to the time of market.
- Owners maintain responsibility for meeting market specifications and fair/exhibition rules.
- Youth swine projects reflect the swine industry's commitment to the WeCare® principles that provide the basis for consumer trust in the way you raise pigs and the safety and wholesomeness of the pork they purchase.
- Plan ahead to determine what kind of approved products you can feed your pigs and still have a market available to you.
- If you utilize ractopamine products in raising pigs, your market access maybe limited.



Show Pig Nutrition

Source: Kansas State Show Pig Guide (2019) and used with permission from Dr. Joel DeRouchey, Kansas State University

Starting your pig off right

- Allow free access to feed and clean water at all times
- From 50 to 150 pounds a 1.20% to 1.30% total lysine diet is generally fed
- From 150 pounds until show day, a diet from 0.90 to 1.0% total lysine should be more than sufficient to meet the pigs needs for proper development.

Rules of thumb in determining feed costs:

1. The average amount that your pig will grow a day is between 1.7 and 2.0 pounds.
2. The average amount of feed your pig will consume a day is between 5 and 7 pounds per day.

****The amount of feed that it will take to feed a pig from 50 pounds is as follows (Assuming a 3:1 feed conversation; that is, for every three pounds of feed your pig eats, they will gain one pound of weight)

Ending Weight	Amount of Feed
240 lbs.	570 lbs.
250 lbs.	600 lbs.
260 lbs.	630 lbs.
270 lbs.	660 lbs.
280 lbs.	690 lbs.

Ideal situation

- Place on full feed from time of purchase or weaning until show day
- Reality is this situation rarely occurs, and an alteration in daily feed intake by the pig is often a necessity to maximize appearance of your pig.

How do I push the pig to gain more weight in a small amount of time?

- Feed the pig 4 to 6 small portions a day
- If your pig has a low appetite, adding a liquid fat (any vegetable oil) or dry fat (sold by all show pig feed dealers) to the diet can help add needed weight as the pig is consuming a higher level of energy that can be used for weight gain.
- **Consequences of this type of feeding program**
 - Increased average daily gain
 - Maximum potential for muscle deposition will occur
 - An increased amount of body fat will develop due to the pig simply putting on more weight in a shorter period of time

- Pigs will generally look very “full” as a larger middle section will develop which may or may not be desirable for your pig
- **When is the best time to push your pig for increased daily gain?**
 - Between 125 to 210 pounds
 - Pigs during this stage are developing muscle in a higher proportion compared to fat in the body

How do I properly lower daily gains to prevent an excessively heavy pig?

- If you determine your pig is going to be too big for your show, allow them to stay on full feed until they reach 130-150 pounds.
 - Now is the time to slow the pigs growth rate
- You must lower the feed intake and hand feed each day
 - However, you must feed enough to meet the maintenance requirement (see chart below)
- Feeding at maintenance level will not stunt growth, simply prevent additional growth and maintain body weight
 - In this situation, you would still want to target a slower growth rate, such as 1 pound/day., rather than feeding a strict maintenance level.

NEVER feed below the maintenance requirement of your pig

Maintenance requirements by body weight

Weight, lb.	Complete feed required, lb.	Mcal, ME	Lysine requirement, g/d
150	2.1	3.21	0.9
160	2.2	3.34	0.9
170	2.3	3.46	0.9
180	2.4	3.58	1.0
190	2.5	3.70	1.0
200	2.5	3.81	1.1
210	2.6	3.93	1.1
220	2.7	4.04	1.1
230	2.8	4.15	1.2
240	2.8	4.26	1.2
250	2.9	4.36	1.3
260	3.0	4.46	1.3
270	3.0	4.57	1.3
280	3.1	4.67	1.4
290	3.2	4.77	1.4

Lb. of corn = 1.55 Mcal, ME; 1 lb. of SBM = 1.53 Mcal of ME

The amount of feed per day listed in the chart does not seem like very much feed at all, what can I do so the pig is not so hungry all the time?

- Remember, the amount in the chart is for no weight gain, you can increase that amount to grow the pig slowly, which is the recommended practice, not just holding at the same weight.
- You can feed a portion of the ration as rolled oats or a fibrous ingredient such as beet pulp, whole oats, wheat middlings or soybean hulls. This will add bulk and make the pig feel fuller after the meal but only add a small amount of energy.
 - Show feed suppliers offer various holding supplement products or complete rations to help with this issue.
- But... fibrous ingredients themselves do not provide enough protein (amino acids) to meet the body needs... so you must use these in combination with the normal ration to meet the dietary needs. In addition, you may provide a top dress protein additive.
- It is recommended that pigs are weighed a minimum of twice per week to determine progress of the holding period.

Do I need to top dress with additional protein, vitamins or mineral sources when I am holding my pig?

- Generally, no if your pig is 150-200 pounds. However, prolonged restricted feeding longer than 14 days decreases the level of nutrients for a longer period, which may start to make the pig look stale and begin to lose muscle shape.
 - However, show feed suppliers offer supplements that can be used during holding periods to ensure all the proper nutrients are still consumed by your pig.
- When holding your pig above 200 pounds, a supplement or top dress will be needed to prevent your pig from looking stale or to prevent muscle loss.
- Typically, the most economical protein source to top dress with is soybean meal. Other sources that can be used include dried whey, dried egg, and various commercial supplements.
 - Soybean meal is generally the least expensive and matches the pig's needs for daily protein very well
- In addition, restriction of feed intake will lower the amount of vitamins and minerals coming into the body. A maintenance diet will not cause deficiencies...but...we should supply additional vitamins and minerals to the pig to prevent body losses.
- When you are done holding, gradually over three to four days increase the feed amount until they are back on full feed.
- Pigs will compensate for some of the weight restriction by gaining faster the week after they are brought back up on feed, so monitor closely their weight gain.
 - If a pig has been restricted from feed for over 2 weeks, it is not uncommon they will weight 20-30 pounds heavier if given full feed for just one week.

What if I purchase the right size of pig and determine at a weight over 200 pounds that the pig is going to be too big?

- Start to reduce the amount of feed intake as soon as possible
- When holding in this weight range, you should top dress with a protein product/supplement.
- Never feed below the energy maintenance requirement
- Use a fibrous ingredient to help "bulk" the ration to increase the amount of feed fed each day so the pig does not become shallow in appearance.
- Exercise, exercise, exercise
 - Your pig will burn calories when exercised. You should exercise every other day for 20-30 minutes which will help reduce weight gain and keep your pig feeling good during this time.
- Weigh pigs twice weekly at a minimum during this time period to monitor weight adjustments.

It is 2 weeks before the show and my pig is already at the ideal weight, now what?

- Crucial management is now required. This situation is the most unwanted by all pig showmen, and you can do the most harm to the appearance of the pig if you do not pay close attention.
- For one week, feed the pig at or just above maintenance, supply a protein top dress, and exercise daily. Also, add a high fiber ingredient or supplement to keep the pig full and not get a hollow appearance.
- After week one, bring pig back up on feed, continuing to feed a protein top dress to bring back a fresh appearance.
- NEVER use water restriction as a way to reduce body weight.
- Possibly use water electrolytes during these two weeks to help reduce any staleness that may occur.

Make sure as you strategize your feeding plan, utilize a nutritionist with the feed company your using. They may be able to suggest types of products and how to use for optimal results. Make sure to adhere to all label requirements in terms of use, route, stage of development and all other food animal use requirements.