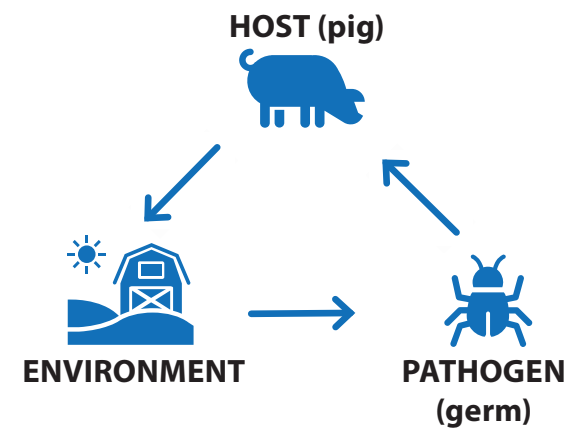


SECTION 7

SWINE HEALTH

- Regardless of herd size, consult a veterinarian to develop a farm-specific herd health program.
- Herd health includes biosecurity, treatment records, vaccination, deworming, farrowing, breeding, and euthanasia.
- Become familiar with identifying normal versus abnormal behaviours (e.g., lying, vocal, play).
- Be aware of normal versus abnormal clinical signs (e.g., back, hair, ears, eyes, breathing).
- Three primary principles of disease spread include host, pathogen, and environment.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with pigs (e.g., gloves, masks, boots, ear plugs).
- Disease management involves prevention, identification, diagnosis, and treatment.
- There are many common diseases related to outdoor (small lot) pig production.
- Recognize the signs of a foreign animal disease (FAD) and report to a veterinarian immediately.
- B.C. government provides comprehensive veterinary testing (diagnostic) services.



SECTION 8

BIOSECURITY

- Biosecurity is a systematic approach to prevent and control the spread of diseases.
- Diseases can transport to and from a farm on pigs, vehicles, people, footwear, and via feed.
- Always clean footwear and change clothing when returning from off-farm sites.
- Have barn or pig-pen specific footwear.
- Frequently clean equipment, buckets, tools, feeders, and vehicles that have been off-farm.



- Display VISITOR signage in prominent locations to prevent unauthorized access to pigs and farm.
- Always consider auction barns and slaughter plants as high-risk areas for disease spread.
- Always wash and disinfect any vehicle and trailer after a trip to an auction barn or slaughter plant before returning to a farm.
- Use double fencing with pig-specific fencing to keep pigs in and predators out.
- Establish a disease surveillance and reporting plan in consultation with a veterinarian.

SECTION 9

WILD & FERAL PIGS IN CANADA

- Wild pigs are the most prolific, highly invasive, large mammal species in Canada with the majority located in the Prairie provinces.
- Wild pigs are a MAJOR concern to the health of domestic pigs, particularly those raised outdoors.
- Wild pigs are of MAJOR concern to Canada's commercial pork industry as a significant threat to pig health and international pork trade.
- All pigs with access to the outdoors should have strong double fencing of 12.5-gauge hinge lock mesh fencing to prevent pigs from escaping and to prevent nose-to-nose contact with wild pigs.
- Wild pigs can be host to at least 89 bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases which can be transferred to livestock, wildlife, and humans.
- In Asia, Europe, and Africa, wild pigs have been identified as carriers of economically devastating diseases like African swine fever (ASF).
- In high numbers, wild pigs can cause serious damage to natural ecosystems and agricultural crops, and pose significant health and safety risks to people, livestock, wildlife, and pets.
- Sightings of wild pigs in B.C. should be reported at gov.bc.ca/invasive-species.



SECTION 10

MARKETING HOGS

- Raising a pig to market weight can take anywhere from 6 months to 2 years depending on breed and management conditions.
- Breed, type of feed, weather, housing conditions, and health can influence time to market weight.
- Slaughter plants are either federally registered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) or are provincially licensed.
- B.C. slaughter and meat processing plants are regulated under the *Food Safety Act: Meat Inspection Regulations*.
- Slaughter plants are HIGH RISK sites for disease spread due to multiple sources mixing at the same place.
- Following recommended biosecurity practices at slaughter plants cannot be stressed enough.
- Prior to slaughter, consider the following:
 - Intended consumer
 - Slaughter plant class
 - Carcass goals
 - Transportation
 - Animal health and readiness
 - BOOK an abattoir well in advance of intended slaughter date to ensure animals can be slaughtered when market ready.
- Key areas of safe food production include:
 - Healthy pre-slaughter conditions
 - Pre-slaughter evaluation and preparation
 - Post-slaughter evaluation
 - Safe pork preparation



SECTION 11

TRANSPORTING PIGS

- Transportation can be a stressful time for animals as well as for owners.
- Transporting pigs safely and humanely requires the right person, the right vehicle, the right pigs, on the right days, for the right amount of time.
- Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation (current 2001 Code to be updated by 2023).
- Be aware of federal (Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations*) and provincial laws around transporting animals.
- It is important to be trained by someone experienced in order to acquire the proper knowledge and skill sets to safely and humanely transport pigs.
- Use only equipment and conveyances designed, constructed, and maintained for the safe handling and transport of pigs.
- Maximum transport time for a pig is 28 hours.
- Withdraw feed from pigs 3 to 4 hours prior to loading for subsequent transport.
- Federal law prohibits loading, confining, and transporting an unfit animal.
- Use the "Should this Pig be Loaded?" Decision Tree in the B.C. Small Lot Pork Producer Resource Manual (2020).



SECTION 12

HUMANE EUTHANASIA

- Consult with a veterinarian to develop an on-farm euthanasia plan and to obtain the necessary tools to perform the plan.
- A humane euthanasia is achieved when there is minimal pain, fear, and distress for the animal.
- Those responsible for euthanizing pigs should be trained in the appropriate euthanasia methods.
- Most realistic methods used on small scale farms include:
 - Blunt force trauma
 - Penetration captive bolt
 - Gunshot
 - Anesthetic overdose given by a veterinarian
- Not all methods are appropriate for all pig sizes.



SECTION 13

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Emergency preparedness is very important for every farm operation – small lot and commercial.
- Be aware of emergencies caused by an animal disease outbreak, fire, flood, earthquake, building collapse, and chemical spills.
- Farm owners are responsible for the safety and security of their livestock and farm employees.
- Develop a written emergency management plan and discuss with everyone on the farm.
- Maintain a current list of emergency contacts.
- For further information regarding emergency management resources, see animalhealth.ca.

Small Lot Pork Producer Management & Production



INSTRUCTIONS

This brochure provides an overview of the types of resource materials and information that were developed in 2020 specifically for small lot pork producers.

Small Lot Pork Producer Management and Production

Among these resources is a NEW resource manual titled “Small Lot Pork Producer Management and Production”. This 13-section manual includes in-depth coverage of topics relevant to small lot pork production including: legislation, getting started in pigs, production economics, housing, nutrition, management, reproduction, stages of production, health, biosecurity, marketing pigs, transporting pigs, humane euthanasia, emergency management, and wild pigs.

Each panel in this brochure includes bullets from each section of the manual. The intent is to provide insights into the level of content detail and to encourage viewers to source the manual and download a web copy.

Enterprise Budget Calculator for Small Lot and Commercial Pork Producers

Also available is a NEW budgeting spreadsheet titled “Enterprise Budget Calculator for Small Lot and Commercial Pork Producers”. This Excel calculator was customized to allow the user to input farm data for a wide variety of production scenarios (i.e., just weanling sales, just market hog sales, just carcass meat sales, or any combination of the three). The calculator permits the user to input as much or as little information as desired. This Enterprise Budget Calculator aligns with the Enterprise Budget Worksheets located in Section 3: Production Economics of the Resource Manual.

Small lot pork producers are highly encouraged to view and/or download the Resource Manual and the Enterprise Budget Calculator at the following two links:

B.C. Pork website: www.bcpork.ca
(click on tab titled Small Lot Pork Producers)

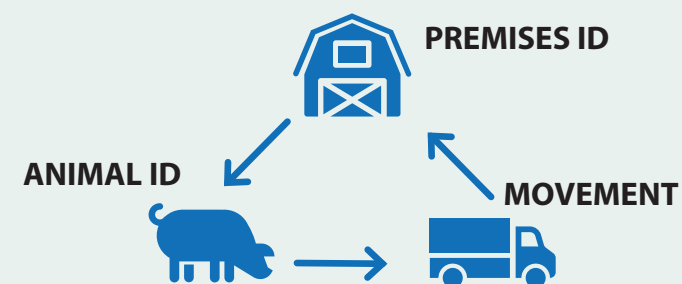
B.C. AGRI website: www2.gov.bc.ca/agri
(search for Small Lot Pork Producer, then click Pork - Province of British Columbia)

Contact your B.C. Ministry of Agriculture Regional Agrologist to request a complimentary copy of the Resource Manual.

SECTION 1

SWINE LEGISLATION

- Anyone raising pigs in Canada MUST register with the national PigTRACE program.
- PigTRACE registration can be done at pigtrace.ca.
- PigTRACE has three components:
 - Location (Premises ID)
 - Identification (Animal ID)
 - Movement (Movement Reporting)
- Premises ID is managed by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture.
- Register for Premises ID at gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram.
- A “Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs” is available at nfacc.ca and should be downloaded and read by all pig producers.
- The Code is published by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC).
- Animal welfare in B.C. is regulated under the provincial government’s *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act)*.
- The B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is the only animal welfare organization in B.C. with the authority to enforce the *PCA Act*.
- Many other legislative Acts exist in B.C. that are relevant to small lot pork producers:
 - Water Sustainability & Water Protection Acts*
 - Environmental Management Act*
 - Food Safety Act*
 - Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*
 - Local Government Act*



SECTION 2

GETTING STARTED

- Pigs require a lot of work and a basic level of understanding of their needs. Set realistic goals and expectations about raising pigs beforehand.
- Research the characteristics of various breeds: growth rate, mature weight range, fat marbling, meat flavour, dressing percentage, litter size, temperament, and that they possess body characteristics suitable for outdoor production.
- MANDATORY: must have a valid B.C. Premises ID number, be registered with PigTrace, and report all swine movements online within 7 days.
- Pigs may be bought and sold locally: online sales, auction marts, or through direct on-farm sales or purchases.
- Beginners in pig production should start with feeders (i.e. weaned pigs) until they become more familiar with all aspects of pig production.
- Regardless of herd size, keep detailed records to monitor farm performance, manage disease, herd health, and for animal selection.



SECTION 3

PRODUCTION ECONOMICS

- Understanding production economics is essential to the financial viability of the farm.
- Collecting, organizing, analyzing, and understanding the farm’s financial data is essential to strong financial decision-making.
- Enterprise budgeting provides an estimate of profits from revenues and costs to produce and sell a specific product over a set period of time.

SECTION 4

HOUSING & MANAGEMENT

- There are many ways to house pigs – from 100% outside shelters, to a small barn, to a combination of indoor and outdoor access.
- Ensure adequate space is available depending on number and body weights of pigs housed.
- Access to suitable bedding and wallowing areas is important to animal health and body cooling.
- Prevent nose-to-nose contact with wildlife by constructing double hog-specific fencing.
- Areas to accommodate supplemental heat for newborns is important to survival and health.
- For indoors, select and position lighting that has the proper intensity, duration, and distribution.
- For indoors, ventilation should provide continued fresh air at all times, but without drafts.
- Regular and thorough cleaning of equipment and pens to reduce pathogens and combat diseases is important.
- A robust rodent and pest control program is important to control disease transfer.
- Develop a clear understanding of pig handling and behaviour.



SECTION 5

NUTRITION & FEEDING MANAGEMENT

- Readily available supply of quality water is an ESSENTIAL component of the diet.
- Various homemade and commercial feed troughs and buckets can be used, but they need to be secured, accessible, spacious, and swept clean of old feed before filling with new feed.



- Different age and body weight groups of pigs require different diets.
- Common problems in small lot pork production includes underfeeding and not feeding a proper diet according to age group and body weight.
- Improper nutrition can cause a wide range of nutritional diseases.
- Do not feed kitchen wastes or food scraps that may contain meat to pigs.
- Under federal legislation it is illegal to feed meat to pigs (e.g., food waste containing meat).
- Under federal legislation it is illegal to feed international waste to pigs (e.g., leftover garbage from ships and airplanes).
- Serious diseases like African swine fever (ASF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) can survive several months in contaminated meat products.

SECTION 6

THE PIG – WHAT TO EXPECT

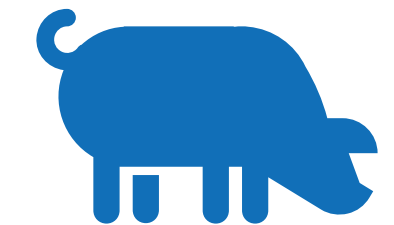
- Basic definitions:
 - Weaner – from birth to about 50 days of age
 - Feeder – high growth stage after 50 days
 - Finisher – final growth stage before market
 - Gilt – female pig less than 6-9 months of age intended for breeding that has not been bred
 - Sow – female pig that is pregnant or has given birth to a litter of pigs
 - Boar – uncastrated male pig for breeding
- Age at puberty is breed-specific with females about 6 to 7 months and males about 12 months.
- Heat cycle averages 21 days but can vary from 18 to 24 days.
- Normal gestation period is 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days (or 116 days on average).
- Farrowing requires a maternity area that is clean, draft-free, and has dry fresh bedding. Supplemental heat may be necessary to keep newborns warm.
- Farrowing can last from 1 to 6 hours, where ideally piglets are born 15 to 20 minutes apart.
- Litter size varies among breed and genetics, ranging from 4 to 20 liveborn piglets with an average of about 10 to 12 piglets per litter.
- Weaning can vary from as little as 3 weeks under excellent management up to 7 weeks of age.



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Thank you to the many subject matter experts who reviewed and contributed material to the Small Lot Pork Producer Management and Production Resource Manual from which information was extracted for this brochure. Special recognition to Prairie Swine Health Services (PSHS) who were contracted to develop the resource manual.



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