Introduction to Swine Production

Pictures from martinlittle.com:gallery
Objectives

- Know the purposes of pigs
- How to differentiate breeds
- Learn the swine production cycle
- Be able to name major diseases/issues facing the swine industry today
The Basics

- Scientific Name
  - *Sus domesticus*
  - Porcine

- Classifications
  - Boar
  - Sow
  - Gilt
  - Barrow

Picture from McDonnell & Co. International
More of the Basics

- Major producers worldwide
  - China, US, Brazil, Germany
- 61.2 million hogs in the United States as of Dec. 05
  - IA has the most with 14.4 million hogs
  - NC, MN, IL, MO, OK
Purpose

• 31.2 lbs per capita in the US in 2001

• 1.87 billion pounds in January 06 alone
What make a good carcass?

- Trimness
- Muscling
- Quality

Picture from Manitoba Hog and Poultry Days
What makes a good market hog?
Breeds of Hogs

- White vs. dark breeds
- Maternal vs. Terminal breeds

Pictures from Burzlaff Show Pigs and Cain Farms
Breed Identifiers

- Color
  - Watch for “points”

- Head
  - Ears

Pictures from: Conover Show Pigs, Eddie Farms, Olson Spot Farm, Stephens Farm
Stages of Production

- Breeding
- Gestation
- Farrowing
- Weaning
- Feeder/Market Hog
- Replacement

Picture from Comfortable Quarters for pigs in Research Institutions
Breeding Season

- May occur at any time of the year
- Natural vs. AI
  - More common method?
- Estrous Cycle
  - 21 days

Pictures from: www.angrin.tlri.gov.tw and ukagriculture.com
Breeding Management

- **Flushing**
  - Feeding the sows/gilts more before breeding to increase the number of eggs ovulated

- **Estrus Synchronization**
  - Giving hormones to induce estrus

- **Heat Detection**
  - Very important!!!!!!
  - What are some signs of heat?
Gestation

- 112-115 days (3 mo, 3 wks, 3 days)

- Feed sow/gilts enough to maintain weight and BF
  (4-5#/day 1 & 2 trimester
  5-7#/day 3rd trimester)
Farrowing crates
Litter size ~ 8-15 piglets
Birth Weight ~ 2-3 lbs
Grafting may be done if necessary
Sows will need to be fed more ~ 14-20#
Newborn Processing

- Identification
  - Ear notches
- Clip needle teeth
- Dock tail
- Give shots
  - Iron
Weaning

- **SEW System**
  - Segregated Early Weaning
    - Wean pigs less than 21 days old
    - Why?

- They will usually be moved to a nursery
Feeder/Market Hogs

- Feeder pig
  - Weight ~ 50 lbs
- Market hog
  - Weight ~ 250 lbs
- Not a seasonal market
Replacement Gilts

- Identify culls due to problems
  - Structure
  - EPDs
  - Underlines bad
- Breed gilts at 5-6 mo of age

Picture from Waldo Farms
Other Management Practices

- Vaccinations
- Biosecurity
  - All-in-all-out
Issues in the Swine Industry
Disease

- PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome)
  - Causes abortions, mummified fetuses, stillborns
  - No treatment but can vaccinate
  - Can cause major losses in herd population and in income

Picture from avma.org
Manure Management

- Will always be a big problem for hog producers
- Causes problems with neighbors
- No real fix for this problem
Animal Right Laws

- Laws may be passed regulating:
  - Gestation stalls
  - Farrowing crates
  - Vertical integration
  - Etc.

- These things will alter the way that we produce hogs and will have a significant affect
Questions???