

HighPoint

# Choosing Your Fair Pig

Newaygo County Fair  
Swine Department

# STEP ONE: Know Your Fair Dates

Choosing a piglet for fair starts with knowing how much time you have to get your animal to your preferred size.

Average gains are 1.5 pounds per day.

You can use this to calculate how big your pig needs to be when purchasing in order to be the size you want it to be at your fair.

# STEP TWO: Choosing The Right Pig

## 1. Heavy muscled

- Base width (width at the chest floor between the front legs)
- Top shape (definition of muscle along the loin)
- Width through the ham (width from stifle to stifle)

## 2. Structurally correct

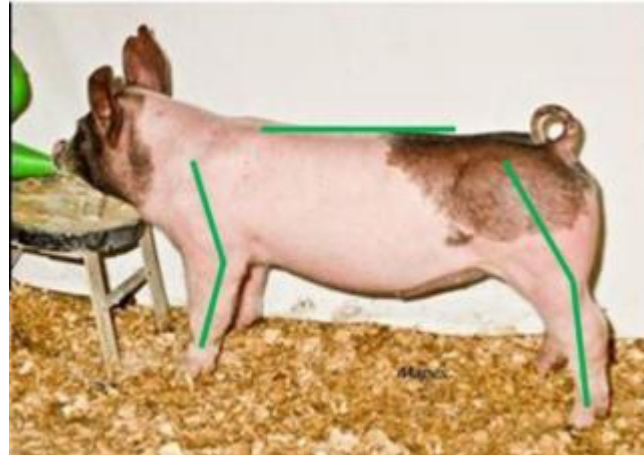
- Correct shoulder angle (has an angle to the shoulder that easily ties into the rest of the body)
- Correct set to the pastern (has enough angle to cushion to the animal's motion without being excessive)
- Ability to travel with ease (moves without restriction having the rear foot step towards in the imprint left by the front foot on each side)

## 3. Well balanced

- Proportional (the front and rear half of the animal are about the same depth)
- Correct lines (animal has a straight topline and underline)

# STEP TWO: Choosing The Right Pig

Structure: The structure of your pig will determine how muscular it can become. Ideally, you will look for a level-made pig with equal height in hips/shoulders, and legs set squarely under the chest and hips.



# STEP TWO: Choosing The Right Pig

## Muscle Build:

You should look for a pig that is set up structurally to carry large muscled hips and shoulders.

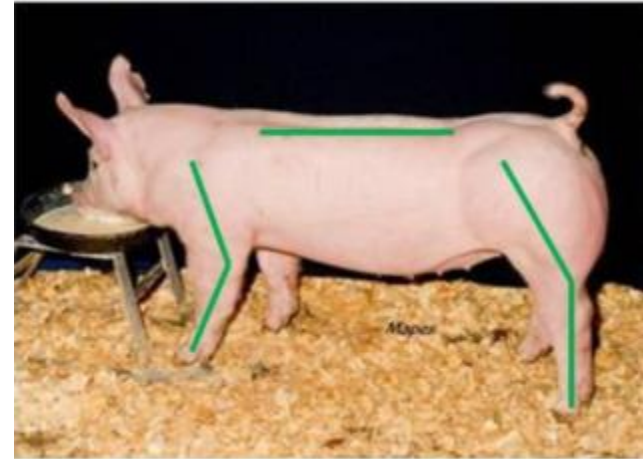
Look for definition of muscle along the loin and width at the chest floor and from stifle to stifle.



# STEP TWO: Choosing The Right Pig

Balance:

Choose a pig that looks proportionate from front and side views. Flat top line and evenly spaced limbs with a long enough side to accommodate muscle growth. Watch your prospect walk around. Choose an animal that moves fluidly.



# STEP THREE: Feeding Your Pig

Weight of Pig*	Feed Protein Content	Daily Feed Consumption
Birth to 40 pounds	At least 20%; some feeds contain as much as 30%	Less than 1.5 pounds
40 to 80 pounds	18-20%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	1.5 to 3.0 pounds
80 to 150 pounds	16-18%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	3.0-5.5 pounds
150 pounds and up	14-16%; feed the higher percentage unless scours develops	5.5-7.5 pounds

When purchasing your fair project, be sure to ask what kind of feed it is currently on so you can purchase it and transition to a new feed to avoid digestive upset when switching.

<https://www.wyoming4h.org/4hsublette/wp-content/uploads/L2-Market-Swine-Getting-Started.pdf>

# Nutrition

We are offering a clinic in April to discuss more in-depth on the best nutrition choices to help your pig achieve its highest potential.