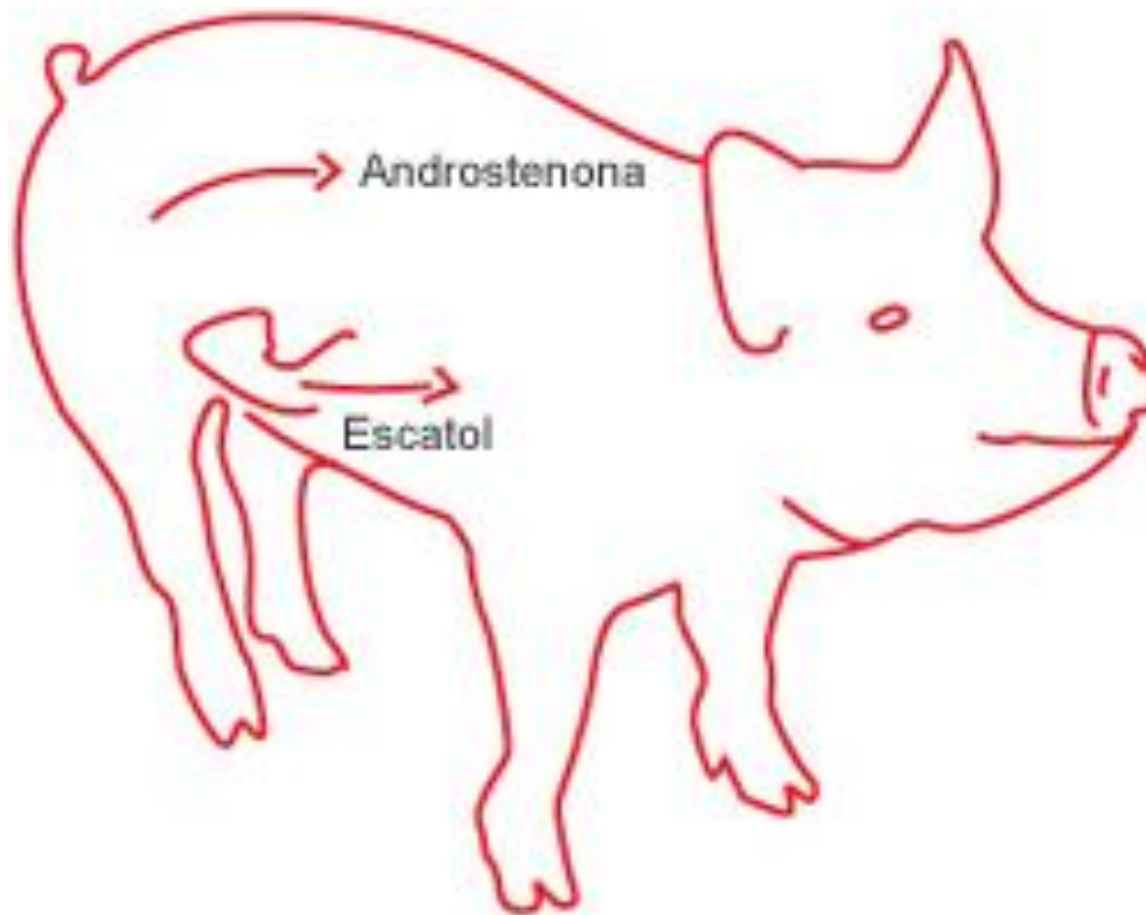


Breeding Pigs...Is It Right for you Operation???



What About Boar Taint???



Pre-breeding Management

- ▶ Must decide on a breeding system
 - ▶ Crossbreeding hogs for slaughter is recommended
- ▶ Crossbred pigs generally grow faster and use feed more efficiently, and sows produce larger litters if hybridized



- ▶ Your Production must match your marketing needs and season

Multiple Farrowing vs. Seasonal Farrowing

Multiple	Seasonal
Labor needed all year	Labor needs condensed
Product all year	Seasonal or highly managed product
Breeding out of season	Breeding with nature
Less intensive Processing Issues	Processing Issues

Replacement Gilts

- ▶ Select at 4-5 months of age
- ▶ Separate from finishing hogs and feed separately
- ▶ Worm gilts and sows before first breeding
- ▶ Spray for external parasites

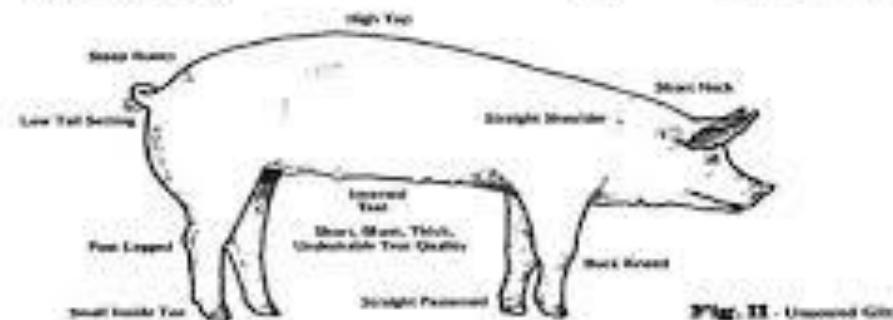
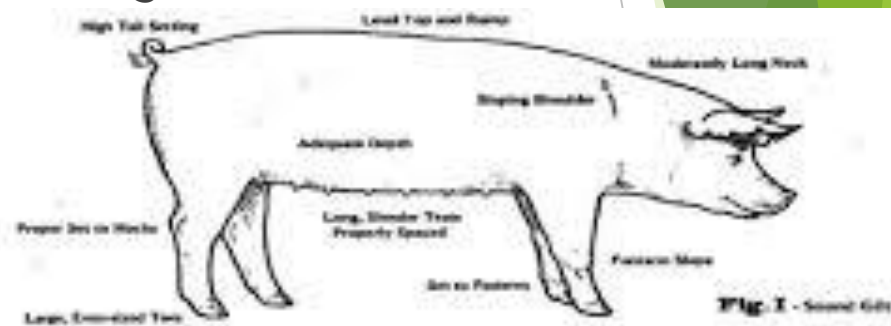


Illustration by: Oklahoma State University, USA

- ▶ Most producers do not buy in gilts since litters are so large
- ▶ [Systems Map](#)

Boars

- ▶ Purchase at least 45-60 days before use
- ▶ Buy only from healthy, purebred herds with good performance records (Check out the rest of the farm)
- ▶ Isolate the boar when he is first brought to the farm to help prevent disease
- ▶ Treat for internal and external parasites
- ▶ 1 boar for 20 sows....eh more like 15



Increasing conception and litter size

- ▶ Can be done by using more than one boar on each female
- ▶ This is easier when hand-mating or using artificial insemination
- ▶ Can also be accomplished with pen breeding
 - ▶ Rotate the boars once a day between pens



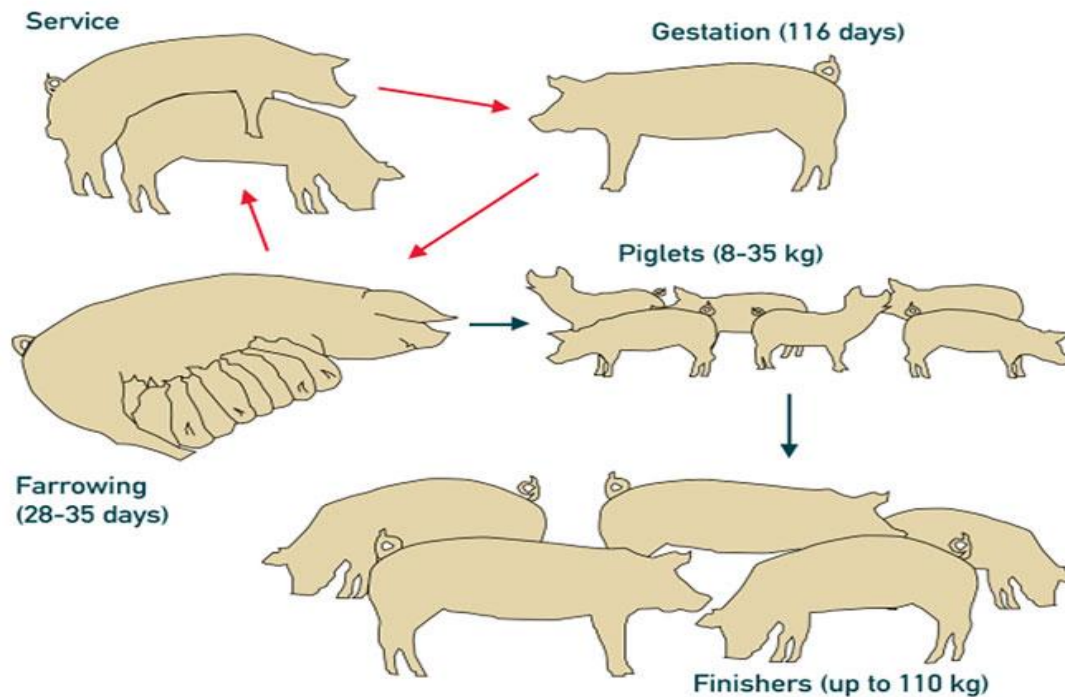
Artificial Insemination

- ▶ Not widely used in the past
- ▶ Improvements in technology are trending toward more use of AI in commercial herds
- ▶ Advantages
 - ▶ Increases the ability to bring preferred genetics to the herd
 - ▶ Reduces the risk of disease transmission
 - ▶ Makes it possible to bring new bloodlines into the herd
- ▶ Disadvantages
 - ▶ Costs and expertise
 - ▶ Slowest sperm wins
 - ▶ Inducing heat and decreased success

Breeding-Gestation Period

- ▶ Breed gilts at 7-8 months of age and a weight of 250-300 pounds
- ▶ Breed during the second heat for larger litters
- ▶ Boars should be 7 ½ months of age before breeding

Production cycle



Breeding

- ▶ Check for standing heat at least 1 X day
 - ▶ Checking 2 X's day increases conception rate
- ▶ Breed gilts at least twice at 12 hour intervals after standing heat is detected
- ▶ Breed sows at least twice at 24 hour intervals after standing heat is detected



Gestation

- ▶ Keep gilts and sows separate
- ▶ Boars of the same size and age can be run together during the off-breeding season
 - ▶ Do not run boars of different ages together
- ▶ Provide shade to animals on pasture
- ▶ Avoid overheating
- ▶ Supply plenty of fresh water
- ▶ Keep the breeding separate from the other hogs to avoid disease



Farrowing Period

- ▶ Behavior determines when a sow is about to farrow
- ▶ Most sows farrow within about six hours after they begin a period of intensive activity
 - ▶ Intensive activity is when a sow stands up and lies down more often than once per minute
- ▶ Sows will also root and paw at the pen floor when they are ready to begin farrowing
- ▶ 3 Months 3 Weeks 3 Days and 3 AM
- ▶ Pig Nesting Behavior

Farrowing Period

- ▶ Farrowing can be induced by giving the sow commercially available drugs 111-113 days after breeding, the sow will farrow 18-36 hours later
- ▶ Why would we do this?



Crate or No Crate??



Farrowing Facilities

- ▶ Guard rails and artificial heat are used to protect the baby pigs after birth
- ▶ For newborn pigs the temperature should be 90-95 degrees F under the heat lamp
- ▶ Heat maps are placed 18" above the pigs
- ▶ After 4-5 days the temperature is lowered to 80-85 degrees F by raising the heat lamp



Caring for Baby Pigs

- ▶ Many are saved by the operator being present at farrowing time
 - ▶ Sows need assistance
 - ▶ Piglets trapped in after-birth can be saved
- ▶ Baby pigs must be kept warm and dry
- ▶ This is where you vet kit
Comes in handy!
- ▶ [Video](#)



Caring for Baby Pigs

- Clip needle teeth
- Done with disinfected clippers
- Pigs less than 2 days old, clip needle teeth at the gum line
- Pigs over 2 days old, clip $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tooth
- Avoid injuring the gum
- The navel cord should also be clipped shortly after birth to 1-1.5" and disinfected with tincture of iodine
- Are these steps necessary....depends on your management style



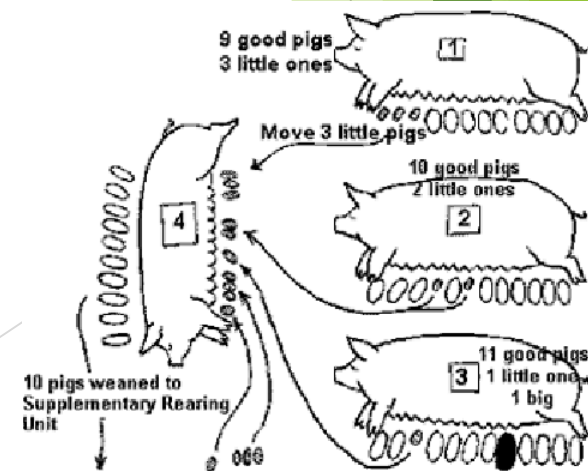
Ear Notching

- ▶ Used for identification
- ▶ Required for registration in purebred associations
- ▶ Determination of right and left ear is made from the rear



Caring for Baby Pigs

- ▶ Efforts should be made to save runs
 - ▶ Use milk replacer or other methods
 - ▶ Feed orally once or twice a day
- ▶ Litter size should equalized
 - ▶ Move pigs from large litters to small in order to make them equal.
 - ▶ Be sure that pigs nurse colostrums milk before moving them.
 - ▶ Make sure the sow has the nursing ability and the number of teats necessary for the number of pigs that are in the litter.



Farrowing to Weaning Period

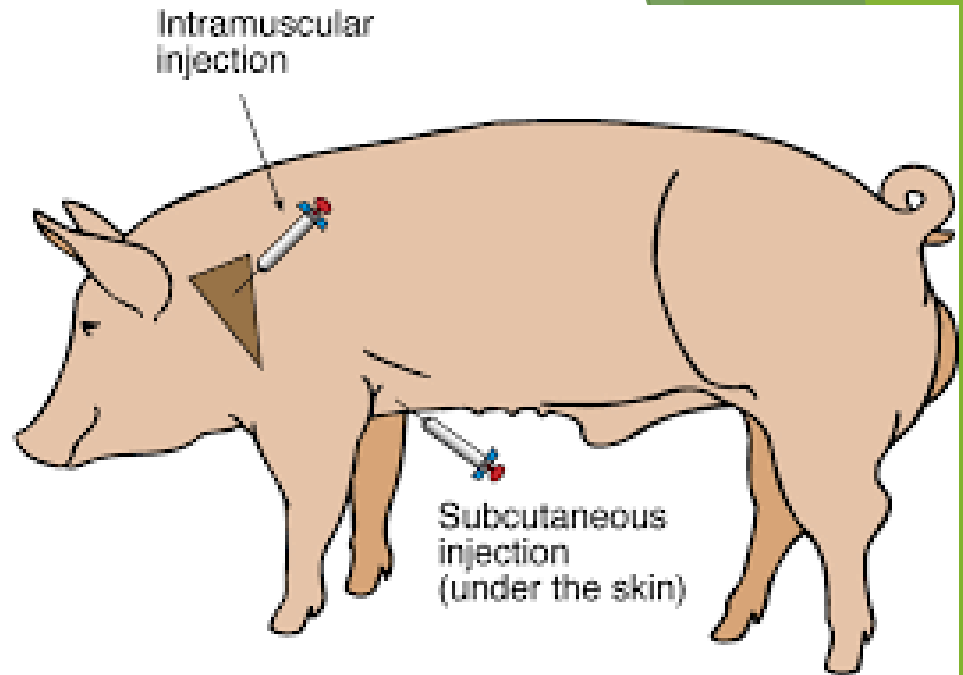
- Several important management practices
- Tail docking
 - Cutting the pigs tail $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the body
 - Done when pigs are 1-3 days old
 - Use side cutting pliers or chicken debeaker
 - Disinfect the tail stub with iodine spray and disinfect the cutter between pigs.
 - Producers of feeder pigs should always
 - Do not dock tail while pigs have scours
 - Docking the tail prevents tail biting among pigs in confinement so this procedure depends on your system

Farrowing to weaning period

- ▶ Give iron injections or oral iron doses
- ▶ Should be done at 2-4 days old
- ▶ Injections should be given in the neck or forearm
- ▶ Iron-dextran shots are given at the rate of 100-150 mg per pig
- ▶ Give a second dose at 2 wks of age
 - ▶ Iron can be added to feed or water at this time.
- ▶ Use care when giving iron shots as an overdose may cause shock

Injections

- ▶ 3 types of injections
 - ▶ Subcutaneous
 - ▶ Intramuscular
 - ▶ Intravenous
- ▶ Two sites to give an injection
 - ▶ Neck
 - ▶ Ham



Farrowing to Weaning Period

- ▶ Watch closely for scours
 - ▶ Treatments with oral drugs work better.
- ▶ Castrate male pigs that will be raised for slaughter
 - ▶ Best done when young, before 2 weeks of age is best
- ▶ **Do not castrate, vaccinate and wean all in the same period of time as it overstresses the animal.**



Weaning

- ▶ Trend towards earlier weaning
- ▶ Earlier weaning requires higher levels of management and nutrition
- ▶ Usually means pigs are weaned before 5 weeks of age
 - ▶ Average is between 5 and 8 weeks
- ▶ Pigs should weigh at least 12 pounds at the time of weaning
- ▶ Avoid drafts and great temperature change when weaning pigs
- ▶ Group pigs according to size
- ▶ Groups should be no more than 30 pigs if possible



Weaning to Market

- ▶ Most management centers around feeding and facilities
- ▶ Hogs are raised either in confinement or on pasture



OR



HATERS GONNA HATE

