

# Life Cycle **SWINE**

## FERTILIZATION



A boar will breed naturally or give semen for artificial insemination.

## GESTATION



A pig's pregnancy is approximately 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

## FARROW



A male piglet may enter the pork production cycle as a barrow or be kept as a boar for future breeding purposes.



A female piglet (gilt) may enter the pork production cycle or be kept on the farm to breed.

## NURSERY

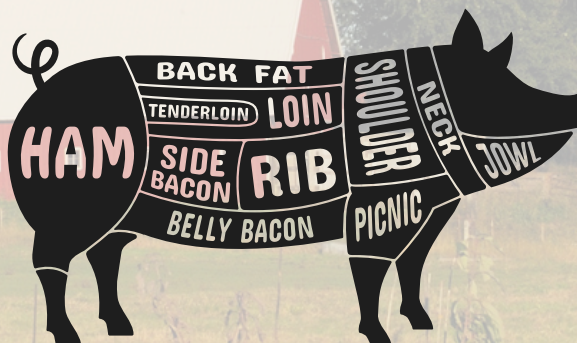


Typically a 6 to 8 week timeframe when piglets are moved into a barn to grow and eat on their own. Pigs weigh approximately 50 to 60 lbs during this phase.

## GROWING AND FINISHING



Once swine meet market weight they are sent to the packing plant.





## TERMINOLOGY:

Barrow- Castrated male pigs intended for slaughter.

Boar- Intact, sexually mature, male pigs intended for breeding purposes.

Farrowing- The process of giving birth to a litter of piglets.

Finishing pigs- Barrows and gilts from approximately 120-150 pounds to market weight for slaughter.

Gilts- Female pigs intended for slaughter or breeding purposes that have not yet farrowed a litter.

Growing pigs- Barrows and gilts from approximately 50 to 60 pounds to 120 to 150 pounds.

Market pigs- Pigs that are marketed and slaughtered for pork production. Typically these pigs are slaughtered at 5.5 to 6 months of age at 200 to 300 pounds.

Nursing pigs- Pigs from birth until weaning and still nursing.

Piglet- A newborn pig until it is weaned from a diet of milk to an all solid-feed ration.

Replacement gilt- Breeding female pigs that have not yet farrowed a litter, usually weigh 220 to 300 pounds.

Roaster pigs- Pigs of both sexes and any age marketed with the carcass unsplit and with the head intact.

Sow- A female pig that has had at least one litter of piglets.

Stags- Male pigs that are castrated at any age after reaching sexual maturity. Sexual maturity is reached at five to six months of age.

Starter or Nursery Pigs- Boars, barrows and gilts from approximately two to four weeks of age and approximately 50 to 60 pounds.

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