

Swine Feeding and Fitting Guidelines

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Know What You Are Feeding For?

- Barrows should be fed differently from Gilts.
- Market Gilts should be fed differently from Breeding Gilts
- Market Barrows (Carcass Show) should be fed differently from Show Barrows.
- Young pigs should be fed different from market ready pigs.

Pig Growth

- As the pig grows and develops they make less muscle and put on more fat cover.
- Muscle is made when the pig is (50-150 lbs).
- The pig changes from making muscle to making fat around 200 lbs.

Pig Diet

- Pigs need grain diets high in energy, low in fiber, and adequate protein.
- Corn is the main ingredient for most diets. It is high in energy, digestible and low in fiber.
- Other ingredients are added to diets for additional protein, fiber and keeping pigs healthy. (soybean meal, vitamins, minerals, fats, oats, wheat, lysine)
- Lysine is an essential ingredient that pigs need in their diet.

Lysine Levels

Table 1

Suggested crude protein and lysine requirements for growing pigs.

50 to 80 pound weight range

17 to 18 percent of crude protein

0.9 to 1.05 percent of total lysine

81 to 120 pounds

15 to 17 percent of crude protein

0.75 to 0.90 percent of total lysine

121 to 200 pounds

13 to 15 percent of crude protein

0.65 to 0.80 percent of total lysine

201 pounds to Market weight

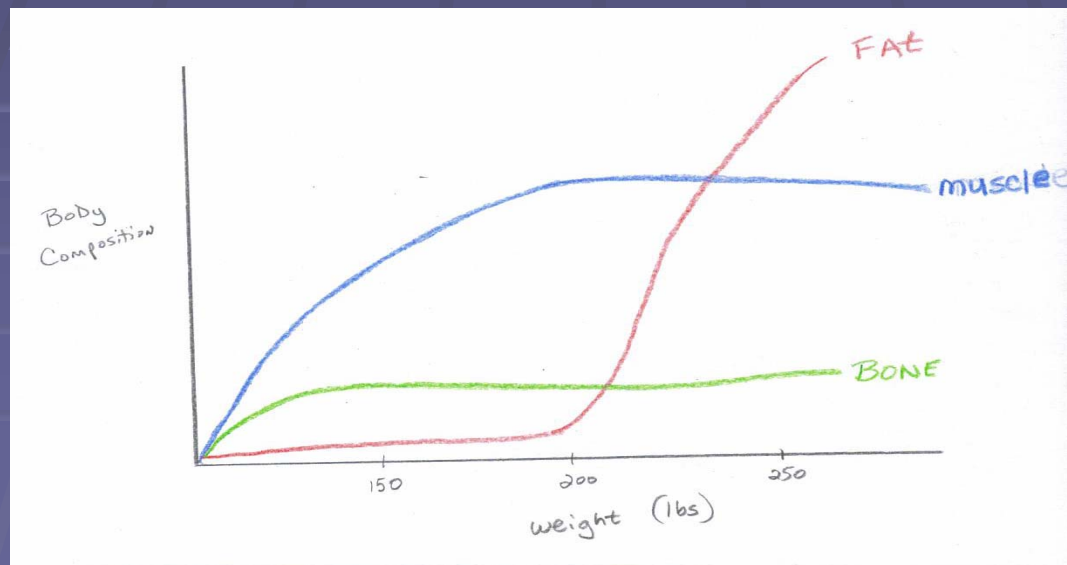
12 to 13 percent of crude protein

0.55 to 0.75 percent of total lysine

Requirements vary based on sex, health status, environment, climate, and dietary formulations (if using synthetic lysine the crude protein concentrations will be lower). Gilts should be at the upper end of the range and barrows towards the lower end of the range.

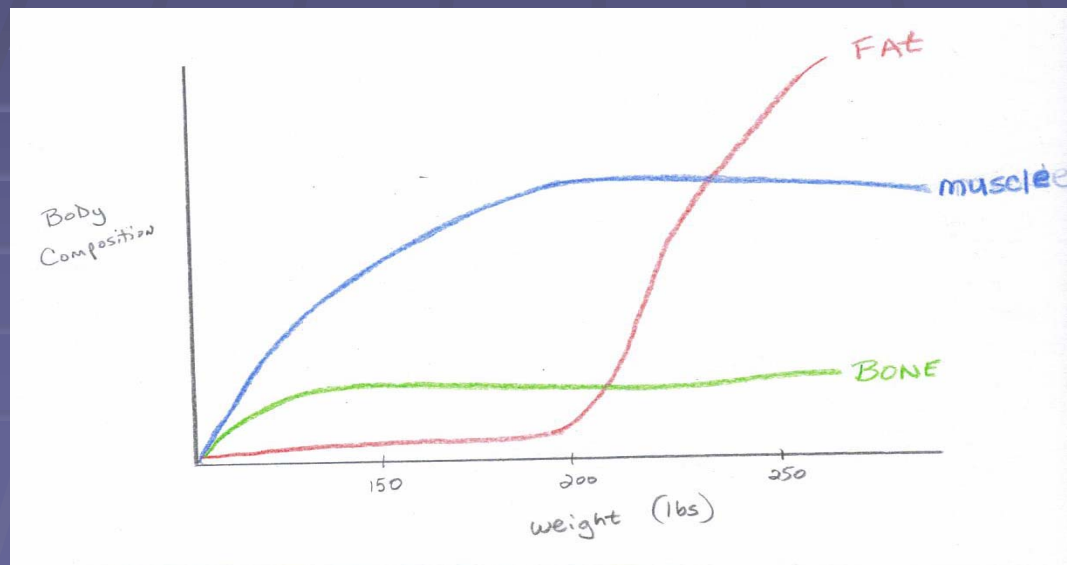
Barrows

- Barrows grow and mature faster than gilts.
- Barrows will put on more fat sooner than a gilt will. 200 lbs and on.



Gilts

- Gilts grow and mature slower.
- Gilts will put on fat later than a barrow will.
235 lbs and on.



How to Feed

- Young pigs should be on full feeding at all times. Full access to water is also needed.
- Young pigs will grow better in a group and with competition.
- Older pigs can be fed individually when getting closer to show time. Keep pigs on full water access.

When to Feed

- Limit feeding or hand feeding can be fed 2-5 times a day.
- The more you feed the fuller the gutt will be. The stomach is a muscle that needs to be stretched.
- At least feed in the morning and evening. Keep feed fresh and water clean.

What to Feed

- Feed a complete diet that is right for your pigs age, weight and over all goal for showing.
- You will need to change your pigs diet in order to fit the pig ideally.
- Changing fat levels, lysine levels, gutt fillers and protein levels.
- This will vary from barrows to gilts, young to older pigs and carcass pigs to show pigs.

What to Feed

- Choose a feed that is economical for your budget.
- One that is close to your farm.
- A company that can assist in your questions.
- There are several feed companies you can pick from. Do some research and see which one you like the best.

Fat Indicators

Analyses of Individual Traits for Back Fat Estimation:

- Rib Visualization .30-.45 inches back fat
- Deep Groove Top .30-.50 inches back fat
- Shoulder Blade Visualization .35-.60 inches back fat
- Ham Striations .30-.55 inches back fat
- Moderate Groove Top
back fat .50-.80 inches
- Jowl Fat .50-1.00 inches back
- Belly Fat .50-1.00 inches back
- Ham Seam
Fat .50-1.00 inches back
- Non-Visual Groove Top
fat .80-2.00 inches back

Combined Traits for Back Fat Estimation:

- **.30-.40 inches of back fat**
Visualization of Ribs, Visualization of Blades, Deep Groove Top, Ham Striations, Descript Ham Loin Junction.
- **.40-.50 inches of back fat**
Some Visualization of Ribs, Blades, Ham Striations and Ham Loin Junction, Deep Groove Top.
- **.50-.60 inches of back fat**
Moderate Groove Top, Little Ham Striations, Some Blade Visualizations, Non-Descript Ham Loin Junction.
- **.60-.70 inches of back fat**
Moderate Groove Top, Moderate Jowl, Moderate Ham Seam Fat, and Moderate Belly.
- **.70-.80 inches of back fat**
Moderate Visualization of a Groove Top, Some Visualization of a Jowl, Ham Seam Fat, and Belly.
- **.80-.90 inches of back fat**
No Shoulder Blade Movement Observed, Non-Visualized Groove Top, Moderate Jowl, Belly, and Ham Seam Fat.
- **.90-1.00 inches of back fat**
No Shoulder Blade Movement Observed, Non-Visualized Groove Top, Pronounced Jowl, Belly, and Ham Seam Fat.

Back Fat



**.3-.45 inches
back fat**



**.55-.65 inches
back fat**



**.85-1.0 inch
back fat**

Carcass Shows



The Ideal Market Hogs Back Fat should be in the range of .45- .80 inches. The Ideal percent lean calculation requires a large loin eye area, lean back fat and a heavy carcass weight.

Show Barrow Back Fat



**The Ideal Barrow Back Fat
should be in the range of
.50- .80 inches.**

Breeding Gilt Back Fat

The Ideal Gilt Back Fat should be in the range of .50- 1.0 inch.



Gilts over 1.3 inches should be cautioned. Over conditioning can result in difficulty breeding, farrowing and later can cause mastitis post farrowing.

Bred Gilt Back Fat



The Ideal Bred Gilt Back Fat should be in the range of .80- 1.2 inches.

Bred Gilts



This bred gilt needs more back fat in order to farrow, lactate, raise a litter of pigs and then get bred again.

Boar Back Fat



The Ideal Boar Back Fat should be in the range of .45- .90 inches

Back Fat Reduces

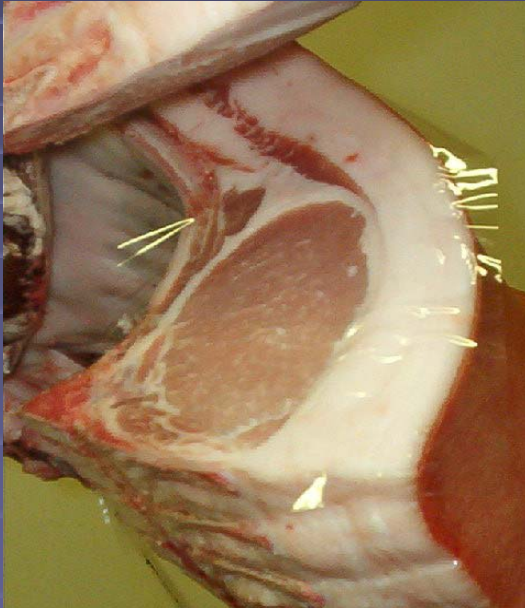
- Paylean can serve as a fat reducer.
- Exercising your pig will reduce fat.
- Dehydration is not a good way to decrease fat on your pig. Nor is it healthy or humane.
- Decreasing the protein content can reduce fat naturally over time.

Paylean

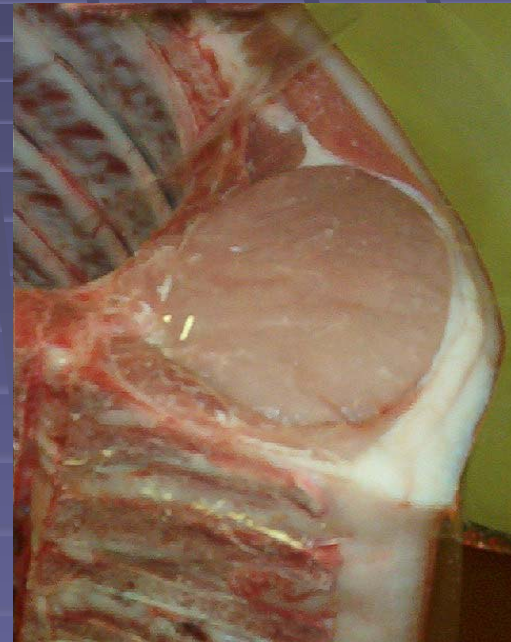
- Paylean comes in a variety of sources. Complete Feed, Pellets or Top Dress.
- Paylean requires water in order to work. Thus, the pig must be on full access to water at all times.



Paylean



Before Paylean



After Paylean

Fat Enhancers

- Liquid fat can be added to the diet. But be cautioned as to how much you want to add and at what age/weight you want to add it.
- Liquid Gold is a pump product for weight and fat gain.
- Increasing the protein level will naturally increase fat on your pig.
- Various by-products can be used.

Fat Enhancers

- White Grease
- Poultry fat
- Restaurant Grease
- Tallow
- Corn Oil
- Coconut Oil
- Canola Oil
- Soy Oil
- Herring Oil
- Menhaden Oil

Groove Top



A groove top is an indicator for muscle and leanness. A judge can determine how much back fat and how large the Loin Eye Area measurement is.

Ribs Showing



When Ribs are showing, the pig maybe too lean. Barrows and Market Gilts that are too lean are difficult to process the carcass during harvesting.

Boar Gut Fill



Ideal Boar Gut Fill



Non-Ideal Boar Gut Fill



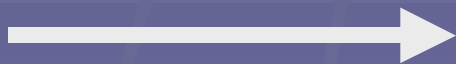
Gilt Gut Fill



Ideal Gilt Gut Fill



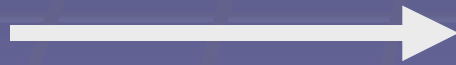
Non-Ideal Gilt Gut Fill



Barrow Gut Fill



Ideal Barrow Gut Fill

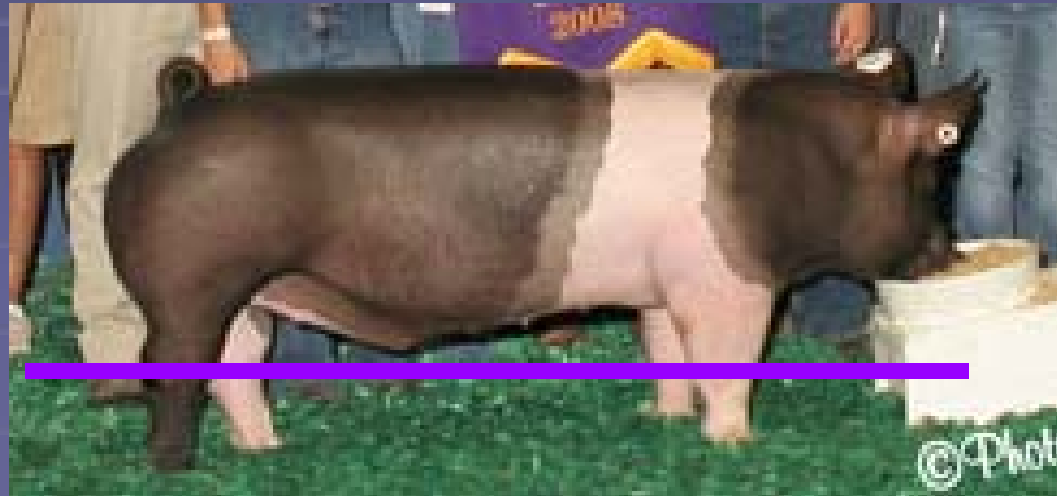


Non-Ideal Barrow Gut Fill



Gut Fill

- The rule of thumb for gut fill is to have the barrows sheath be at the same level as the hocks. The gilts belly should be at the same level as the hocks.



Gut Fill Products

- Steamed Rolled Oats
- Whole Oats
- Dried Beet Pulp
- Wet Beet Pulp

Jowl Burners

- A jowl burner product was designed to get rid of the lower 1/3 of the pigs body fat.
- Decreasing jowl fat, elbow pocket fat and belly fat.
- This product is high levels of vitamins and minerals.

Structural Additives

- There are a variety of structural additives out on the market.
- Are they needed?
 - If you have a sound structured pig, then you don't need any additional products.

Appetite Enhancers

- Some producers use appetite enhancers. High levels of Vitamin B12 or B complex.
- Sugar products that the pig enjoys to eat.
 - Maple Syrup
 - Karo Syrup
 - Molasses Syrup
 - Marsh Mellows

These Products are not approved for Animal Consumption! But people use them for weight gain.

Structural Additives

- Structural additives are mainly minerals and vitamins.
- Some additives are not illegal for pigs to be eating in accordance with the FDA/USDA.
- Remember Human Medications are not intended for animal consumption.

Final Note

- Feeding pigs can be difficult and can require time.
- Feeding may require individual feeding for show pigs.
- Just remember to feed according to what your show is looking for. Breeding Gilt, Market Gilt, Show Barrow or Market Barrow.