

Management of Piglets from Birth to Weaning

- Provide warmth of 27-32°C.
- Ensure that piglets get the first “milk” of the sow (colostrum).
- Ensure that piglets are dried and assist them to find the teats (nipples).
- Clip the needle teeth.
- Cut navel cord and swab with a mild antiseptic (iodine).
- Administer 1cc of an iron supplement as piglets are usually born with low levels of iron.
- Piglets should be weighing 1.5 kg (3.3kg) at birth.
- Introduce a small quantity of Pig Starter as a creep feed at 14 days old.
- De-worm pigs two weeks after weaning.



Some of our other Publications

- Goat Care and Management
- Multi-Nutrient Blocks
- The Mulberry Plant

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Pig Care and Management

“The Livestock Revolution comes from changes in the diets of billions of people and could provide income growth opportunities for many rural poor.”

2020 Vision

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Bodles Research Station
Old Harbour, P.O.
St. Catherine, Jamaica



Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Bodles Research Station
Livestock Research and Improvement Division



Introduction

The production of livestock is showing significant growth compared to other agricultural sectors which is a trend that can be seen all over the world. Notable is the fact that growth in meat consumption in developing countries is far greater than that of the developed countries.

Since pork is the most consumed meat in the world pig production creates excellent opportunities for farmers in Jamaica. However, to grow pigs intensively a number of obstacles need to be overcome, including financial investments and health related problems in pigs.

This practical guide will give an overview of the different pig breeds in Jamaica and information on pig care and management.

Current Research at Bodles Research Station

Currently the Livestock Research and Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has implemented several research projects concerning pig health and management. One of the research projects is focusing on the possibility of replacing ground corn with locally produced cassava.

Another research project investigates the effects of early nutrient intervention on pre- and post-weaning performance.

The results of these investigations are expected to give more insight in ways to improve pig production in Jamaica.

Pig Rearing

Health Care and Management >>>

Health care and management is mainly focused on disease prevention, as once a disease enters the herd, the cost of control and decreased productivity will be enormous.

Because hygiene is important in keeping animals healthy and free of diseases, all pens need to be cleaned or washed daily. As soon as pens are empty, they must be thoroughly washed and disinfected, then allowed to dry for at least two days.

External and internal parasite control is extremely important pig production. Animals need to be sprayed every four weeks with a suitable insecticide to control mange mites and lice. Also, a deworming programme needs to be implemented to prevent lungworms, tapeworms and other worm infestation.

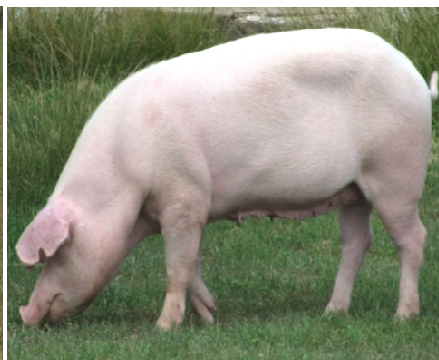
Breeding >>>

After weaning, sows should be housed in a pen close to the boar to stimulate heat and facilitate easier heat detection.

The animals should be checked for heat twice per day. To overcome inaccuracies in the detection of the exact start of oestrus, two inseminations 12 hours apart should be done.

The following signs will indicate the onset of oestrus in pigs: tries to mount other sows, urinates often, reduced appetite, enlarged and reddened vulva, and mucous in the vulva.

When these signs are visible, the teaser boar should be used to confirm heat. When “standing reflex” occurs the sow stands in position indicating that she is ready for servicing.



Pig Breeds >>>

Large White

Large White pigs are characterized by their erect ears, good mothering abilities, and its usefulness in crossbreeding programmes. The F1 is the resultant offspring of two purebred Large White x Landrace. This offspring is known to be very fertile with good mothering ability and good teat lines.

Landrace

Landrace pigs are characterized by their white long body, drooping ears, high fertility, excellent mothering abilities, large litter size, and good meat quality. Landrace pigs are widely used in cross breeding programmes because of their tremendous litter size and good growth rates.

Duroc

Durocs are characterized by their reddish brown colour, slightly drooping ears, and excellent performance under extreme conditions. Its succulence and heavy muscling makes it very suitable for anything from light pork to heavy hog production.