

SWINE INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW???

- A mama pig is called a **sow**. When she is expecting babies, or **piglets**, she's pregnant for 114 days. The group of piglets born at the same time is called a **litter**. Most litters have about 8-12 piglets, but some can have as many as 15! A sow has about 5 litters in her lifetime.
- **Market swine** are usually sold when they are 5-6 months old. They weigh about 230-260 pounds at that age!
- Although there are different breeds of swine, they aren't divided by breed when they show at the NAILE. The judges are just looking for the animals that will give us the best bacon, ham, pork roasts, and more!

Fascinating Fact: Pigs don't have sweat glands!

Question:

Can you think of one way that pigs try to stay cool?

Answer:

Have you ever seen a pig wallow or roll around in the mud? That's one way a pig tries to stay cool!

BY-PRODUCTS

It's not just for breakfast anymore...

Swine are mostly raised for their meat. But the parts of swine we cannot eat may be used to make these (as well as other) **by-products** or secondary products:

insulation	rubber	antifreeze	plastics
floor wax	crayons	chalk	adhesives

Here are a few examples of the ways we use the parts of swine:

- hog blood is used as a leather finish and a plywood adhesive
- hog skins (called **pigskins**) are used for coats, gloves, shoes, etc.
- hog bones are used to make buttons, china, and glue

If you think all that is amazing, swine are very important to **MEDICINE**, too! Check this out:

- Surgeons have replaced sick human heart valves with heart valves from hogs over 35,000 times!
- Insulin from the hogs' pancreas glands treats diabetes in people.
- Fetal pig plasma (the liquid part of the blood of unborn pigs) is used to make vaccines.
- Specially treated hog skins are used to treat people who have suffered from major burns.

Question:

Which food is *not* from swine or hogs?

- a. bacon b. pork chops c. ham d. hamburger e. sausage
f. pepperoni

Answer:

Of all of these meats, only hamburger is not made from swine. Bacon, pork chops, and ham are all swine products. Sausage and pepperoni are made from swine, too, although these two favorite pizza toppings often have beef (from cattle) in them as well.

Eating Like a Pig...

You may have learned that cattle and sheep are **ruminant** animals, meaning they chew their food more than once and have four sections in their stomach to help digest foods such as grass and hay. Swine are *not* ruminant animals, so they cannot eat these kinds of food. (Bet you've never seen a pig grazing in the pasture!)

Hogs eat corn, soymeal, and sometimes leftovers from restaurants and cafeterias. Vitamins and minerals are added to their foods to keep them healthy. Swine have only one compartment in their stomachs, just like people.

LIVESTOCK LAUGHS

Why did the pig eat so much?

It wanted to make a hog of itself.

What do you call a pig that wants everything?

A gimme pig.

Why shouldn't you tell pigs a secret?

They'll squeal!

What kind of pigs do you find on the road?

Road hogs!