

irritates the pig, which will scratch its body against hard objects leading to development of wound with subsequent infection. Skin infection caused by external parasites can be treated by spraying, dipping or smearing the infected area with suitable drugs. The pig sty should also be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.

Swine fever is a commonly occurring, highly infectious and deadly disease of pigs. Hence, all the newborn piglets should be vaccinated atleast against this disease at the age of two months. Another two diseases, Foot and Mouth disease(FMD) and anthrax should also be prevented by vaccinating the animals at regular interval in consultation with the veterinarian. Piglet diarrhoea, Mastitis and Salmonellosis are some of the other infectious diseases of pig which can be treated during its occurrence in consultation with veterinarian.

Breeding Management

Female pigs usually attain sexual maturity in between 8-11 months. Similarly, male pig also reaches puberty at almost the same age. It is better to let the gilt rest during its first and second estrus(heat) and allow breeding in the third estrus.

The major factor that leads to successful pig breeding is proper heat detection. The length of the estrous cycle and estrus period is 21 days (average) and 2-4 days, respectively. The best time to breed the female is 12-36 hours after the onset of estrus. If the female is still in heat for next day after breeding, she should be rebred on second day to get a higher conception rate and litter size.

The general signs of heat are restlessness, loss of appetite, frequent urination, arched back, elevation of tail, swollen vulva with mucus discharge, pink vaginal mucous membrane, mounting other animals and allowing mounting by other pigs.

Immobility response of the female when pressurised over the loin region with palms of both the hands is also another way to identify the heat (Backpressure test).

Average length of gestation period of pig is 114 days. The pregnant sow should be shifted to farrowing pen 3-4 days prior to the expected farrowing date and should be provided with clean bedding material. The farrowing process should be observed closely and if any difficulty observed, veterinarian should be contacted.

Care of Piglets

After farrowing, the newborns should be cleaned off of all the mucus for proper breathing and placenta should be removed from the pen. Weak piglets should be guided to suck the mother's teat. The piglets should be separated (weaning) from the mother at the age of 45-60 days and mother should be rebred to get the next litter.

Managermental tips to obtain maximum profit from pig farming:

1. Proper feeding, breeding and housing
2. Proper care of pregnant sow
3. Proper care of newborn piglets
4. Early weaning and post partum mating
5. Proper health coverage

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Management Practices to Increase Pig Production



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Introduction

North Eastern Hill region of India is mostly inhabited by various tribes of people and almost all tribal people are pork eater. Therefore, pig farming has great potentiality in this region. Success in pig farming depends on scientific management of the farm which includes proper breeding, feeding, housing, health coverage and other managerial practices. This folder deals with the managerial practices to be adopted in pig farms to obtain maximum profit.

Site Selection and Housing

The farm should be located near the town/city so as to avoid transportation cost of the feed, other animal requirements and also for marketing facilities.

Good housing is required for shelter, protection from inclement weather and easy management of the animals. The sty (pig house) should be constructed in a well elevated area for better drainage of rain water and other waste. It should not be too near to the dwelling houses to prevent smells and fly nuisance. Pigs can be kept under two systems – open air system and indoor system. A combination of both may also be used. But it is easy to manage the animals in indoor system. The house may be constructed permanently with cement concrete wall and roofing material like G.I sheet, asbestos etc. or with locally available materials like bamboo, wooden post with thatch roofing. In both the cases, the floor should be concrete one with proper gradient for easy cleaning and hygienic point of view.

Piglets should have access to a warm area in the pen where the sow can not reach. This is called creep where piglets can be given feed and can lie down without the risk of the mother lying down on top of them. The sow is prevented from entering the creep by fixing strong rails across part of the pen. The bottom rail should be 30 cm from the floor allowing the piglets to pass through it.

Space Requirement For Pigs

Type of animal	Covered floor area (sq. m)	Open yard area/ animal (sq. m)
Boar	6.27 - 7.50	8.8 - 12.0
Farrowing sow	7.50 - 9.00	8.8 - 12.0
Dry sow/gilt	1.80 - 2.70	1.4 - 1.80
Grower	0.96 - 1.80	8.8 - 12.0

Feeding

Proper feeding is an important part to get optimum growth rate and to reduce the production cost as 70% of expenditure in a pig farm is only due to feed. The feed must be well balanced with all the required nutrients for proper growth and maintenance of the pigs. The pig must be provided with ample amount of fresh and clean water.

Ration Composition for different categories of Pigs

Ingredients	Weanor (18-20% CP)	Grower (15-17% CP)		Gilt, Sow & Boar (14-16% CP)
		12 weeks to market age	9-12 months	
Maize	55	58	60	50
Ground nut cake	17	15	8	13
Wheat bran	20	20	25	20
Rice polish	-	-	-	10
Fish meal/soya meal	6	5	5	5
Mineral mixture	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Salt	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	100	100	100	100

In absence of above mentioned ration, sweet potato (up to 60%), broken rice (up to 20%) and rice polish (up to 15%) along with some protein source, vitamin and minerals can be used to formulate the ration.

Daily feed and water requirement of different categories of pigs

Age (month)	Probable live weight (kg)	Feed/pig/day (kg)	Water/pig/day (lit)
1-2	15	0.5	-
2-3	27	1.0	3.5
3-4	40	1.25	6
4-5	50	1.50	7
5-6	60	2.00	8
6 and above	60 & above	2.50	8
Pregnant sow/gilt	-	2.30	15-20
Suckling sow	-	5.00	20
Boar	-	2.50	20

Health Care

Health care is an important part of pig management to get optimum profit. Hence, once the signs of ill health like dullness, loss of appetite, disinclination to move, rough body coat, constipation or diarrhoea are observed, veterinarian should immediately be contacted for treatment.

Young pigs are commonly infected with round worms which results in stunted growth, loss of body weight, diarrhoea, pneumonia and death in severe cases. The eggs of these parasites can stay in the floor or pig sty up to 5 years and can infect new hosts regularly. Therefore, piglets should be dewormed regularly once in every three months. The pregnant sow should be dewormed before farrowing to prevent passing of infection to her litter. Infected pigs of all the age groups should be treated with suitable drugs.

Skin infection by external parasites like tick, lice, mite etc. or sometimes by some bacteria is another common cause of ailments in pig. Mange infestation occurs around the head, neck, ears, legs and tail and subsequently spread all over the body if not treated. Tick and lice feeds on the skin and