

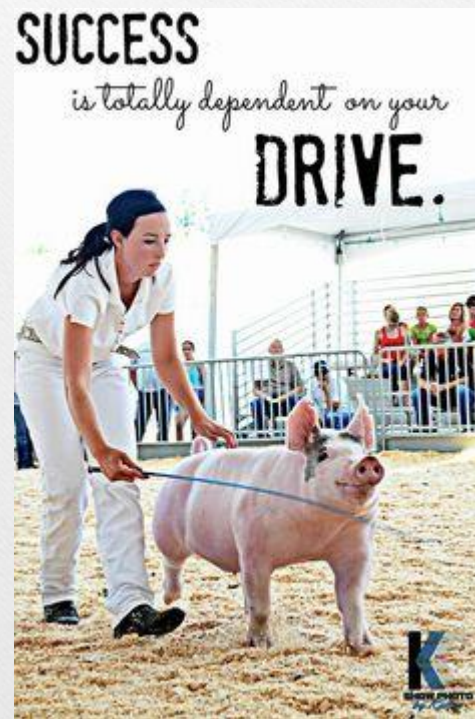


Animal Care & Selection

Animal Information & Care

This is just a helpful guide and is not required as part of your project. Following these tips does not guarantee that your project will be completed in a satisfactory manner, nor does it guarantee you will be able to show and/or sell your project at the Lake County Fair.

Swine



Swine Facts

- They have poor circulatory systems.
- They DO NOT SWEAT.
- They will be 6-10 weeks of age when you purchase.
- The smartest of the farm species.
- Eat, chew food and then drink water.
 - Use hog water system. Buckets Do Not Work.

Facilities

- Warm, dry, well ventilated area.
- Clean Feeder and Water System.
- Fencing should keep predators out,
- Exercise Areas are necessary to build up stamina.
- Avoid animal area if you have a cold or flu.
 - Easily passed to animal.
 - Use a shoe dip or designate shoes for your hog area.
- Beware of dogs.

Nutrition

- Monogastric - small simple stomach
- Hogs eat small rations all day
- Feed concentrated ration
 - Use an automatic feeder
 - Small feed trough
- Weigh your hog often
 - Adjust feed as needed
- Fresh clean water
- Not sure—ASK your 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor

Feed

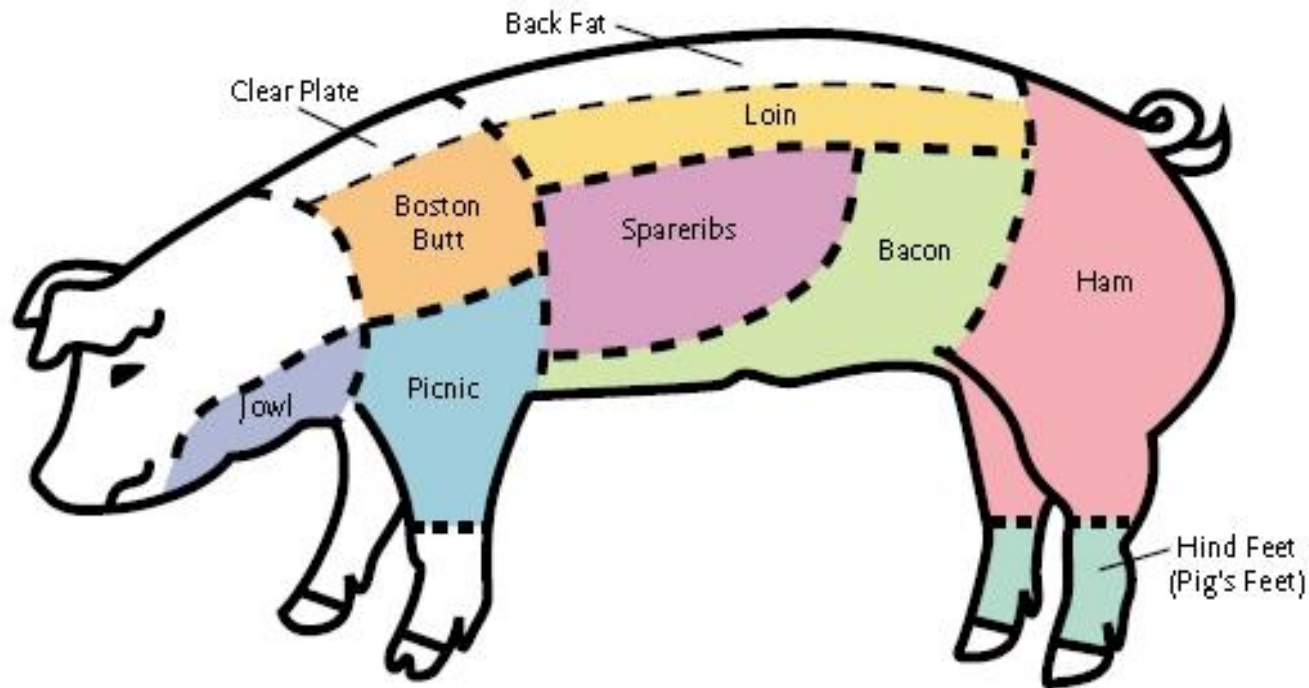
- Should be labeled for pigs/hogs.
- Begin with a Starter/Developer and end with a Finisher Feed
- Good show ration 18% or higher in protein.
- General rule.
 - “Garbage in, Garbage out.”
 - Cheap feed will under perform.
- Do your homework- compare, ask questions.

Signs of Sickness

- Droopiness
- Loss of appetite
- Increased rate and depth of respiration
- Discharge from the nose and eyes
- Coughing
- Fever

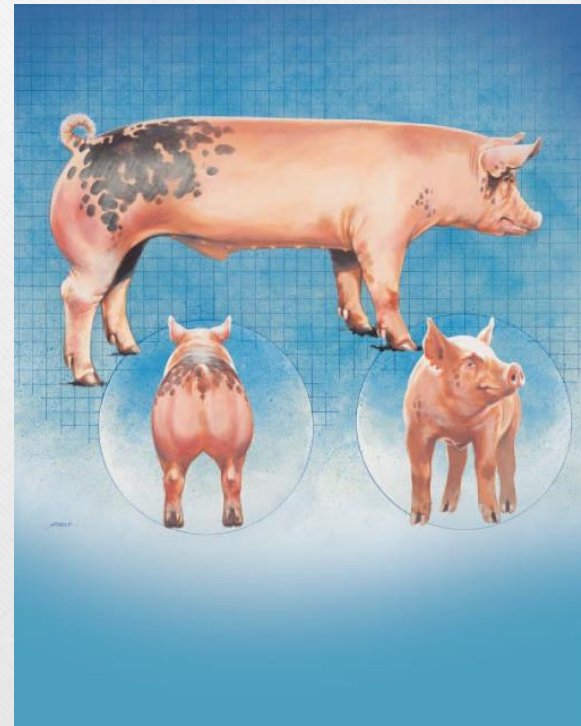
Remember... you are raising a product!

WHOLESALE CUTS OF PORK



Selection

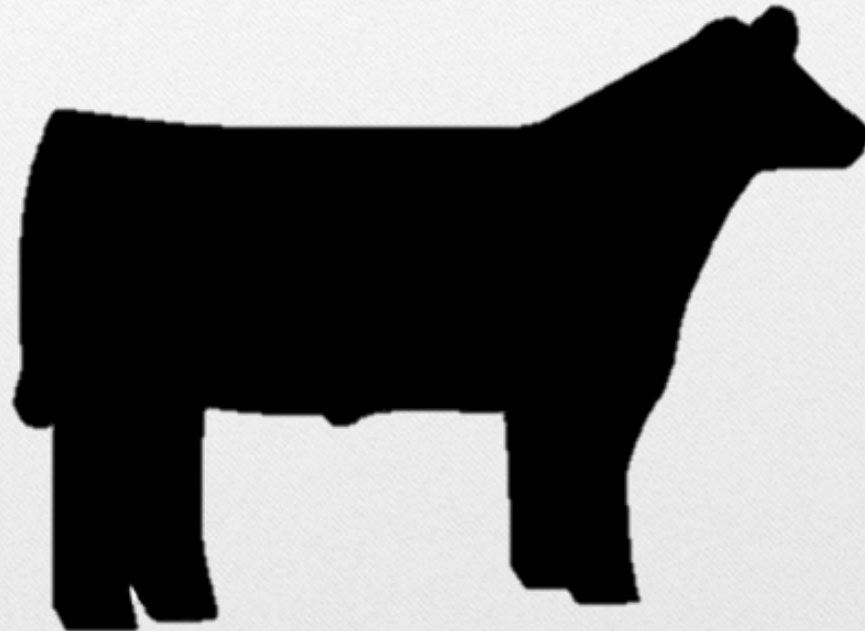
- Muscling- long, level, wide over the shoulder, loin and down through the hams.
- Structural Correctness- correct bone structure, no leg/walking problems, etc.
- Style and Balance- appealing to the eye, straight legs, trim middle, etc.



Resource Links

- University of Florida
 - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/4h210>
- National Pork Board
 - <http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/YouthPQAPlus/YPQAManual.pdf>

Beef Cattle



Facilities

- Clean and dry
- Comfortable with good air circulation.
- Shelter from rain
- Shade from sun
- Clean manure and any uneaten hay found in pen
- A comfortable, well-cared for calf should have better gains

Nutrition

- Ruminant – large stomach
- Microbes within the rumen break down feed/hay
- Happy bugs = happy calf
- Weigh your steer often
 - Adjust feed as needed
- Fresh clean water
- Not sure—ASK your 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor

Feed

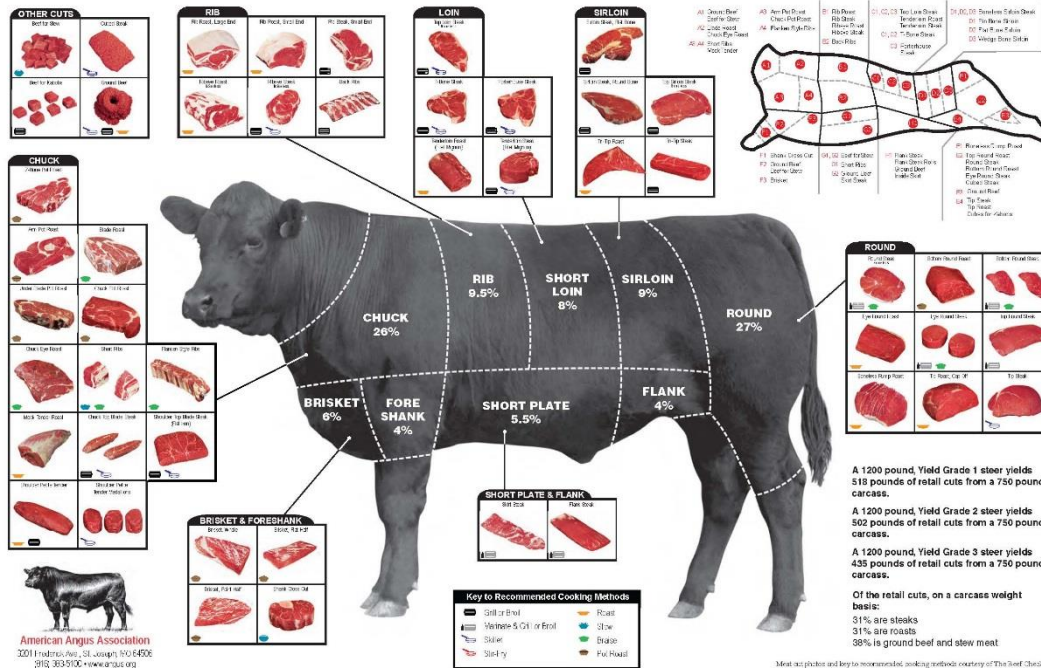
- General rule.
 - “Garbage in, Garbage out.”
 - Cheap feed will under perform.
- Begin with a Starter/Developer and end with a Finisher Feed
- Do your homework- compare, ask questions.

Signs of Sickness

- Droopiness
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ANGUS BEEF CHART



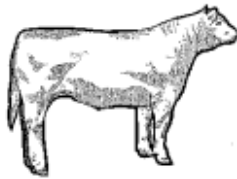
Meat cut photos and key to recommended cooking methods courtesy of The Beef Checkoff! 2012

Selection

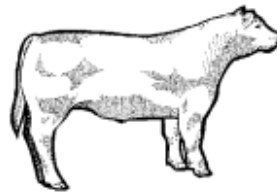
- Frame Size
 - Calf should be moderate in size, long bodied, clean and free of excess waste through the neck and brisket.
- Muscle
 - The muscle expressed in the lower quarter of the round should be visible when the animal walks. A calf should be wide based, his feet wide apart. He should be wide over the top and straight, long, and level in the rump.
- Balance
 - Select a calf with balance and style. There should be as much in the front quarter area as there is in the rear quarter. A deep bodied calf that is full in the flank is desirable.
- Structural Correctness
 - He should have a nice straight rear leg with a little set to his hock that allows him to flex freely when walking

Structural Concerns

Here are some examples of structure to avoid.



Post legged



Sickle hocked



Bow legged



Cow hocked



Toes out

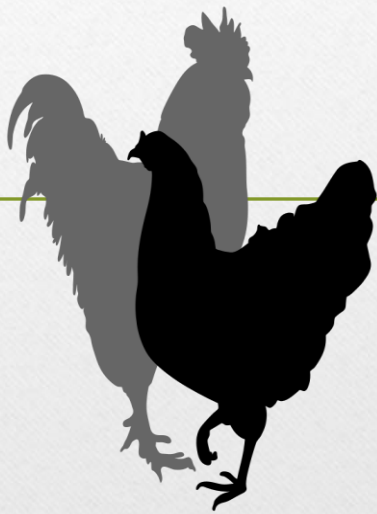


Toes in

Resource Links

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture
 - <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/91-066.htm>
- Angus Association
 - <http://www.angus.org/Mobile/Education/images/BeefChart.jpg>
- Utah State University
 - http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_4HLivestock_2005-05.pdf

Poultry



Terminology

You need to know this to accurately fill out an entry form.

- Bantam- a small variety of certain breeds of poultry
- Standard- also called large fowl
- Pullet- a female chicken less than one year old
- Cockerel- a male chicken less than one year old
- Hen- a female chicken over one year old
- Cock- a male chicken over one year old
- Breed- describes the **kind** of chicken you have
- Variety- means **color**

Note: Some varieties are ONLY standard or bantam.

Facilities

- All chickens need adequate housing to protect them from rain, sunshine, wind, extreme temperatures and **predators**.
- Chickens need access to plenty of fresh, clean water at all times.
- A chicken feeder that is appropriate for the size of your chicken(s) and flock is a must.
- If you are planning on showing your bird(s) then extra care and attention must be given to the housing to ensure beautiful plumage.

Nutrition/Feed

- Pullets should be fed a starter or grower feed until they begin laying.
- Cockerels should also be fed a starter or grower feed until they are full grown.
- Layer feed is a good feed for both hens and cocks.
- Laying hens need adequate nutrition, not a rooster, to produce eggs.
- Remember: corn is candy! Scratch and cracked corn should NOT be the main source of nutrition.

Health

- Check your chickens for external parasites on a monthly basis.
 - External parasites include lice, mites, and sticktight fleas.
- If found, treat external parasites on a regular basis until the parasites are gone, **especially** if showing your birds.
- Be sure to check new birds for external parasites before introducing them to your flock. Keeping new or returning birds separate until you know they are healthy is always a good idea.
- Refer to this publication concerning internal parasites
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vm015>

Lice, Mites, and Sticktight Fleas



**Lice eggs on
feather shaft**



Mites

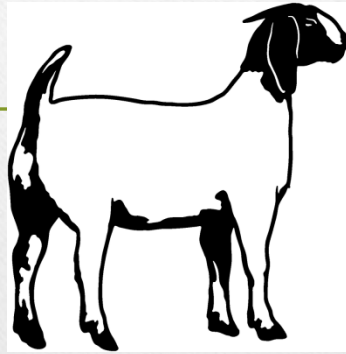


**Sticktight
Fleas**

Resource Links

- American Poultry Association
 - <http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/>
- IFAS University of Florida
 - <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/agriculture/livestock/poultry.shtml>

Goats



Facilities

- **Flooring:** Dirt or gravel floors are best, although some people prefer wood. Avoid concrete because it's cold and hard on the goats' bodies, although it's easier to clean.
- **Bedding:** You need to use some sort of bedding for warmth and comfort. If you do have to use a concrete floor, make sure to put down 3 to 4 inches of wood shavings or straw to insulate the goats.

Facilities cont.

- **Dimensions:** Consider the height and width of the shelter. Goats need to have 10 to 15 square feet of housing if they also have an outdoor area. Remember they need shelter from the rain.
- **Storage:** Remember that you need to have an accessible (to you, not the goats) place to store feed and goat-care tools.
- **Access to water:** Fresh Water is a necessity for goats.

Feed

- General rule.
 - “Garbage in, Garbage out.”
 - Cheap feed will under perform.
- Start them out on a 18% starter/developer until around 75-80 lbs.. Then change to a Grower/Developer 16% at 75-80 lbs. until animal is finished.
- Do your homework- compare, ask questions.

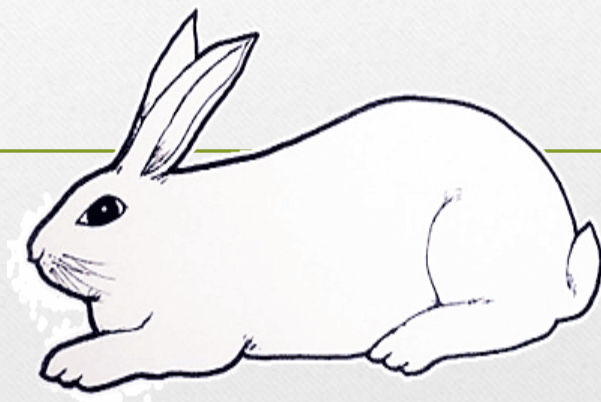
Showmanship

- Begin training program immediately by breaking the goats with a collar. Practice setting legs and holding head in proper show positions. Get goats used to metal show chain, never use leash or long lead. Goat's left shoulder should be at your right leg when walking. Trim their feet monthly.

Resource Links

- http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Judging_Dairy_Goats.pdf
- http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Judging_Meat_Goats.pdf
- <https://www.four-h.purdue.edu/downloads/cde/meat%20goat%20selection2.pdf>
- http://www.shsu.edu/~agr_www/documents/judging_boer.pdf

Rabbits





Facilities

- Rabbits need adequate housing to protect them from rain, sunshine, wind, extreme temperatures and **predators**. Don't leave your rabbit loose!
- Wire bottoms are okay for rabbits however, be sure to check for sores from being on the wire all the time.
- Rabbits need room to move around. Check the proper cage size for your breed of rabbit.
- Certain breeds will benefit from something to lay on other than the wire.
- Bucks and does should be kept separately.



Nutrition



- Feeders and waterers should be hung on the outside of the cage away from the floor of the cage.
- Rabbits need access to plenty of fresh, clean water at all times.
- A concentrated pelleted ration should be the sole source of nutrition for your rabbit. Supplements such as hay, oats, or sunflower seeds can be given also.
- Feed each rabbit a certain measured amount once a day that can be consumed within just a few hours.
- Rabbits should not be over fed. Some breeds can easily get over weight.

Health and Handling

- As mentioned before rabbits can get sores from being on wire all the time.
 - If sores are found, treat immediately or take your rabbit to the vet.
- Rabbits are susceptible to external parasites such as ear mites. Check for ear mites on a regular basis. Treat immediately if found.
- There are many diseases that rabbits can get. If your rabbit looks or acts sick immediately start researching what may be wrong. Breeders can be a great help.
- Never pick a rabbit up by its ears or back of neck. Use both hands to pick up your rabbit then cradle it like a football.

Resource Links

- From the Suwannee River Youth Livestock webpage
- Rabbit Diseases, Preventions and Treatments
 - http://mysrf.org/pdf/pdf_rabbit/r13.pdf
- American Rabbit Breeders Association –
Recommendations for Caring for your Rabbit
 - <https://www.arba.net/PDFs/CAW.pdf>