

LIFE CYCLE OF A MARKET PIG

GESTATION (pregnancy)



114 days
(3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days)

- Gilts (female pigs) reach maturity and are bred at 170 to 220 days of age.
- After delivering their first litter of pigs, gilts are called sows.
- Gestation (pregnancy) is about 114 days, or 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

FARROWING (birth to weaning)



21 days (3 weeks)

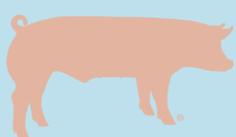
- Sows and gilts are moved to a farrowing barn when ready to give birth (farrow).
- Usually, a sow or gilt will have 12 to 13 pigs per litter.



2-3 LBS. AT BIRTH



- Sows nurse piglets until they are weaned at about 21 days of age.



13-15 LBS. AT WEANING

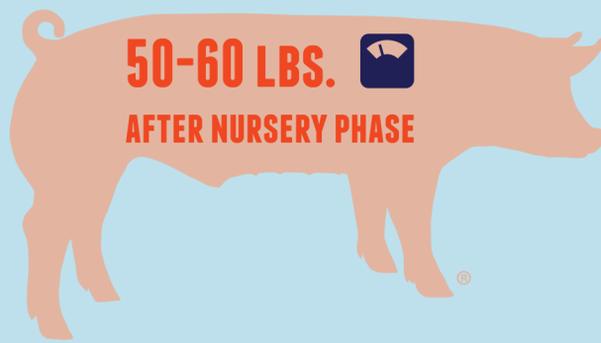
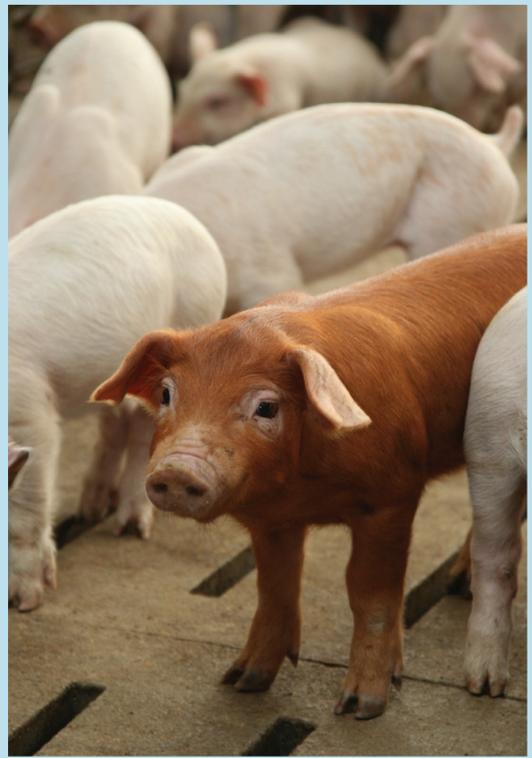


NURSERY



42 to 56 days (6 to 8 weeks)

- After weaning, piglets are moved to a nursery or to a wean-to-finish barn and are housed with piglets from other litters.
- Specialized temperature controls and ventilation support the newly weaned piglets.
- Piglets are fed a corn/soybean meal diet, eating 1.4 to 4 lbs. per day.
- In this phase, pigs grow to 50 to 60 lbs.



GROWING AND FINISHING



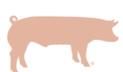
115 to 120 days (16 to 17 weeks)

- Pigs are moved from the nursery to a finishing barn to accommodate their continued growth. If pigs are in a wean-to-finish barn, they remain there.
- In the grow/finish phase, pigs consume 6 to 10 lbs. of feed daily.
- A diet typically consists of corn and soybean meal, as well as vitamins and minerals to ensure proper health and growth of the pigs.
- As the pigs grow, they are monitored daily to ensure that they are healthy.
- At about six months of age, the pigs weigh about 280 lbs. and are then market ready.

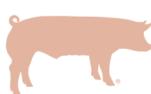


Average Weights

2-3 lbs. at birth



12-15 lbs.
at weaning



50-60 lbs.
after the nursery phase



280 lbs. at market weight

