

Answer Key

Swine Facts

- Swine were among the first of all animals to be **domesticated**, around 6,000 years ago.
- Insulin and about **40** other medicines are made from pigs.
- Pig heart valves have been used to replace damaged human heart valves.
- People around the world eat more pork than any other meat. In the US it ranks behind beef and poultry.
- Hogs have small eyes and poor eyesight.

Barrow

- A castrated male swine

Boar

- A uncastrated male swine

Corn Belt

- Part of the United States where the major **cash crop** is corn. Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Nebraska are all in this part of the U.S.

Farrowing

- The birthing process for swine.

Farrowing Crate

- A pen which a **sow** is put in to deliver and nurse piglets.
- It allows piglets to nurse but prevents the sow from **crushing** the piglets by setting on them.

Farrow to Finish Operation

- A business that deals with every step in raising pigs, from **breeding** to farrowing and feeding for **slaughter**.

Feeder Pig

- A pig that weighs between **35-50** pounds and is prepared to be fed for slaughter.

Gestation

- The period of time between when a sow is bred to when she begins farrowing, which is around **113-116 days**. (Pregnant)

Gilt

- A female swine that has not given birth.

Herd

- A group of pigs kept together that may not be **genetically** linked.

Litter

- A group of piglets born at the same time to the same mother. Normal litter size is **8 to 12** piglets.

Market Weight

- The preferred weight for a pig to be at time of slaughter. Preferred weight is 240 to 260 pounds.

Nursery

- The stage in-between **weaning** and feeding out for slaughter.

Pig

- A young swine not yet at market weight. Usually weighs around **120 pounds**.

Piglet

- A young male or female swine.

Shoat

- A pig that is designated as a growing pig that weights between 60 and 160 pounds.

Show Pig

- A pig that has been chosen because of its superior and outstanding **phenotype** to be taken to competitions called shows.

Sow

- A female swine that has produced at least **one litter** of piglets.

Stag

- A male pig castrated after **sexual maturity**.

Weaning

- The manner in which pigs are removed from the sow and are no longer allowed to depend on the mothers milk for food.