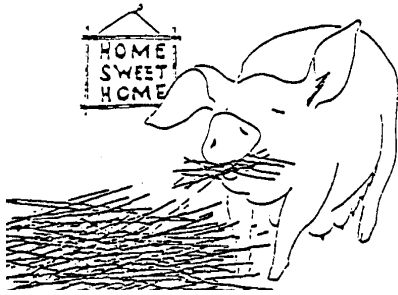


Pig Farming Information

Breed

The College breeds Large White Pigs. Approximately 120 sows and 4 boars are housed at the unit. Most of the crosses are by AI (artificial insemination) which also helps to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Most pigs are sold for bacon production when they reach 95kg.



Note: A different breed is used in outdoor units. Outdoor pigs have more fat to protect them from the cold. The fat remains in the meat of the piglets and until recently consumers would not purchase pork or bacon with fat.

Sow Selection

Selection is based on the amount of fat present which is measured using ultra sound. The growth rate of individuals is also checked by regular weighing and the number of teats is also important (a breeding sow should have at least 14 teats).

Boar Selection

Selection is for long pigs which give more bacon. Other factors are the rate of growth, Litter size, Quality of carcass, % lean to % fat, food conversion rate and ratio of weight of carcass to live weight.

Disease

Possible Pig Diseases include: Enzotic Pneumonia, Swine vesicular disease, Foot and Mouth disease, Roundworm and Lice. Up to date information can be viewed on the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) website (www.defra.gov.uk)

In an intensive rearing unit disease transmission can be fast. Precautions must be taken to prevent infections entering (or leaving) the unit.

Housing

The purpose built unit was completed in May 04 at a cost of £600,000. The unit is designed to give the pigs as much comfort and freedom as possible, within the confines of a commercial enterprise. The pigs are housed in social groups where possible on straw bedding. The movement or 'flow' of pigs within the unit is designed to reduce the risk of disease transmission. For instance there is no need for delivery people to enter unit, and the lorry to transport pigs to market is always outside the premises.

Foodstuff

Piglets are weaned at 28 days and enter the 'Weaner' house. Here they are fed dry weaner pellets 'on-demand' using an automated feed system. Pigs enter the 'Finishing house' when they weigh approximately 40kg. The food is stored in the metal silos.

Age in weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Food eaten	0	10	70	140	200	300	550	750	g/day
Weight of Piglet	2	5	7	9	12	15	18	20	kg

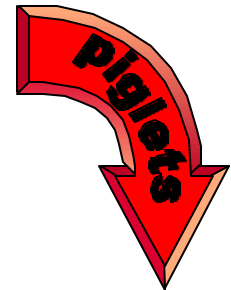
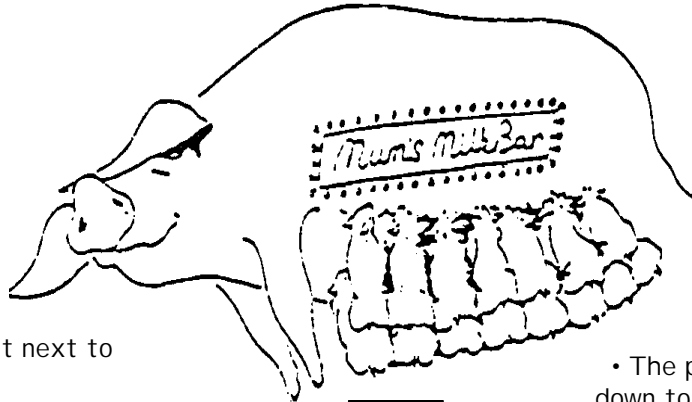
Output / Revenue

This comes mainly from the sale of bacon pigs. Approximately 1,874 bacon pigs are sold per year at £90 - £100 each (in 2004). Bacon pigs are sold through Scotlean Pigs, a farmers' marketing group. The pigs are usually taken to an abattoir near Taunton specialising in high quality bacon products. Old sows (6 litters) are fattened and sold as low quality pork for

The Pig Cycle

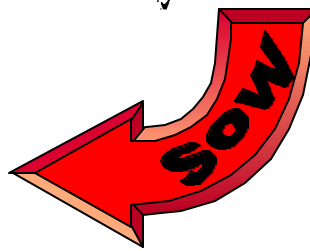
Farrowing

- Sows are brought into the farrowing unit 5 days before giving birth and they remain there until the piglets are weaned at ~ 28 days.
 - Sows with piglets have room to move around freely.
 - Piglets have a safe, 'creep' area at the rear of the pen.
- The creep area is heated and provides an area where piglets can sleep away from the sow, therefore reducing the risk of the injury.
 - The sow is always on hand for the piglets milk supply!



Serving Area

- After weaning, sows are put next to the Boar.
- Pheromones contained in the saliva of the boar bring the sow on heat.
- Each sow has a double serving with very dilute semen - half to one litre.
 - Gilts are served at 150 kg or 200 days which mean they farrow on their first birthday.
- The gestation period is 115 days, lactation 28 days, 5 day break to being served which equals a 144 day cycle.

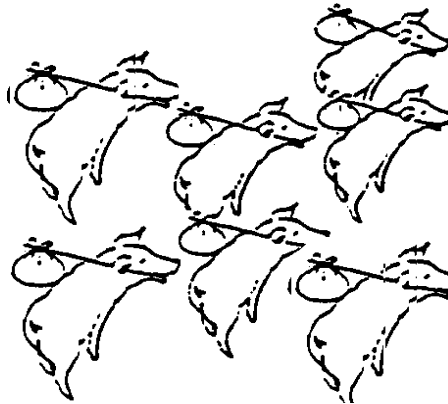


After birth

- The piglets eye teeth are taken down to stop them cutting the sows teats.
- Piglets are injected against pneumonia.
- The creep area in the farrowing unit is kept warm for the piglets using a heat lamp.
- The sow prefers to be cooler.

Finishing House

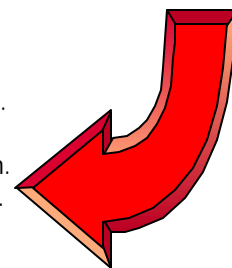
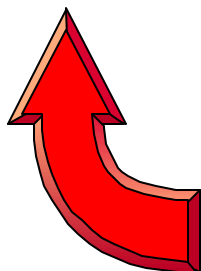
- The piglets are moved here when they weigh approximately 40kg.
- Most are sold at 20 weeks months weighing ~95kg.



- The piglets are moved to the weaner units and weaned at 28 days (weighing approximately 5 - 9 kg).

Weaner units

- Up to 40 piglets can be housed in one weaner pen.
- Nipple drinkers and a large box are used to supply water.
- The piglets are fed concentrate (dry) pellet food made from a mixture of cereals (oats, barley etc) & fish protein.
- Automated feeders ensure that food is always available.
 - Medication can be given by their food or water.
- As they get larger they are moved to a larger pen.



Management of waste

- Two types of waste are produced at the unit - liquid waste (**slurry**) and solid waste (**manure**)
- Slurry (waste water, urine and faeces) is collected via a dedicated drainage system & stored on site.
 - The slurry collects in special traps which can be seen under the housing.
- As the traps begin to fill, a pump moves the slurry to the large storage facility (big blue tank).
- Solid waste (dirty straw & faeces) is moved from the pens using a tractor with a rear scraper.
 - The waste is taken from the site by tractor and trailer for storage before use.

Farm Waste can be used to fertilise some of the fields at the farm