



## The Stages of a Pig's Life

---

**Farrow** – Pigs from birth until approximately three weeks old or 10-15 pounds

- **Sows are placed in individual farrowing pens or stalls**
  - o This protects the piglets, usually 9-10 pigs per litter, from getting crushed by the sow.
  - o This also protects the piglets and workers from the sow's protective nature
- **The highest loss of piglets happens from birth until they are 3-4 days old. Several protective measures are taken to protect the young pigs.**
  - o The navel is disinfected
  - o Needle teeth are clipped so they do not injure other pigs or the sow
  - o They receive a supplement of iron
  - o Their tails are docked to prevent damage from getting stepped on
  - o Young males are castrated so they do not injure other pigs or workers



## The Stages of a Pig's Life (Cont.)

---

**Nursery** – Pigs from approximately three weeks (10-15 pounds) until nine weeks old (40-60 pounds)

- Pigs are housed on slatted floors that lets waste fall through, keeping the pigs clean
- Pigs are fed as many as five different diets changed to meet the needs of the growing pig

**Grower-Finish** – Pigs from approximately nine weeks old (40-60 pounds) until they are approximately 265-275 pounds

- Pigs are focused on growth and development
- Although types of housing varies, they are kept as clean and comfortable as possible to ensure high rates of gain
- Diets are adjusted to meet the needs of the specific needs of the pigs at stage of growth

**Market** – Pigs weighing approximately 265 pounds

- Pigs are marketed to a terminal or live market