Pastured Pork Production Webinar

December 9, 2015

Presented by Paul Freid (LCCW Farm) & Nick Koster (Turkey Foot Farm)

Hosted by Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

Photo courtesy of LCCW Farm
Introductions

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that promotes humane farming and advocates for the safe production of meat, milk, and eggs. FACT helps consumers make humane and healthy choices.

FACT’s Fund-a-Farmer Project awards grants and facilitates peer-to-peer farmer education to increase the number of animals that are raised humanely in this country.
Our Presenters

Paul Freid – Lake City Catholic Worker Farm (LCCW Farm)
• Lake City, MN
• 2013 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient

Nick Koster – Turkey Foot Farm
• Tama, IA
• 2014 Fund-a-Farmer grant recipient
Hog Health
Lake City Catholic Worker Farm  
South Eastern MN  
4+ Acres of Pasture  
3-4 Acres Organic Veggies  
Large Black Boar “Billy”  
Red Wattle and Large Black Sows  
Berkshire Gilts  

Many Many Many Thanks to Dr. Winter DVM  
I am not a vet!
Our Goals

- Long term natural herd health
- Boar, sows, gilts, piglets, butcher hogs and farmers
- Humane treatment
- Mimic nature

Scaling up for greater efficiency
Keys to Herd Health

1. What is a hog
2. What do hogs need
3. How to assess and treat

Building up natural immune systems is the key
Non-Scientific Definition

A hog is a a mammal and an omnivore
Different life spans – 6 weeks, 6-9 months, years
Building Blocks of Hog Health

My opinion of the minimal requirements

Pasture = Fresh Food
Space

- Less Stress
- Sun
- Fresh Air
- Can be a deep bed system
If Outdoor
Shade
Wind Break
Wallow
Good Feed

Clean Feed
No Mold
Minerals in feed
Preferably no antibiotics
Little to no junk food
Fresh food/pasture!
Lysine
Breeds

Heritage breeds were raised to have natural health
Large Black
Red Wattle
Berkshire

Very Important:
Choose a breed you can find nearby!
Start with anything!
Most important: Support Humane Growers!

Photo: https://dhn-hes.ca.uky.edu
Best Additional Health Options for Hogs

- Free Choice:
- Minerals
- Salt
- Clay
It is well worth your time to train your hogs to consume free choice minerals

Poor minerals in feed can interfere with a hogs ability to free choice their own mineral
The advantages of ACV are many.

Apple Cider Vinegar

ADD TO FEED
ADD TO H2O
50/50 FREE CHOICE WHEN NEEDED
• **1) Acetic Acid** - ACV is primarily acetic acid, a natural volatile fatty acid found throughout the body and utilized by the animal as a direct form of pure energy and for butterfat and body fat production. It is absorbed directly, through the wall of the rumen.

• **2) Buffers** - It buffers (alkalizes) rumen and overall blood pH. It is used to prevent or reverse acidosis and ketosis.

• **3) Digestive Aid/Tonic** - It is used to prevent scours, bloat, gas, reflux, indigestion, and poor digestion.

• **4) Parasitic Control** - Used to prevent or remove virtually all forms of internal and external parasites.

• **5) Probiotics** - ACV contains probiotics (beneficial microbes), minerals, vitamins, & nutriceuticals.

• **6) Immune Aid/Tonic** - Used to improve disease resistance (bacteria, viral, yeast, fungal, or toxin)

• **7) Malic Acid** - Contains high levels of malic acid which helps cleanse and heal the liver for better digestion and detoxification of toxins and waste.

• **8) Meat Quality** - May improve texture and flavor of meat. There are no off-flavors to milk, meat or eggs.

• **9) 100% Safe** - Completely safe (after 2-3 days of age), EASY to administer, and very TASTY to animals.

• **10) Cost Effective** - Less Disease + More Efficient Digestion + Direct Nutritive Value = Long Term Cost Savings
• Other Beneficial Items:
• Probiotics
• Diatomaceous Earth (DE)
• Forest
• Calm Attitude
• And... If possible....
**Rotational Grazing**

Good = Grass and hay ground

Best = Intentionally planted items

- Kale
- Beets
- Squash
- Pumpkins
- Corn
- Perennial Plants (Fruit and Nuts)
- Other?
How to assess hogs?

Observe

Observe

Observe
What to observe?

Breathing
Eyes
Walking/gait
Energy
Interaction with other pigs
Changes in behavior
Hair
Fever/temp

One of the most important things to look at is....
POOP!
Good Poop
Not So Good
Caught in the act!

It can be hard to catch the pig that poops.

Diarrhea will typically show on the rear of the hog.

My hogs typically have a morning constitution around feed time in the morning.
Help!
We have a sick pig!

What to do?
Separate the Pig
Treat it like a sick kid:
Keep it home from school and have it watch The Price is Right
But seriously Folks
Clean H2O with ACV
Extra Minerals
Free Choice Clay and Salt
Fresh Veg
Low Stress, not a small cage
Probiotics
Etc...

But what if a pig is really sick?
Use your best judgment

1. Talk to people who raise hogs
2. Do some research
3. Give the hog time to get better
4. Call the vet
5. Cull

6. Remember that it is a learning process
• Butcher and inspect one of your hogs every year!
• Observe
• Liver
• Lungs
• Heart
• Anything out of the ordinary
Thank you!
Turkey Foot Farm

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Introduction

Job and Turkey Foot Farm History
Overview

• Planning before livestock
• Modifying existing premises or building new
• Either way: maximum number of animals and grouping of your herd
• Talking about ideal situation – we haven’t completed all these projects on our farm but are close
Overview - Our Farm

- 5 – 12 sows together
- 1-3 boars separate
- Space for 20 weened piglets, 10 – 20 lbs each
- Space for 20 – 40 large feeders (up to 200 lbs) in 2 groups
Overview – Space Requirements

• What specific soil/grade/weather requires
• Ideal progression of herd from one space to another
• Sacrifice areas
• Satellite maps, Google Earth
Overview

• Breaking down planning:
  • Access
  • Fencing
  • Water Supply
  • Electrical Supply
  • Shelter

• Using language and terminology that will help you be able to get what you need from a supply house, neighbor, Craigslist, etc.

• We live in the Midwest and are farrow-to-finish so you may not need this much infrastructure to deal with over-wintering
Access

- Supplies in: Pick-up & trailer, tractor, implements
- Moving livestock
- Moving manure and bedding from shelters
- Location of existing water/electrical/obstacles (ex: septic tanks)/trees/plantings
Fencing – 3 types we use

• Woven wire with stinger at 10” on exterior runs
  • 8’ t-posts, wood 3 post, cross-braced corners
• Hog panel
  • 8’ t-posts, 3 ties per post, stinger ideal but not necessary
• Electric tape
  • Step-in posts, 3 strands of ½” electrical tape for interior divisions
Woven wire with stinger

Electric three strand
Water Supply

- Hydrants – frost free
  - All supply lines 48” deep, 1” polyethylene water line preferable
  - Gravel around base

- Automatic waterers – frost free
  - Smidley (what we use – there’s a few brands)
  - ¾” supply line, 14 gauge with ground, UF wire, 15 amp circuit (make sure it’s well grounded!)
  - 48” x 48” pad – poured concrete, with 12” x 48” polyethylene culvert riser
Smidley Frost Free Waterer
Water Supply

• **Portable tanks – can be frost free**
  - Galvanized steel with plastic drinker
  - In winter, use submersible heater with thermostat
  - Protect your cords from pigs!

• **Stock tanks to hold water – we bucket out water for smaller water dishes**

• **Plastic or metal water dishes**
Electrical Supply

• Evaluating your electrical needs
  • Add up the required ampacity of your operation, then add some extra

• Our farm runs on a 60 amp panel, supplied by aluminum triplex wire that comes underground from our main panel

• Also have a 30 amp panel for the automatic waterers and fencer
**Electrical Supply**

- Solar fence charger
  - Fairly inexpensive
  - Good, easy option for electric fence and summer pasture
  - Will still need some electrical supply for winter waterers
Shelter

• Basics
  • Open end out of prevailing wind
  • Lots of deep bedding
  • Put in a high spot so water runs away from it
• Using existing structures & building permanent structures
  • Consider accessibility and fencing needs
Shelter

• Portable structures
  • More economical
  • More options for moving pigs around pasture/woodlands
  • But they fall apart easy and you need to consider wind
Shelter - Examples

- Salvaged – 1,050 gallon polyethylene water tanks with doors cut in them
- Salvaged – Horse trailer top with tin sides
- Salvaged – Shelter in “sacrifice area” is an 18’ galvanized metal Quonset-type hut made from half an old grain bin
- Classic A-frame huts are great – we just had other stuff we could use
Thanks!

Turkey Foot Farm
“You’ll love them as much as we do”
Please type your questions!

Photo courtesy of Turkey Foot Farm
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