



## **Bryson FFA**

### **Showpig Guide**

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- Practice Show Ring
  - Alleys and gate placement
  - Ring design
  - Weighing

## Facilities

- Disinfect Each Season
- Daily Clean up
- Disease Control
- Insect Control

## Selection

- Getting Started
  - Study available Genetics
  - Get to know breeders
  - Background knowledge
- Judge, date of show, age needed, regulations, breed characteristics vaccines given by breeders...
- Subscribe to Youth Livestock Publications
- Learn from those winning (go to the backdrop)

## Selection

- Goal Setting
  - Determine your objective
  - Make a commitment

## Selection

- Fundamentals- What to look for and avoid
  - Structural Correctness
  - Indicators of muscle shape and thickness
  - Projected growth and leanness
  - Design/eye appeal

## Selection

- Market Hog
  - Muscle
  - Leanness
- Breeding Gilt
  - Structure
  - Width
  - Structure
  - Balance/Design
  - Muscle
  - Underline and vulva quality
  - Leanness

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Different Types of Companies and Feeds
- Different Kinds of Hogs
- Different Situations
- Water!!!!

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Arrival/Receiving Rations
  - 20% protein; 1.3-1.4% Lysine
  - Medicated with Mecadox-Banmith
  - 1/2- bag to each pig

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Grower Ration
  - 18-20% protein; 1.2% Lysine
  - Medicated with Mecadox-Banmith or Tylan
  - Feeding time varies
  - Withdrawl time with Mecadox-Banmith ·

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Finisher Ration
  - 16%, 18%, or 20% protein; 1.0-1.2% Lysine
  - No withdrawl
  - Feeding time varies
  - Products very different with same protein, fat, amino acid, etc. levels

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Learn how and when to adjust rations
- Projected Weight/Date of Final Show
  - We recommend weighing once a week
  - Pick a day each week as a “weigh day” and weigh the same day, AT THE SAME TIME, each week
- Average Daily Gain (ADG) and Phenotype
- Holding/Pushing Patterns

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Additives
  - Structure/Soundness
  - Fat (corn oil/syrup)
  - Body
  - Freshness
  - Protein

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Additives, cont. (Soundness)
  - MOST important is feed and water

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Paylean (Ractopamine)
  - Used for increased lean muscle production
  - Increases weight gain tremendously
  - Soundness Problems
  - Breeding situation
  - Controversy over pork quality issues
  - Ethic controversy

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Paylean (Ractopamine)
  - Market Hogs 150-240 lb body weight
- Pen average, testing money
  - Not labeled for breeding stock
  - Withdraw times
  - Show awareness and testing

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Paylean (Ractopamine)
  - 18grams/ton of paylean/day maximum
  - 9 grams/ton works well (difficult to measure but important)
  - Not considered a top dress
  - Must be included in or be fed with a complete ration
  - Recommended with at least 4 to 5 lbs of feed per day
  - Only add at end of feeding period (approx. last 20 days, but varies)

## Nutrition/Feeding

- Paylean (Ractopamine)
  - Very good product, but MUST be fed correctly
  - Not little is good, a lot is better concept

## Health

- Prevention = Best Method
  - Clean, Sanitary Pen
  - Clorox and Water; Powder Lime/Dirt
  - Fresh Sand
  - Fresh Bedding
  - Clean Daily
  - Little Exposure to new pigs (isolation)

## Health

- READ LABEL
  - Storage environment and temperature
  - Correct equipment for specific administrative
  - “IM” – Intramuscularly (deep, in muscle)
  - “SQ” – Subcutaneous (under skin)
  - “IV” – Intravenous (in vein)
  - Consult Veterinarian
  - WITHDRAWL Periods

## At Home

- Get Tame
- Train for Showmanship  
(Treat Everyday as Show Day)
- Feed Twice Per Day
- Weigh Once Per Week

## Home

- Hair Care
  - Brush Daily
  - Condition every other day
  - No oil on white pigs, oil on dark pigs
  - Wash weekly
  - Sun burn problems and prevention

## Clipping

- Clip close to show time (not at show unless there for extended time and if permissible)
- 1 or 1A clipper guards on entire body
- 00 on head, front of neck, underline and tail
- \*Blend in\*
- Clipping hair too short is not desirable and makes them appear harder and not as fresh.

## Fitting

- Follow show rules
- Clipped
- Clean
- Not completely, but partly a beauty contest

## Handling

- Be CALM at all times
  - At home treat it as show day
  - Let pig be around others
  - When weighing be calm and patient

## Handling, cont.

- Work with equipment you will at show
- Wash weekly so knows what is happening at show
- Load in Trailer several times for practice
- At show plan ahead and if trained correctly it will be easy.

## SPORSTMANSHIP

- Show with your friends not against them
- Take good care of the livestock and they will take good care of you
- The harder you work the luckier you'll get
- You may get beat in a class or in the championship drive, but never get beat on the stick

## **Recommended Products Sheet**

### **Skin and Hair Care:**

1. Revive or Sudden Impact as daily care
2. Champions Choice to help darken and use as heavy oil (Purple oil is fine as well)
3. Baby oil once per week and on legs

### **Washing Shampoo**

1. Dawn or Joy Dishwashing Soap
2. EQ Solutions Foaming Wash for weekly or more often washes

### **Health and Other Issues**

- *Cough*
  - Lincomix 300 (Slight Cough and first treatment)
  - Baytril (worked best for us this year)
  - Excede (Good drug that we used before hauling somewhere or before cold weather snap)
  - NuFlor in some cases (Always give Probiotics along with)
- *Thumping* (Severe Respiratory issue)
  - Draxxin (most expensive, has not worked well for us this year on general cough, but best for thumping pigs) **\*\*Do not give more than once in 3 days**
- *Scours* **\*\*Take stool sample to Vet!**
  - Spectam and oat groats in feed for light case and possibly weather related cases
  - Tylan (cheap and works well on some scour cases\_
  - Corrid (Coccidiosis)
  - LA 200 (has worked on some cases in past)
  - **\*\*\*Always have checked for Protozoa and Guardia**
  - Nuflor for Salmonella cases
  - \*\*\*AGAIN, take a stool sample and go by Vets recommendation, there are so many different causes to say that you should always use one medication everytime**
- *Ulcers*
  - GastroGaurd
  - U-Guard is a good product that you could use daily to prevent
  - Dr. Gleason also had a recommended protocol for treating ulcers
- *Legs/Joints*
  - Lincomix 300, Banamine, Dexamethazone for injuries, three days in a row immediately when you see lameness
  - BOSE every other week or once per month
  - Lincomix every other week along with BOSE
  - Equexx, Fluid Flex, or other liquid joint combo daily....Glucosamine, Chondrotin, MSM, Hyaluronic Acid, Shark Cartilage

- *Feet*

- Hoof and Heel (made by Cut and Heel) at least once a week, but daily is best

- Sole Paint only when needed and at show

- *Going off feed*

*There could be several reasons for this, so you need to evaluate whether it is because of one of the above mentioned health problems or not*

- Pig burned out on feed

- Check water supply (clean, temperature, pressure, etc)

- Cut fat supplements out, lower feed by half of ration and give probiotic paste. Do this for two feedings. You could also give B complex and Dex shot (optional). Also make sure there is no feed left in the pan.

- Off feed during cold snap

- Shot of Linco or Excede and Dex, use appetite stimulates, could wet the feed with warm water

- Because of respiratory problem

- Treat respiratory problem, treat that, don't worry about feed consumption

- Because of Scours

- Treat scours, may be good to up level of oat groats

- Always consider ulcers

- Think of coating the stomach with pepto bismol, anti acid, buttermilk (if these work, it is a good way to diagnose that ulcers are present)

- Possible clinical signs of ulcers:

- Act really hungry and start eating but then stop

- Some eat and then run to water (stomach burning)

- Most prevalent sign is that they go off of feed for no reason and you exhausted all other possible reasons

- Some times that will regurgitate feed

Disclaimer: Edwards Family Genetics is not liable for any misuse or off-label use of the products listed. We have recommended these suggestions based on our personal experience. Please consult your veterinarian for any health problems you experience with your show pig project.

## **Supplement Recommendations**

Fat:

Lindner Full Figure

Fill (fiber):

Beet Pulp

Oat Groats

Paylean:

Lindner Lean Target

Joint Supplements:

Equexx, Fluid Flexx, etc....liquid combination joint supplements (needs to contain glucosamine, chondroitin, MSM, shark cartilage, hyaluronic acid)

Appetite stimulates:

Lindner Full Figure

Refresh

Egg

Vanilla wafers

General preventative health:

Probiotic paste

Biotin

Red Cell

BO-SE (Selenium)

B complex

## **Packing your showbox and trailer for the show:**

Washing

Short hose

Spray nosel

Shampoo

Waterless Shampoo

Baby oil

Couple large towels

Couple smaller towels

Couple wash clothes

Skin and Hair

Revive/Sudden Impact

2 Brushes (no oil brush and one used for oil)

Showing

Whip or Pipe

Safety pins or Belt clip

Feeding

Feed

Measuring cup

\*\*\*All supplements being fed at the house



Tube water  
Feeder  
Beet pulp & oats (even if not being fed at home)  
Water bucket

Misc  
Sole paint  
Hoof & Heal  
Wire  
Pliers  
Sliding panel with gate  
Aspirin Free  
Probiotic paste  
Electrolytes  
Heat lamp (if allowed)  
Extension cords  
Splitter  
Plenty of shavings  
Straw (if cold and allowed)  
Griddle brick  
Scissors  
Razor combs  
Alcohol  
Paperwork  
Entry verification from Ag teacher or county agent  
Copy of validation form with ear notch and tag recorded  
Texas Bred Certificates  
Breeding gilts- original registration papers  
Health papers (if required)  
Copy of premium book  
Copy of weight breaks

## **Showmanship is Really Just Training**

Showmanship is one of the most, if not the very most, important aspects of livestock exhibition. It can mean the difference between being the Grand Champion or getting left standing or making that last sale hole. It is emphasized and talked about the most of all the subjects at many of the show clinics and camps that we all attend. It causes racing hearts in many showmen and gray hairs for many parents, grandparents, ag teachers, 4-H leaders, and even breeders. Like I said, showmanship, in most instances can make you or break you- especially at the elite, competitive major shows here in the southwest. Hours are spent discussing and teaching kids the methodology and ins and outs of showmanship. However, the actual art of training the project is often overlooked. The number one question we get when we speak at clinics is how to get a pig to show with its head up. We address this question and the entire training process in this article. There are two very important and imperative things to attend to BEFORE you ever lay a whip on a pig. #1: You must have the appropriate location and space to use as a practice arena. You want to create the closest thing to a simulated show ring as possible. You CAN NOT effectively train and practice with your livestock if they are running under or over stuff. Your pig is much less likely to sustain an injury if you practice in a clear, picked up, well kept area. #2: Your pig MUST be tame and calm before you ever attempt to train it or practice showmanship. We think that one of the biggest mistakes that people make is taking an untamed animal out and try to practice showing it or start training it. It will run around from you until it is very used to and trusting of you and its surroundings. The best way to tame your new prospect pig is to get in the pen with it and allow it to first approach you. Pigs are curious creatures and if you sit in the pen with them and give them a little while, they will begin to nudge around on you and bite your clothing and shoes. This allows you the opportunity to get your hands on them for the first time. They may run off the first few times you attempt this, but eventually they will get used to you touching and scratching them. After you have mastered that, get them acquainted to a brush- like learning to trust your touch, at first they will bite and want to play with it, then they will allow you to brush them. Once they are gentle enough to where they approach you in the pen and let you brush them without running off- then is the time to introduce a whip or pipe. Get them used to it the same way you did with the brush and then start to use it on them inside the pen first. This way you have them in a very confined area and they get used to you commanding things from them with a whip there instead of in a much larger area where you may not even be able to effectively use the whip on them.

Once your pigs are extremely calm in the pen and you can do most anything with them in there, is when they are ready to get out of the pen. If you try to start practicing and showing them before they trust you and are used to you interacting with them, then all they will do is run around and in some cases run to the point that you can't even get near them much less use your whip on them.

Like we mentioned earlier, it is imperative that you have an appropriate pen to train them in. There are several different types of pens you can easily construct with panels to serve this purpose. We have used an oval or round shaped pen, which makes it easier initially because there are no corners to worry about your pig getting in; however, if you do use this type of set up it is extremely important that you know how to get your pig out of a corner. The best way is to make sure they never get there to begin with. If

you turn the pig three feet before you ever get to the corner then you never have to fight getting them out of it. If you do find yourself fighting your pig in a corner, move around to its head and quickly use your hands (NOT YOUR KNEES) to push him out of it or you can turn your whip around and use the more solid handle on his head firmly to get him out. Both of these methods are also used to get your pig off of the fence. Back to your practice pen- we have also set up a series of gates with small alleyways to simulate the entrances that several of the shows use to get the pigs in the ring. You can also set up your scales in these alleys (like they do at a show). This way, you and your pig both are familiar with how to move around and get to the ring in that type of setting. No matter what type of practice/training pen you construct, be sure there are no wholes in the ground the pig (or you) could step in and be injured and that it is completely clear of debris and equipment. The first time and every other time you even open the gate to get your pig out- DO NOT allow them to run out of it and take off. If you do- it will teach them that it is ok and they will be “trained” to do it every time you open a gate in front of them- even when Jim McCoy at San Antonio or Al Schminke at Houston is looking at him enter.....the pig doesn't know any different, it is what you trained them to do at home. Always keep in mind that every time you take your pig out of the pen and practice with them- you need to treat it like you are at the show. **Always practice like you play or in this case, treat everyday at home like it is show day.**

Once you have your pig in the practice pen, you need to use your whip as a guide and an extension of your hand. You always need to use your whip or pipe firmly. One of our biggest pet peeves is when exhibitors tap their pigs so lightly that they do not have commanding control over them. With that said, it is never right to overuse or abuse your control with the whip or pipe. That will only frustrate the animal and you will lose their trust and cooperation. You will also need to train your pig to walk, turn, and stop with your body placement. A properly trained pig will walk slower the closer you position yourself to his shoulder and head. The proper place to position yourself when moving forward is directly next to the pig's hip. This will keep him going, but will also have you close enough to react to his movements and drive him where you need to go. If you want him to turn, then move up closer to his head and guide his path with your body movement. We prefer and definitely recommend showmen to use their hands possible and when needed to turn their pig. Practice this style of whip and body placement at home so they correctly respond to both.

Another question that we are always asked is how to teach a pig to walk at a slow pace (or just not run) in the show ring. This is done at home by adhering to one of our first principles of getting them extremely calm in the pen before you ever get them out. When you do get them out, use your whip on each side of their head, back and forth in order to keep them walking slow. Once your pig is trained and you feel in control you will only have to tap them on their side to guide them and will not have to stay on their head as much. Lastly, in order to have your animal consistently trained and showing well you need to consistently and continuously get them out and practice with them. In our experience if you practice with them daily starting at five minutes and working up to fifteen minutes or so this will help keep them exercised and trained to show.

It is also good to practice penning your pig if possible, make a small pen on one end of your practice pen that you can use for this, it will also help you to work on

penning your pig on your own (without the help of the board people) and getting use to closing the gate on your own.

You must have these basics down first of walking at the right pace and turning on command before you ever worry about other things. Once the basics are mastered, then start teaching them to get their head up, driving to an object or person, and introducing several other pigs into the practice pen with them (with the help of your parents, siblings, or friends). There are several different ways to teach a pig to show with his head up. We believe in always feeding them up off the ground with a feeder that is tied on the fence and elevated to a point where they can comfortably eat but have to somewhat up and forward from their body, and not between their front legs on the ground. We also think that it helps to make the all sides of the pen are solid, this way they constantly have to look up to see things (remember pig's are curious and very aware animals). So when they hear you come in the barn or watch you bring their feed to them, they have to look up to see you. You can also walk them in tall grass; which forces them to get their head up above the grass in order to see around them. These are the things that we have done and seen results with. You also need to train them to drive directly at the judge. With the all important chest floor view being a strong advantage for many of our show pigs today, it is imperative that you have the ability to show off that view to the judge. We also like to practice with several different pigs in the ring with them, this way they are not just used to being in there by themselves and become anxious when they are surrounded by other pigs in the ring at the show. But remember to have a friend, sibling or parent show those other pigs, you never want to allow any of them to root around or run around the practice pen because you don't want them to do the same at the show. Additionally, it is helpful to drive your pig at the exit gate (where they think that may be going home) and then turn them and drive them back in the center of the ring. Practicing this will allow you to gain ultimate control of them in any situation that you may encounter.

These are just a few of the things that we believe should be emphasized when training your show pigs. We all talk about Showmanship, but Showmanship is really training the animal at home, so we felt it was more important to discuss training. There are many other things that you will encounter at the show. Be sure to emulate any of the other things that you may think you will see at the show at home in order to prepare you and your pig for these things. This will keep you and your pigs calmer and more comfortable at the show. Practice, practice, practice and good luck to you at your county show and the majors!