

SIMPLY RAISING PIGS

Pete Thompson
Burnt Valley Farm

Simple Pigs: Overview

- Conversion and Yield Rates
- Production Factors
- Feeders and Waterers
- Fencing and Housing
- Loading and Transport



Conversion Rate: Feed to Meat Ratio

- APPROXIMATELY 3 lbs of feed = 1 lb of weight gain
- How Fast Do I Want to Grow?

FACTORS:

- Protein: Min 11% - Digestable
- Genetics: Cross Breeding
- Temperature: Cooler is Better
- Competition: 3 to 4 hogs per pen / feeder
- Worming: at cutting

Yield Rates

- Live Weight: on the hoof, measurements or scaled
- Hanging Weight: Minus Head, Skin, Entrails/Offal, Feet
- Cut Weight: Packaged (Bones? Fat? Offal?)
- Live 240 lb
- Hanging = $LW \times 75\% = 180 \text{ lb}$
- Cut = $HW \times 75\% = 135 \text{ lb}$
- NET 55% to 70% DEPENDING...

Production Factors

- Earliest Pickup: 7 Weeks Old, 20-30 lb
- Typical Processing: 220-250 lb
- Typical Gain 200 lb
- $200 \text{ lb gain} \times 3 \text{ (Ideal Conversion Rate)} = 600 \text{ lbs of Feed}$
- Conversion Rate Factors... Protein, Breed, # Hogs, Temperature, Worming
- Goals: Reduce Labor Costs, Batch Cycle, Pasture Impact – 4 to 6 Month

Waterers

Objectives: Durability, Capacity, Maintainability

- 55 gal plastic drum, remove bung, clean thoroughly
- Drill $3/4$ " hole in side, 6" off bottom
- Insert pig waterer nipple using $7/8$ " washers, O-rings, $1/2$ " pipe coupler
- Heavy when filled – 400 lb
- 250w heater OK

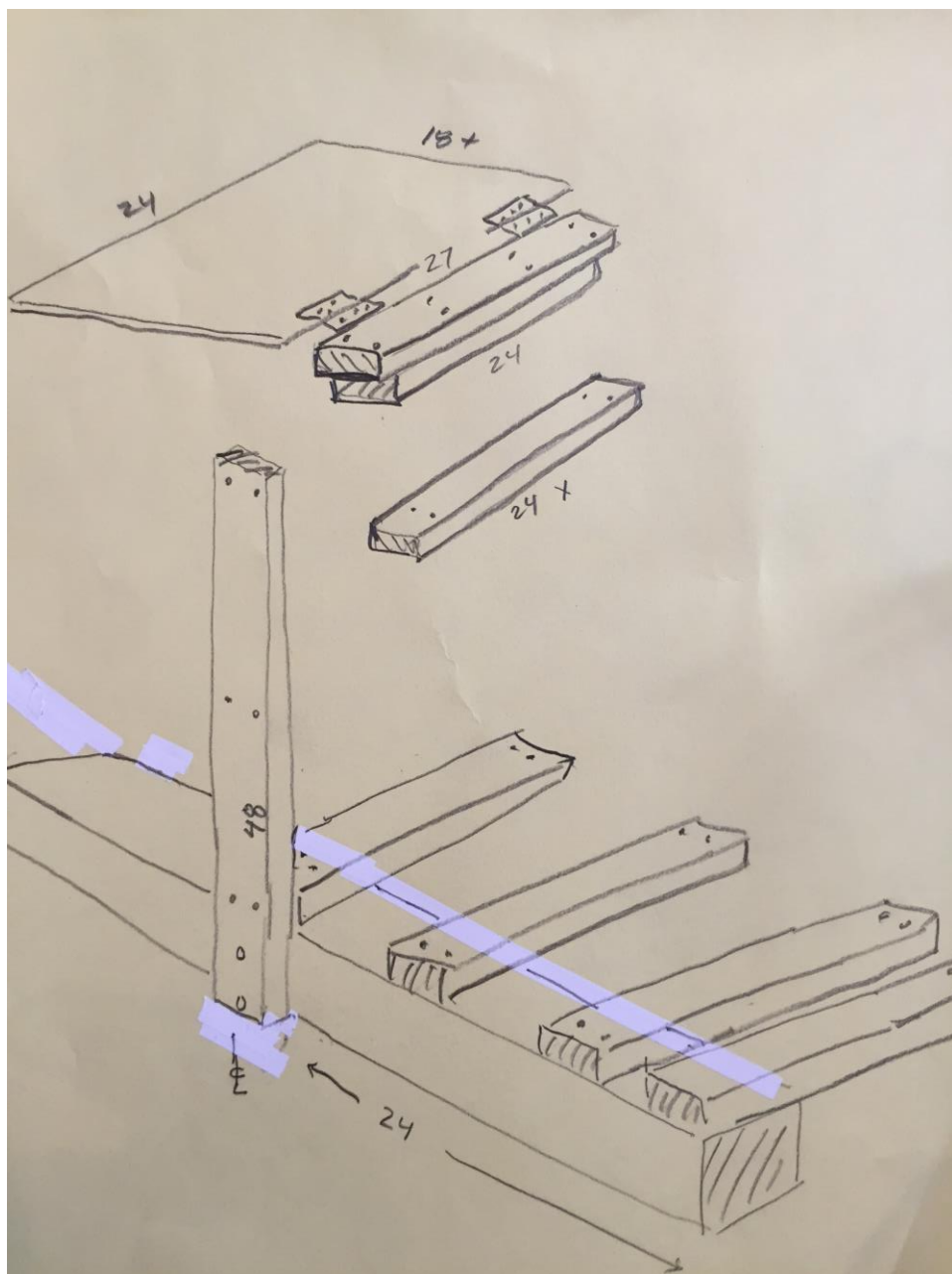


Feeders

Objectives: Water Resistance, Durability, Capacity

- Brower double door feeder \$150 online
- W24" x D19" x H35"
- 1 – 8x10 / 8' Railroad Tie
- 4- 2x4 / 8' DF#2, 4x4 sheet $\frac{3}{4}$ " CDX Plywood, Sealant
- 1 lb 3" torx screws, 1 lb 1-1/2" HardiBacker screws, 25 – 4" LedgerLok lag screws, 4 – 3" door hinges





Fencing - Electric

Objectives: Continuity, Cost, Durability

- 12 ga galvanized wire, plastic wire insulators for rods
- 1/2" x 24" rebar OR 3/8" x 36" fiberglass stakes spaced 10' -12'
- Solar or 110v OK – GROUNDING CRITICAL
- Weaners and Adults: 2 strands - 6" off soil, 10" apart
- Baby pigs: 3 Strands - 4" off soil, 4" to mid, 8" to top
- Will ground out on grass, dirt, snow






Loading and Transport

- Objectives: Control, Simplicity, Security
- 2 horse trailer w/ side door
- 24" w x 8' long wood chute, solid wood sides 36" high
- Drop-in guillotine ends panels, Funnel Fencing to chute
- CONDITIONING and SOCIALIZATION are KEY
- 4" of wood shavings on floor – NO CEDAR
- Summer: spray pigs down after loading, unloading



QUESTIONS?

Itinerary for Tonight

- Nils Johnson - Introduction to the Program
- Pete Thompson – Pastured Pork on his Farm
-  • David & Colleen Hudspeth – Pastured pork on their farm
- Break (and snacks)
- Brad Murphy – Basics of Swine Feed
- Paul Kuber – High Quality VS Low Quality Pork
- Kira Olsen – USDA Slaughter and Processing
- Nils Johnson – The Contracting Process & Next Steps