

THE LIFE OF A PIG

Pigs have a very unique lifestyle compared to many other farm animals raised in Canada.



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BIRTH

A sow's gestation (pregnancy) lasts three months, three weeks and three days. On average a sow will have 10 to 14 piglets in a litter and give birth twice a year.



FARROWING PEN

This setup is designed to keep the piglets safe while they nurse from the sow. Piglets stay on milk for three to four weeks.



NURSERY

When piglets are weaned from the sow, they are grouped by size and moved to a warm nursery pen. They are fed a grain-based pellet and can play with enrichment toys.

GROWER-FINISHER

Pigs move into another area when they reach 25 kg. They are fed a specific diet and are raised until they reach 120 kg. These are the pigs that supply us with pork.



BREEDING STOCK

Farmers select the pigs with the best genetics and most desirable traits to stay on the farm to add to their herd or replace existing sows and boars.



MARKET

Each animal is inspected at the processing plant. Workers follow strict government guidelines for processing and handling animals.

TRUCKING

Market hogs are sent to processing plants on special trucks. Some even have fans and sprinklers to keep the pigs cool on hot days. There are rules and regulations for transporting pigs in Canada, including how many pigs can go on each truck.



HOUSES OF STRAW, STICK OR BRICKS?

Unlike what you see in the movies, most pigs in Canada live in barns, not outside in the mud. Barns are designed to provide an ideal environment, protecting pigs from extreme weather, predators and disease. Some farms in Ontario provide outside access and others specialize in pasture raising their pigs.