

# Selecting and Feeding your show pig

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Caleb Wood

# Agenda

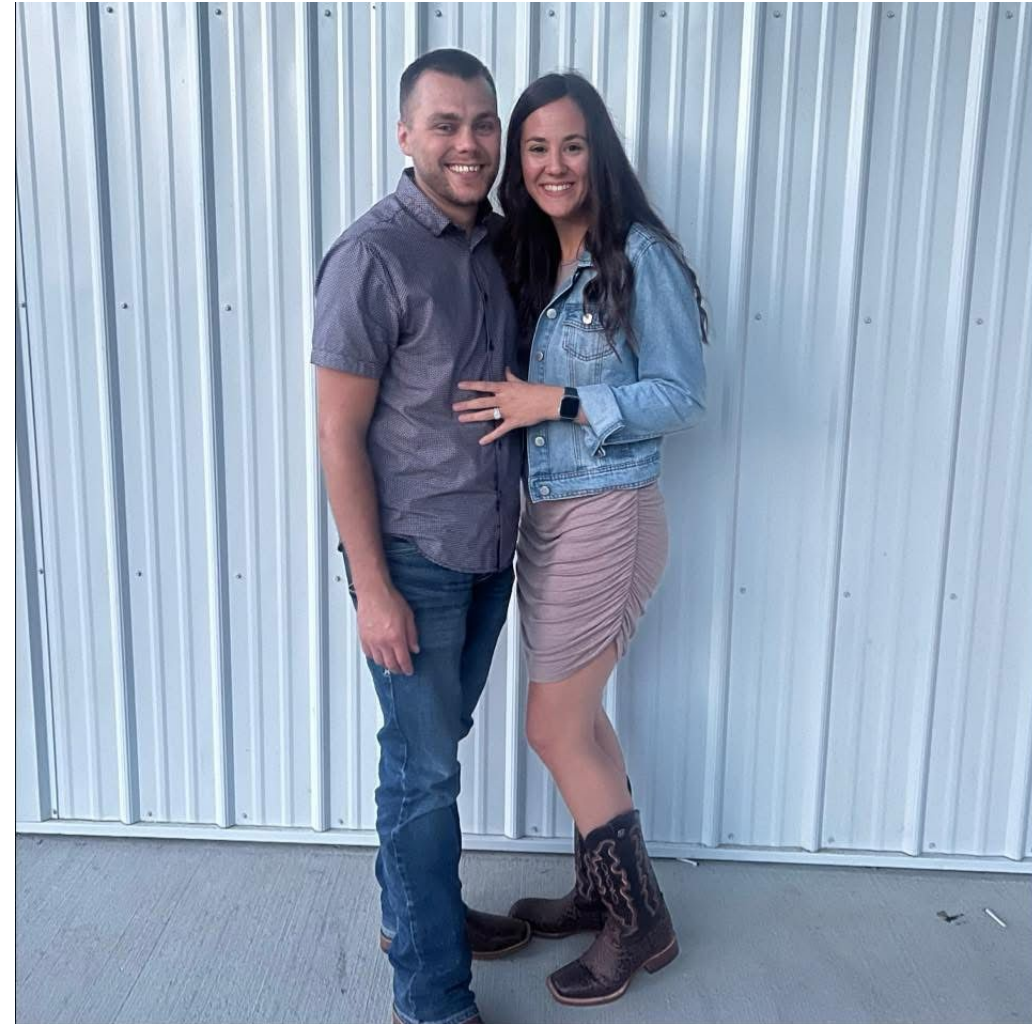


- Intro on me
- Selection
- Feed
- Questions

# About Me

My name is Caleb Wood. I grew up in Mason County on our family farm. Raising pigs with my Dad for 4H. I showed for 12 years. I knew I wanted to raise pigs once time allowed.

- Michigan State University
- Graduated with a certificate in Livestock Industries
- Summer internship with Moyer-Genetic Edge, which turned into a full-time job after college
- After Moyer's I married my beautiful wife of now 4.5 years. We now own and operate Wood Genetics together
  - Consisting of 7-10 sows. Yorks, durocs and crossbreds
  - Providing highly quality show pigs to customers
- Lindner Show Feed dealership



# Breeders

- Find a breeder
  - Do research. There are lots of breeders out there
  - Make sure you feel comfortable
- Ask lots of questions
  - Ask if they have the correct pigs that work for your end goal
  - Breeds you're looking for
- After finding a breeder that fits
  - Be upfront
  - Let them know how much you want them to be involved

# Projecting

## Projecting the baby pigs

- Maturity and bloom
  - Ton of muscle and shape
    - Earlier maturing
    - Maybe a smaller frame pig in the end
  - Greener/Skinnier
    - Maybe a little bigger in the end
    - More extended
- Pigs change fast
  - Sometimes for the better
  - Sometimes for the worse
- Ask lots of questions
  - Lean on the breeder. They see the pigs every day
    - Has the one that looks the part today always looked this good?
    - How have they progressed as little pigs

# Skeletal Structure

- Feet/legs
  - Pasterns
  - Toe spread
  - Good knee
  - Hock set
  - Front end height
- Square
  - Front and rear
    - Coming at you and going away
- Adequate power and body shape
  - Bone and skull stoutness
    - Helps project the amount of power they may have as they continue growing
  - Rib
    - Round bold rib cage
  - Muscle
- Bulk/Mass
  - While maintaining extension up front

# Selection Summary

- Start with structure
  - Find the one you feel is the most sound
    - Good feet and legs
    - Up on its pasterns
    - Squareness
    - Good extension up front
  - Extras
    - Bone
    - Muscle
    - Mass/Power
- There is no perfect pig. Find the one you like that is structurally correct while adding on as many extras you can, without affecting their structural integrity
- There are a lot of things that can be done with a feed bucket. Visualize what the pigs end goal will be and use the feed bucket to your advantage.

# Starting out before the feed

- Environment
- Water
- Health
- Feeding equipment



# In the barn

## Environment

- Clean and dry pen
  - Pigs need a dry place to rest
  - Free of sharp objects
  - Warm/draft free
  - Plenty of room to move around

## Water

- This is the most essential nutrient in your pigs' diet
- Water shortage will result in sickness, dehydration and other negative side effects
- Check your waters at every feeding
  - Flow rates can change, hoses can plug

# In the barn

## Health

- A healthy pig is a thriving pig
  - Check for sickness every time you're in the barn
  - Health indicators
    - Coughing
    - Rough hair
    - Limping
    - Lethargic
    - Not eating
  - Veterinarian
    - Establish a relationship before getting your pig
    - Vaccines and worming

## Feeding equipment

- Cup feeders
  - This is the most accurate way of monitoring your show pig
  - Helps maintain good health
  - Knowledge of what your pig is consuming
- Feed scoops (1lb)
  - Easier for measuring
- Feed buckets

# Where to start with feed?

- Ask yourself these questions:
  - What can you and your family afford?
    - What makes the most sense
  - What brand is easily accessible?
  - What are your goals?
  - What does your pig need?
- There are many different feed options available to all of us
  - Brands
  - Proteins/fat
  - Supplements

# Feeds

- Protein

- Find the one that fits your pig needs
  - Most common: 20-10%
    - 20%: 25-50lbs
    - 18-16%: 50-125lbs
    - 18-10%: 125-290lbs

- Fat

- Most common: 3.5-6.5%
  - Fat can be supplemented based off what your pig needs
    - Lower protein-higher fat

- Always check your feed labels

- Make sure you're using the most accurate protein and fat for the results you want to achieve

# Evaluate your pig

- What does your pig need?
  - More rib shape/Less hard muscle
  - More muscle
  - Less bloom and cover (fat)
  - Maintain



# Evaluate your pig

## **Heavy muscled/skinny rib**

- Lower protein: 14% protein
- Higher fat: 8.5% fat
  - Promote bloom to allow pig to get more cover and fill in rib
- Supplement fat if needed

## **More Muscle**

- Higher protein: 20%
  - Promote muscle growth
- Lower fat: 5%

## Less bloom and cover (fat)

- Protein: 20%
- Fat: 5%
  - Supplement
    - To help burn excess fat
      - Tune N (Lindner)
      - Final Control (Sunglo)
      - Chiseled (TTF Nutrition)



## Maintain

- Protein: 16-18%
- Fat: 5-6.5%
  - Basic, easy to feed. Allowing you to maintain good muscle shape and not get too fleshy with fat

# Questions?

Contact:

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