

# Guide to Determine What Weight Show Pig to Purchase



Traditionally, the swine show at the Dixie National Junior Roundup is scheduled for a Saturday near February 1 each year. In 2018, the Dixie National Junior Roundup Swine Show is scheduled for Saturday, February 3.

Each year, many swine exhibitors purchase the pigs they intend to show at the Dixie National Junior Roundup in Jackson. Some exhibitors purchase pigs at show pig sales, on-farm sales, or from individual producers usually in late September and October. Sometimes they purchase in early November, since the ownership deadline for pigs is December 1. Don't wait until November to purchase a pig, because there may not be many left.

To be successful showing pigs, plan before purchasing the show pig.

## 1. It is a good idea to understand the show requirements.

- Become familiar with the rules and regulations of the specific show in which you will show the animal.
- Each show may have different requirements, and the requirements may change from one year to the next.
- Mississippi Bred Contest: If you want to be eligible for additional premiums provided by the Mississippi Pork Producers Association for Mississippi-bred tagged pigs, ask the seller if the pig will be tagged Mississippi-bred before you purchase the pig. All Mississippi-bred tagged pigs should be tagged before change of ownership.

## 2. Here are more things to consider before purchasing the show pig:

- Animal care—who will provide daily care for the pig?
- Housing—do you have a shelter and pen to keep the pig comfortable?
- Transport of the pig—do you have a truck or trailer to haul the pig(s) you purchase?
- Equipment—do you have a self-feeder and water supply for the pig?
- Feed—what will you feed your pig, and will you have the feed when the pig arrives?
- Health program—ask the seller what vaccinations or dewormers the pig has received and when the treatments were given.
- Market situation—what do you plan to do with your pig after the show?
- Sources of show pigs—where will you go to purchase a show pig?

## How to Use the Tables

The following tables will help you determine what weight pig to purchase at various times. Each table is for a different purchase date (September through November). The purchase date is listed at the top left side. Also, the number of days to the show date (February 3) is listed on the top row after the pig purchase weight. Be sure you use the table that matches your pig purchase date.

- Table 1 – Purchase date, September 1
- Table 2 – Purchase date, September 15
- Table 3 – Purchase date, October 1
- Table 4 – Purchase date, October 15
- Table 5 – Purchase date, November 1
- Table 6 – Purchase date, November 15

The shaded areas in each table represent pig weights that are outside the desirable weight ranges for the Dixie National Junior Roundup. Pigs must weigh 200 pounds or more at the show. There is no maximum weight for the market pigs, but weights above 285 pounds are shaded in the tables. Barrows entered in the MS Bred Barrow Show must weigh between 200 and 290 pounds at the time of show check-in.

**There are different ways to use these tables.** *One way*, if you know the weight of the pig you want to buy, is to locate that weight on the top row of the table, then locate the expected average daily gain (ADG) in the column on the left side of the table. The number at the intersection of the row and column is the projected weight of the pig on February 3, 2018.

Example: **Table 2. Purchase Date: September 15**—You found a pig you want to purchase. The pig weighs 60 pounds, and you think the pig will gain 1.5 pounds per day. The projected weight of the pig on February 3 is 272 pounds.

*Another method*, if you know what weight you would like your pig to weigh at the show, is to locate that weight in the unshaded area of the table along the same row you think the pig will gain (ADG), then go up the column from the desired show weight to find what weight pig you need to purchase (pig purchase weight).

Example: **Table 3. Purchase Date: October 1**—You want your pig to weigh about 280 pounds at the show, and you estimate the pig will gain 1.75 pounds per day. From the 279 value located in the 1.75 row, go up the column to the top row (pig purchase weight), and determine a 60-pound pig is what you need to purchase October 1.

Also in this same table with the same show weight of about 280 pounds, there are other pigs with a similar weight. For instance, if you purchased a 90-pound pig October 1, you have to make sure the pig gains no more than 1.5 pounds per day to weigh 278 pounds on the show date. And a 120-pound pig purchased October 1 needs to gain only 1.25 pounds per day to weigh 276 pounds February 3, 2018.

## Approximate Show Pig Weight Tables

**Table 1. Purchase Date: September 1, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (155 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	185	195	205	215	225	235	245	255	265	275	285	295	305
1.25	224	234	244	254	264	274	284	294	304	314	324	334	344
1.50	263	273	283	293	303	313	323	333	343	353	363	373	383
1.75	301	311	321	331	341	351	361	371	381	391	401	411	421
2.00	340	350	360	370	380	390	400	410	420	430	440	450	460

**Table 2. Purchase Date: September 15, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (141 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	171	181	191	201	211	221	231	241	251	261	271	281	291
1.25	206	216	226	236	246	256	266	276	286	296	306	316	326
1.50	242	252	262	272	282	292	302	312	322	332	342	352	362
1.75	277	287	297	307	317	327	337	347	357	367	377	387	397
2.00	312	322	332	342	352	362	372	382	392	402	412	422	432

**Table 3. Purchase Date: October 1, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (125 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	155	165	175	185	195	205	215	225	235	245	255	265	275
1.25	186	196	206	216	226	236	246	256	266	276	286	296	306
1.50	218	228	238	248	258	268	278	288	298	308	318	328	338
1.75	249	259	269	279	289	299	309	319	329	339	349	359	369
2.00	280	290	300	310	320	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400

**Table 4. Purchase Date: October 15, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (111 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	141	151	161	171	181	191	201	211	221	231	241	251	261
1.25	169	179	189	199	209	219	229	239	249	259	269	279	289
1.50	197	207	217	227	237	247	257	267	277	287	297	307	317
1.75	224	234	244	254	264	274	284	294	304	314	324	334	344
2.00	252	262	272	282	292	302	312	322	332	342	352	362	372

**Table 5. Purchase Date: November 1, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (94 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	124	134	144	154	164	174	184	194	204	214	224	234	244
1.25	148	158	168	178	188	198	208	218	228	238	248	258	268
1.50	171	181	191	201	211	221	231	241	251	261	271	281	291
1.75	195	205	215	225	235	245	255	265	275	285	295	305	315
2.00	218	228	238	248	258	268	278	288	298	308	318	328	338

**Table 6. Purchase Date: November 15, 2017**

Average Daily Gain, lb/d	Pig Purchase Weight, lbs (80 days to show)												
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150
1.00	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230
1.25	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250
1.50	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270
1.75	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290
2.00	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310

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**Ownership deadline: December 1**

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## Example: How to calculate a projected pig weight for the show date

If you want to calculate the projected pig weight for a specific date not listed in the above tables, the following example should be helpful.

### Item 1 First, determine how many days it will be from the date of purchase to the show date.

From October 5 to February 3, there are *121* days (see Table 7).

### Item 2 Next, find out the weight of the pig you plan to purchase.

The seller may provide this information, or you can estimate the weight or weigh the pig on a scale.

Starting pig weight is *59 pounds*.

### Item 3 Next, determine how many pounds of gain per day (ADG) the pig will average until the show.

This will vary depending on the genetic potential of the pig, health status, type and quality of feed, amount of feed provided to the pig each day, housing conditions, weather factors, and so forth. Pigs will grow better if they are not alone. Normally, a pig should gain within a range of 1.4 to 2 pounds per day. Example *1.78 pounds*.

Generally, from 60 to 110 pounds, a pig will eat about 5 pounds of feed per day and should gain about 1.5 pounds per day. As the pig approaches 200 pounds, it will eat about 8 pounds of feed per day and should gain about 2 pounds per day.

### Item 4 Last, calculate the estimated weight of your pig on the show date.

Multiply Item 1 by Item 3, then add the answer to Item 2; this value is the estimated pig weight on the show date.

#### Example calculation:

Item 1 = 121 days until show

Item 2 = 59 pounds, initial pig weight

Item 3 = 1.78 average daily gain

Item 4 = 274 pounds of weight on show date

$(\text{Item 1} \times \text{Item 3}) + \text{Item 2} = \text{Item 4}$ .

$(121 \text{ days} \times 1.78 \text{ lb ADG}) + 59\text{-lb pig}$

$= 274\text{-lb pig at the show}$

A show weight calculator to assist with the purchase and growth management of your show pig is available in an excel spreadsheet. Go to <http://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/livestock/swine>, and scroll down the page to Other Information/Show Weight Calculator (Excel file).

**Table 7. To Determine Number of Days from Purchase to Show (February 3, 2018)**

**Example**  
 Purchase date                   October 7, 2017  
 Show Date                       February 3, 2018  
 Number of days to show       119

Pig purchase date	Number of days to show	Pig purchase date	Number of days to show	Pig purchase date	Number of days to show	Passed ownership deadline	Number of days to show	Passed ownership deadline	Number of days to show
1-Sep	155	5-Oct	121	8-Nov	87	12-Dec	53	15-Jan	19
2-Sep	154	6-Oct	120	9-Nov	86	13-Dec	52	16-Jan	18
3-Sep	153	7-Oct	119	10-Nov	85	14-Dec	51	17-Jan	17
4-Sep	152	8-Oct	118	11-Nov	84	15-Dec	50	18-Jan	16
5-Sep	151	9-Oct	117	12-Nov	83	16-Dec	49	19-Jan	15
6-Sep	150	10-Oct	116	13-Nov	82	17-Dec	48	20-Jan	14
7-Sep	149	11-Oct	115	14-Nov	81	18-Dec	47	21-Jan	13
8-Sep	148	12-Oct	114	15-Nov	80	19-Dec	46	22-Jan	12
9-Sep	147	13-Oct	113	16-Nov	79	20-Dec	45	23-Jan	11
10-Sep	146	14-Oct	112	17-Nov	78	21-Dec	44	24-Jan	10
11-Sep	145	15-Oct	111	18-Nov	77	22-Dec	43	25-Jan	9
12-Sep	144	16-Oct	110	19-Nov	76	23-Dec	42	26-Jan	8
13-Sep	143	17-Oct	109	20-Nov	75	24-Dec	41	27-Jan	7
14-Sep	142	18-Oct	108	21-Nov	74	25-Dec	40	28-Jan	6
15-Sep	141	19-Oct	107	22-Nov	73	26-Dec	39	29-Jan	5
16-Sep	140	20-Oct	106	23-Nov	72	27-Dec	38	30-Jan	4
17-Sep	139	21-Oct	105	24-Nov	71	28-Dec	37	31-Jan	3
18-Sep	138	22-Oct	104	25-Nov	70	29-Dec	36		
19-Sep	137	23-Oct	103	26-Nov	69	30-Dec	35	1-Feb	2
20-Sep	136	24-Oct	102	27-Nov	68	31-Dec	34	2-Feb	1
21-Sep	135	25-Oct	101	28-Nov	67			3-Feb	0
22-Sep	134	26-Oct	100	29-Nov	66	1-Jan	33	4-Feb	
23-Sep	133	27-Oct	99	30-Nov	65	2-Jan	32	5-Feb	
24-Sep	132	28-Oct	98	<b>Ownership Deadline</b>		3-Jan	31	6-Feb	
25-Sep	131	29-Oct	97	1-Dec	64	4-Jan	30	7-Feb	
26-Sep	130	30-Oct	96	2-Dec	63	5-Jan	29	8-Feb	
27-Sep	129	31-Oct	95	3-Dec	62	6-Jan	28	9-Feb	
28-Sep	128			4-Dec	61	7-Jan	27	10-Feb	
29-Sep	127	1-Nov	94	5-Dec	60	8-Jan	26	11-Feb	
30-Sep	126	2-Nov	93	6-Dec	59	9-Jan	25	12-Feb	
		3-Nov	92	7-Dec	58	10-Jan	24	13-Feb	
1-Oct	125	4-Nov	91	8-Dec	57	11-Jan	23	14-Feb	
2-Oct	124	5-Nov	90	9-Dec	56	12-Jan	22	15-Feb	
3-Oct	123	6-Nov	89	10-Dec	55	13-Jan	21	16-Feb	
4-Oct	122	7-Nov	88	11-Dec	54	14-Jan	20	17-Feb	

## Summary

Careful attention to the pig's growth rate can identify other management practices that may need attention. If the rate of growth is less than you expect, consider other influences you may need to address, such as health status, animal comfort (housing conditions), and dietary concerns. The information in this publication can help you monitor and adjust the growth of the pig throughout the feeding period before the show. Purchasing a show pig that is the correct weight for the intended show gives you a good beginning to your swine project.

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