

IPP Press Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter 4, 2021 3rd Edition

Letter from the Editor

Dear IPP Family,

Fall is right around the corner and with fall comes change. Color and transformation fill the air as leaves change color and temperatures begin to drop. Our family has had a lot of change these past two weeks and it has been extremely hard. Some days we wanted to scream, others cry but at the end of the day our lives are a lot like Fall, changing. On the day of the Autumn Equinox, day and night both last for 12 hours reminding us to find balance in life. At the end of the day our family chose not to fight the county because we decided to chose balance instead. To be able to sleep in on Saturday, take that vacation, go on that adventure! To us Fall is our favorite season, because it has everything needed to end happily and begin again. Embrace change and embrace Fall my friends!

Signing off,

Candy Christianson





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Green Thicket Farm Caleb & Klaire Howerton

We (Caleb and Klaire) have, on and off, raised pigs since we were kids. Klaire and her family raised their pigs in pig pens since she was about 10. I raised them indoors in FFA in high school, but those were always crossbred feeders and a far cry from pastured pork.

Even when we bought the land we now farm on, we started with buying some cheap craigslist Berkshire X Duroc hogs and raised most of them up as feeders. We then saved two gilts back to breed in just larger hog pens with occasional pasture access for them and the wattle-less Red Wattle (pretty sure it was actually a Duroc or Duroc X RW cross) boar we acquired.

We had 4 litters with those gals before deciding that we needed to do something else. At that point, on our 6-acre farm, we were doing a lot with intensive rotation. We had about 30 sheep plus their lambs, 10 head of dairy goats, the odd pair of bottle steers, a horse, 250 laying hens, some 20 odd ducks, 100 Cornish a year, a 16 doe rabbitry, and 100-300 quail at any given time.

With that many animals in rotation around on our place (everything but the rabbits who had fodder brought to them) we couldn't keep putting the 5-10 feeders pigs we saved back from each set of litters, or even our sows, out in the field because they would destroy the grass in the paddocks that we needed for the other animals. They were turning a fresh paddock to what looked like a freshly plowed cornfield in 2-3 days with holes a foot deep. At first, we tried to rationalize the soil disturbance, but in the end, it wasn't sustainable to keep doing, so we started looking into other options.

This really boiled down to finding a pig that doesn't root (that seemed very far-fetched) or quit raising pigs (which I very much didn't want to do). After a bit of digging, I managed to stumble upon Idaho Pasture Pigs, which seemed like they might help.

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Our first thought was that we would replace our old boar with an IPP boar and perhaps just breed our herd towards better grazing, but when we went to pick up our boar and saw a close-cropped field with 10 or so Idaho Pasture Pigs grazing and not a single root mark, we were sold on making a full out switch. We sold our crossbred sows, and bought a breeder gilt, then another breeding pair, then another pair of gilts, and really it just spiraled out of control from there as we fell head over heels.

We sold all of the rest of our livestock and focused on our IPPs. Since we bought that first Boar in April of 2018, we have purchased 12 breeders, and saved back 5 of our own to breed. I know buying 17 isn't much compared to some breeders, especially since I've culled off 6 of those that I don't think quite met the cut, as well as sold off a boar to downsize for a bit, but it sure feels full force IPPs for us around here. Especially since, having just weaned and sold 2 litters, and waiting on 4 more to be born any day now.

Planning for our farm's growth, as we work to double our sow herd and feeder herd is time consuming. Now with the all the intense activity getting the Breed Association up and rolling and set for our Virtual Fall Show in October, it is all about Idaho Pasture Pigs. Looking back on these three and half years, we feel pretty lucky with how this breed, and its rapidly growing community, have impacted our lives here at Green Thicket Farm. We are grateful that we have been able to contribute as much as we have, in this short of a time, and can't wait to see what the next three and half plus years hold for all of us.

Caleb & Klaire Howerton

Green Thicket Farm

Caleb is the President of the IPPBA



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In the Pasture with the Registry

For those of you that don't know, there have been some big changes that have occurred since the last Newsletter. The submission of litter notifications and registrations online by all Registered Breeders has begun! All established Registered breeders were asked for an updated Breeder Prefix form and once that form has been returned to the Registry via the USPS, they can create an online account and begin using the online system. All new Registered breeders will gain access to the online system as soon as their Breeder Prefix form is processed. Instructions for creating your own personal farm account and using the online system to complete both litter notifications and registrations can be found on the Registry website under the Registration Forms & Information. By January 1st, 2022, all able Registered Breeders will be required to use the online system to complete all their litter notifications (except where a Certificate of Breeding is required) and registrations. Anyone with any concerns about using the online system should contact Jodi Cronauer using the Registry email. (idahopasturepigregistry@yahoo.com) The next step of the upgrade will be to complete the online submission of the Breeder Prefix form. That will complete Phase 2 of the Registry Upgrade that was started this year. The third and final Phase will include access to a herd book, COI calculator, and a classified section. Phase 3 will require a yearly fee to access and additional details will follow upon completion of the 2nd Phase. The Registry is very excited and happy with the implementation of the online system and hope all of you are also.

Message From Registrar

All Registry related questions should be sent thru the Registry email and not via Facebook messenger. The clutter of Facebook messenger sometimes means I misplace a question and I hate for that to happen to anyone. Sending your questions or concerns through email will better ensure that the question gets answered in a timely manner. Thank you for understanding!

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Pig Tales

Why should you never ever tell a pig a secret?

Because they love to squeal out loud!



Photo Credit - Sarah Culver

Did you know?

A pig's tongue contains 15,000 taste buds. Human tongues only have 9,000.



Photo Credit – Kirsten Bordner

Winter Preparations

By Kirstin Bordner, Mouse Creek Farm

All summer we strived to keep our pigs cool, but now we need to change gears and work towards winter and keeping pigs warm. As the seasons change the pigs needs change.

Pastures/feeding

The grass is starting to go dormant and you may find your pigs are rooting a little, upping the minerals should help this. Once the grass goes completely dormant you may want to either design a sacrifice area or open all your fields for them as hooves can do a lot of damage on soft ground. Once the ground is completely frozen, this won't be a problem. The temperatures dropping mean an increase in feed is needed. In cold temperatures feed about 2x the amount of grain as you fed in the warmer months. This is also when hay will need to be provided, pigs prefer a soft horse quality hay. Alfalfa, Orchard grass or a mix are good options. Hay racks work well to help conserve feed. Soaked pellets, ground hay, fodder are great substitutes. Don't forget about worming! Now would be a great time for a fecal test and clean everyone up for the winter.

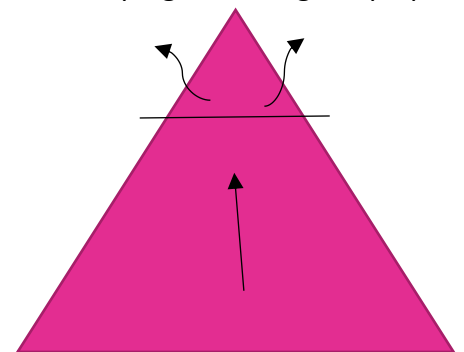


Housing

A-frames or similar housing are great for holding in body heat, stuffed full of straw (straw is better than hay) and closing off the end to keep out the drafts with a flap of carpeting will make a nice warm shelter. Do not seal completely tight or you will have condensation problems leading to sick pigs. Moist warm air rises so keeping the triangle top open



at each end should supply enough ventilation to keep things dry. The number and size of the pigs will determine how much ventilation you will need. What zone you live in also plays a huge roll. Pigs can handle the cold, it's the moisture and drafts that makes them sick, keep them high and dry.



Placing a wind break in front of the door will help cut drafts.

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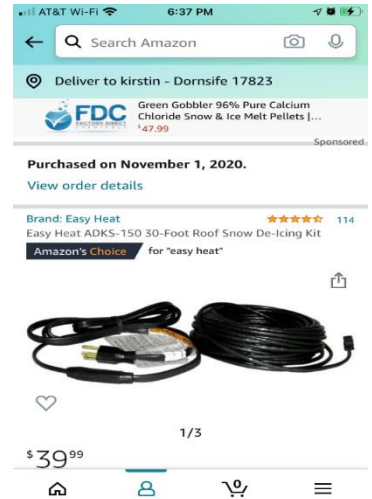
Water

Keeping it thawed will be the challenge here. Frozen hoses, tanks, ice. Oh, what fun! A stock tank heater in a 55-gallon barrel will keep it ice free, keep the nipple protected from the wind and if needed open with some warm water or a hair dryer. If you are using a stock tank heater, beware of stray voltage! Pigs and livestock are very sensitive and will not drink if there is any voltage in the water. A simple voltage meter is a great tool to keep a check on all your tanks.

I have found a 275-gallon tote, wrapped in Tec foil and heavy cardboard bins (used for pumpkins) along with either a tank heater inside or a gutter heat cable underneath on a thermostat will keep the water open.

I then use this to fill a small stock tank. I only need to drag my hose one time/ week instead of every day.

There are many YouTube videos online, hopefully one will fit your program. Don't forget about water sanitation, even in the winter!



Mud

Ugg! It's everywhere!!!! More than unsightly it can lead to health and lameness problems. Work to mitigate mud from feeding/drinking and high traffic areas by using concrete pads, crushed stone, cow mats, wood chips etc.

As the days get shorter, we can look forward to cozying fires, hot cocoa and NO BUGS!





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Contracts and Why They are Important

By Drew & Tracy Jenson, Boots & Bare Roots Farm

Are you debating whether or not to start making contracts with your customers? Whether you are selling to friends and family or all over the country here are a few reasons to start! When discussing on whether to do contracts for any type of sale, it is always better to be safe than sorry. We will discuss some of the most important reasons to create a contract between you and the purchaser/lessee or why you should ask for one as a buyer.

- 1) Protection – a contract helps protect the buyer and the seller by allowing the customer to know, in writing, what specifically is being purchased. This should have what type of animals, the registration #, the parents of the animals, if necessary, the date of the purchase or length of time of a lease, the buyer and seller information and signature of both parties. If it's a butcher hog, have where it is to be butchered and cost per pound etc. This helps either party if someone gets the wrong animal (if a breeder) and if someone disputes what was sold or leased to them, by having everything in writing. If you must go to court and they sold you the wrong animal, then you can dispute in court. To help avoid future disagreements or have legal aid and evidence to protect you in a lawsuit, always have a contract with the specific information. If you feel uncertain, have a legal company or lawyer look over your information to verify its worth.
- 2) Commitment of Both Parties – This means both parties will work together to have a certain agreement between the buyer and seller. Seller, selling the animals to the buyer for a certain price and buyer agreeing to the term and buying that specific animal. This also means that the seller will not sell that animal to anyone else per the agreement and commitment of both parties. The buyer will typically place a deposit to make the commitment to buy the animal.
- 3) Operation Efficiency & Revenue – Having a file of contracts helps both the seller & buyer by knowing what has been sold and what animals remain available. This would also involve the deposit to help guarantee the purchase remains valid. If something should happen, this is proof that a deposit was made to hold this animal (for a certain amount of time). This also helps the farmer/seller, when something falls through there is a small amount of revenue to offset the costs of keeping the animal. Keeping track of pigs that you presold can be difficult when you have many piglets. Having contracts made helps when talking with future customers on what animals remain unsold on the farm making the operation more efficient as many times an animal will be sold before it leaves the farm. As well as knowing the revenue the company is generating off of the contracts/sales after the animals leave. Being able to see the current value of your pork or live animals are very important as they may vary throughout the years. This offers piece of mind and a great advantage on having contracts in place for both parties.
- 4) Brand – You may not realize this but every company has a brand, and if the customer has a bad experience with your business, then your brand can be impacted financially as well as hurt your businesses reputation. A contract helps keep the business/brand legitimate by following the contract created for you and your customer. The contract tells the customer what you promise to do in writing, if you follow through you will always have a good reputation/brand with your clients and they will want to come back or recommend you to other people.



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Many people have had to learn the hard way with a bad experience dealing with a sale or lease. Most of them were due to no contract or a poorly written one. Also, it likely happens when dealing with a friend or relative, or someone not following the contract in question. A contract helps both the buyer and the seller at the end of the day and makes everyone accountable for what they agree to buy, sell, or lease as part of the contract. When it comes to contracts between the buyer and seller, it is a must. To help avoid future disagreements or have legal aid and evidence to protect you in a lawsuit, always have a contract with the specific times, names, dates, registration numbers, etc. If you feel uncertain have a legal counsel or lawyer look over your information to verify its worth.

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New Advisory Board Member Needed

Due to the unfortunate circumstances that have recently occurred, two of our extremely respected Advisory Board members are selling their beloved pigs and retiring from the Advisory Board position. We will miss them dearly and wish them nothing but the best in everything they do! With their departure, the Advisory Board has decided to re-draw the Regions across the United States. The map below denotes the Advisory Board member that is responsible for your region along with their contact information. Please note the phone number change for Greg & Carrie Beegle as we have just recently realized that it was written incorrectly in the past! The Advisory Board has decided to re-draw the regions, so that we can hopefully encompass some of the "warmer" southern States together and get a new Advisory Board member to fill that position. We hope to find a person that is more knowledgeable on the climate and conditions in those areas. The new Advisory Board member is needed for the section in Yellow. If you live in the yellow section, have had Idaho Pasture Pigs for at least a year, are a Registered Breeder of Idaho Pasture Pigs and would like to join our Advisory Board, please send an email to the Registry at idahopasturepigregistry@yahoo.com. Please include the following information: contact information, farm name, how long you have had Idaho Pasture Pigs, why you would like to be a part of the Advisory Board, and how you can benefit the Advisory Board.

