

IPP Press Quarterly Newsletter

January 1st, 2024 - 12th Edition

Letter from the Editor

Dear IPP Family

I can't believe 2023 is already almost gone (as of the time of writing this)!

This edition of the IPP press newsletter contains a lot of duplicate articles, as the registry board is going on hiatus until reorganization is complete. The articles may be duplicate, but still great information, especially for those of you new to IPP's. We also have a new recipe, so check it out!

Best wishes for a prosperous 2024!

Jennifer Twait

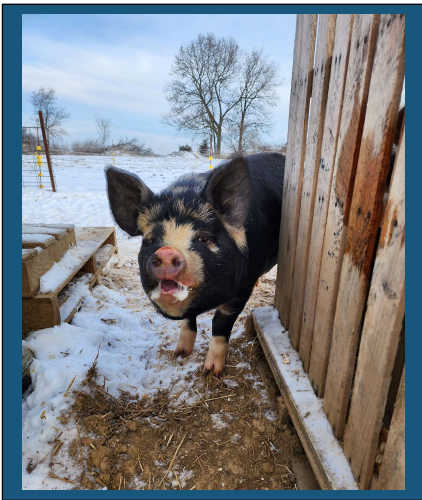


Image Provided by Gibbsbaconneggsfarm



Due to the restructuring of the IPPR, we are looking to possibly add a couple new Advisory Board members. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Board, we would love to have you submit your information to the Registry email at idahopasturepigregistry@yahoo.com. In order to become an Advisory Board member you must be an active Registered Breeder. Please send your complete information as well as why you would like to be a part of the Advisory Board, how you feel you can benefit the Advisory Board and IPPR, and the length of time you have owned Idaho Pasture Pigs. Thank you to all of our owners and breeders and we hope you have had a wonderful holiday season! We welcome 2024!



Image Provided by Drunken Arrow Farm



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Illustration submitted by Jim Molloy

Visit the IPPR Members Area at;

www.ipp-r-pedigrees.com/db/members



Image Provided by Drunken Arrow Farm

Using Common Sense when Raising Pigs

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm



Images Provided by White Bison Farm

When raising animals, a lot of common sense is involved. Pigs are one of the smartest animals in the world, so it doesn't take them long to learn your patterns. Whether they are pets or livestock, I have seen many people be trained by their animals instead of the other way around. Here are a few examples.

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Using Common Sense when Raising Pigs (cont'd)

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm

A farmer walks out past his pigs and they start squealing like they are hungry and looking for food, so he tosses them something to eat. The next time he walks past, they squeal again and again he feeds them. Maybe it is just an apple, a few handfuls of grass or hay, or maybe it is grain. Either way, they get fed when they squeal. After a few days, all they must do is squeal and the farmer comes to feed them. After all, they must be really hungry, right? And just like that, the farmer has just been trained.

We personally hand feed our pigs both morning and night. When they hear me coming to feed, they do start squealing, but because we rarely give out feed or treats at other times during the day, they don't associate us primarily with food. Even our UTV or ATV can go past them throughout the day and they know they aren't getting fed. They may come to visit when they see us, but they don't squeal, and they don't expect food. In the same way, we Always feed over the fence. If every time you walk into your pig's pasture, it is to feed them, the pigs will quickly associate you with food. They will become pushy and may even start nipping at your boots or pant legs. But, if you feed over the fence, then when you do walk into their pasture to check bedding, fix houses or fences, or just give scratches, they will want to say Hi, but aren't pushy or nippy and they don't expect to get fed.



Another example is when your sow has piglets. That mother's job is to take care of her piglets, so if a piglet squeals, she will run over to see what is wrong. Piglets naturally don't enjoy being picked up and most times will start to squeal. So, if every time you go in with the sow and her piglets, you pick them up and cause them to squeal, it won't take the mom long to associate you with her piglets crying. You are essentially training that mom to distrust you and, in a relationship built on trust, that is a very bad thing. Use common sense! Go in, sit down, let the piglets come to you. Before long, they will run up to you and over you constantly looking to scratches and playing. In this way, your sow associates you with happy piglets. She will probably come to check on them but won't be angry or upset, but just curious. Instead of learning to distrust you, she will instead learn to trust you more.

Now, let's talk castration. What do you think will happen if every time your sow has a litter, you pick them up and take them away to castrate at a few days or a couple of weeks old? Exactly – she will associate you with hurting her piglets. This doesn't happen as fast as with our previous example and usually takes a few litters (couple of years), but it will happen. I have lost track of the number of times someone has said to me "she was really good with us in with her piglets for the first two litters, but she is getting worse each time now." Of course she does – you have trained her to distrust and hate you. She has one job, keep her piglets safe! Continually teaching her over and over again that you are going to cause her piglets to cry and be in pain, makes you the enemy. Instead of castrating at such an early age when the piglets are still with the mom, why not wait 4 – 8 weeks and castrate when you wean them? In this way, you can move mom out to a new pen and then collect the piglets and do everything at once. Ear tag (if tagging), castrate, and deworm all at the same time. Make sure mom is far enough away to not see you and she will never associate you with her piglets squealing. You will never be the enemy and she will never learn to hate and distrust you.

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Using Common Sense when Raising Pigs (cont'd)

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm

If you are in the traditional mind set that you need to turn your sows over every 2 – 3 years, then maybe this isn't as important to you. But, if you are like a lot of us "unconventional" pig farmers who want to build a relationship and keep our sows and boars for 10 – 15 years, then doing things correct right from the beginning is going to be essential. Building a relationship of trust will create a happy and safe environment for both pigs and people. I'm not saying that there isn't a "bad" pig out there, it does happen and that pig should be culled. But the majority of the time when something goes wrong, it is the owner's fault and not the animals. Before assuming the worst of the pig, look at the circumstances surrounding it and determine what could have caused it and how it could be changed. Using common sense is essential to properly raising all animals but is even more important when raising some of the smartest animals alive – pigs!



Living on More Than Just a Bag of Feed!

By Tracy Jensen

This day and age, there's a bag of specialized feed made for every domestic species of livestock, pet, & even humans. The human species has taken the work and knowledge out of feeding time. Yes that has made life simpler and easier, but is it really healthier? As small farmers in this era we have to look back to our heritage to learn and retain the ways of farming and raising food. It's becoming a lost art to be able to live self sustainably. We depend on companies & factories for everything to survive. This IPP breed is a wonder to the small farmer because it provides less need on the big industries to provide feed. While we look to still get the best minerals to protect our beloved pastures from rooting, there are many ways to lower the overhead costs and stay closer to home. There are many things we can do and grow to help keep the nutrition in the back fields and lower how many bags we get from the feed store. If you have paddocks and rotate pastures, look to planting a variety of legumes, grasses, and foraging plants to help get the most out of your soil. Beyond the pastures in the fields, look to the garden for even more diverse nutrition in squashes, gourds, fruits, sunflowers, etc. A pig needs a diverse diet similar to a human. Sometimes you may not have the time or resources to keep a garden. If you're in this category, I highly recommend meeting your local seasonal vendors. From the fruit and veggie stands to the local restaurants, grocers, and even the pumpkin patches. If you have local growers get to know them and many times you can be a big help to reduce waste while feeding livestock. Timing is everything. If you are flexible and time pick ups post their peak season or when they have surpluses, they will look forward to your visit and it will be cost efficient for you and them! Don't be afraid to get out and learn your local area businesses. With the costs of everything going up money is becoming less valuable. The trading of goods and services are becoming a necessity, so utilize these opportunities to build relationships to keep your farm thriving!



The difficulties in raising a “Niche Market” breed

By Steve Sparks – Taktene Heritage Farm

There are many issues that arise when raising a Niche breed. But first, let us define what a Niche breed is. A Niche breed is a breed that is/was developed for a certain purpose or group of people with the same mind set and needs. This Niche breed often varies greatly from what is considered to be a “standard” breed. So, why create or raise a Niche breed? Well, the answer to that is simple, people or a group of people are unhappy with the standard breeds and desire something different that truly just fits their needs better. So, let's narrow this down to pigs since this is our area of commonality. First let us look at the traits of a “standard commercial hog”. I think a brief history lesson on the raising of hogs should be lightly touched on first. In the not so far past there was a very distinct division in the breeds of hogs. Two main types one being the “lard” pig and the other being the “bacon” pig. We still have that division today but due to a misconception leading people to believe that lard is a cause of poor health, the lard pig type fell out of favor and lard itself was replaced with so called healthy products. Well, let's not go down that rabbit hole at this time as it is a totally different subject, but one that has caused the changes in the hog industry. So, since the late 60's and 70's the goal of the hog industry was to repair the damage of the negative publicity it got due to the eat low fat diet cry that emanated from the roof tops of our great nation. The hog industry took a huge hit and decline in sales at this time, and something needed to be done. Enter the “new pork”, the leaner pork, and my favorite the changing of what pork was and should be... a red meat....because a red meat had bad fats. So, they started to call pork the “other white meat” and with breeding programs and diet/management changes our present-day commercial pork took on a washed-out pale color with no marbling and much less flavor as well. This genius marketing tactic worked so well that it revived a dying pork industry and moved pork from the low end of red meats list to near the top of the white meat list. With chicken topping the white meat list because it was considered to be the healthy choice at that time. This huge success brought around an increased use of pork and a demand on the market. Enter our today style of pork farm. With higher demand brought the need/desire to raise pigs faster and cheaper. The industry was already in the full swing of change and it was an easy and reasonable step to bring the pig in out of the pasture and confine them to control their diet to get the desired product. That is a very brief thumb nail sketch of the pork industry.



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The difficulties in raising a “Niche Market” breed (cont’d)

By Steve Sparks – Taktene Heritage Farm



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So, let’s look at the traits of a commercial hog. They are long in body and large in size so as to produce as much of the high-end cuts as possible. They have rapid growth with lean meat and a very good feed conversion ratio. This allows growers to produce large amounts of pork at a minimal cost.

For many people who didn’t like the new pork their only answer was to find a Niche breed. This was done by either finding a heritage pig that was still a combination of a lard and a bacon pig or by raising different breeds in order to cross breed them and get what they desired. Enter the IPP. This breed was developed by taking pigs with desired traits and first by cross breeding them to get desired results and a foundation stock that could be used to build a new breed on that would fit a Niche for small time homesteaders/farmers/families that wanted a smaller friendlier pig they could easily raise on a small farm that grazed without destroying established pastures and grew at a slower, but yet decent growth rate so that it wasn’t a long-term project to raise meat for your family. This needed to be all accomplished with a pig that also was very affiant to feed on mostly pasture and hays with small amounts of grain. This was a huge, let me repeat, HUGE goal and undertaking!!! Without truly knowing the struggle, research and time that went into this endeavor I can only guess it was huge and even stressful at times.

But it was a great success! We have after all that hard work (Thank You Shelly and Gary) a new Niche market pig breed called the Idaho Pasture Pig (IPP). This breed is a docile, friendly, medium-sized pig that grows at very good rates on mainly pasture and hay with a small amount of grain and minerals for supplemental nourishment. This longer growth with the combined genes of top meat producers like the Berkshire and Kunekune provides us with a beautiful red marbled meat that is second to none in flavor and quality.



Image provided by Drift Oak Ranch

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The difficulties in raising a “Niche Market” breed (cont’d)

By Steve Sparks – Taktene Heritage Farm

Medium Size Sow from Drift Oak Ranch



So, here is the pinch point of raising this great Niche hog breed. We as breeders have a huge responsibility to be true stewards of this breed and to stay true to the breed standards set up by the registering body of the breed. To be honest, the majority of the wonderful breeders of IPP’s do exactly that. But there is a tendency to be swayed by the hog industry standard and to, when in doubt, follow long accepted practices and management practices. If these long known and followed practices are applied to and used in the raising of the IPP, they will undo what was so painstakingly done to get this breed

developed in the first place. The common commercial hog industry standards are to keep the largest, longest, fastest growing pigs of a litter for breeding stock so as to produce large, long, lean hogs.... we have gone down that road in history and the IPP is the Niche market hog that got us out of that trend we didn’t like. So. Why would we use commercial standards to choose our breeders in the IPP world if it is going to get us a style and type of pig we don’t want? Well, the simple answer is that most educational info and practices are developed for raising a commercial pig and it is imprinted in our memories as the way to raise and care for pigs. We see a small portly pig in one of our litters that is shorter stouter and has an extreme short flat nose and instantly disqualify it because it has too much of the Kunekune traits to be a good breeder. Then we easily toss out the ones with long straight noses because they are more of a Berkshire look and not good breed quality. From what is left the natural thing to do is to pick the biggest of the best that meet breed standards. Sounds so simple, doesn’t it? But here is where I feel we are seeing a huge mistake often being made. One very often overlooked important breed standard is size. It is a common natural desire to have bigger and faster things in our life. We are hearing and seeing many posts that refer to selecting the biggest and best of the litter as breeders, when in fact this is causing some herds to produce very large oversized IPP’s and effectively bastardizing the true breed and pushing it toward commercial industry standards.

	Duroc	Berkshire	KuneKune	IPP	IPP Max Weight
Mature Sow	700	500	150	250-350	400
Mature Boar	800	600	250	350-450	500

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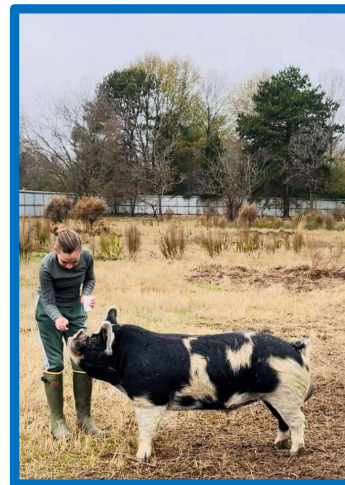
The difficulties in raising a “Niche Market” breed (cont’d)

By Steve Sparks – Taktene Heritage Farm

The breed standards are not just something to be loosely followed or deviated from because it fits your wants and desires. Size and weight of mature pigs is a standard and needs to be followed the same as we would follow the nose standards or the back and underline standards. In all honesty I feel that the majority of breeders do exactly this and are beyond reproach for their integrity in holding to all the breed standards. But there are a few, and even some in high standing in the IPP community, that often and repeatably use the words biggest and fastest growing as a breed selection standard and it is a standard for the commercial hog just not for the IPP. The IPP is a true Niche market breed and as such it is and was developed to not be a commercial hog type. They are meant to be smaller, slower growing with marbled meat and good fat ratio to provide high quality and tasty meat for anyone wanting to be in that Niche. With that said, if this isn't the Niche animal you want, please don't change it as it is the Niche animal most of us raising them do want. A Niche is a small box that fits a small amount of people and isn't an off the shelf one size fits all type. The IPP is for the small farm/homestead who wants their pig to be smaller and friendly with a docile personality. To stray away from any of these traits removes the IPP from the Niche they were developed for. I encourage you to study the Niche you need or want with your pork production and choose wisely the breed that fits that need. The IPP may not be a fit for your needs and that is fine, go find one that is what you need and please don't try to change the IPP to fit your needs.



Image provided by Drift Oak Ranch



Beautiful adult IPP boar from Daphne Roy in Texas

In the Kitchen with Idaho Pasture Pigs

This month's recipe comes from Spring Chicken Farms in Lyons, OR

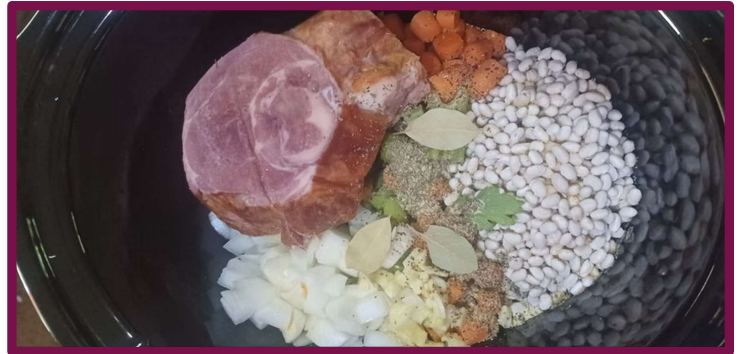
Ham Hocks & Beans

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. white beans
- 1 lb. smoked ham (diced)
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 4 celery stalks (diced)
- 6 cups water

Seasonings:

- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 dried bay leaves



Instructions:

1. Spread the beans out onto a baking sheet and sort through them to make sure there are no stones or pebbles. Put the beans into a colander and rinse them well under running water.
2. Add all of the ingredients into the slow cooker and give it a good stir. Cook on LOW for 7-8 hours or on HIGH for 4-5 hours. (Or until the beans are fork tender.)

The Registry needs you!

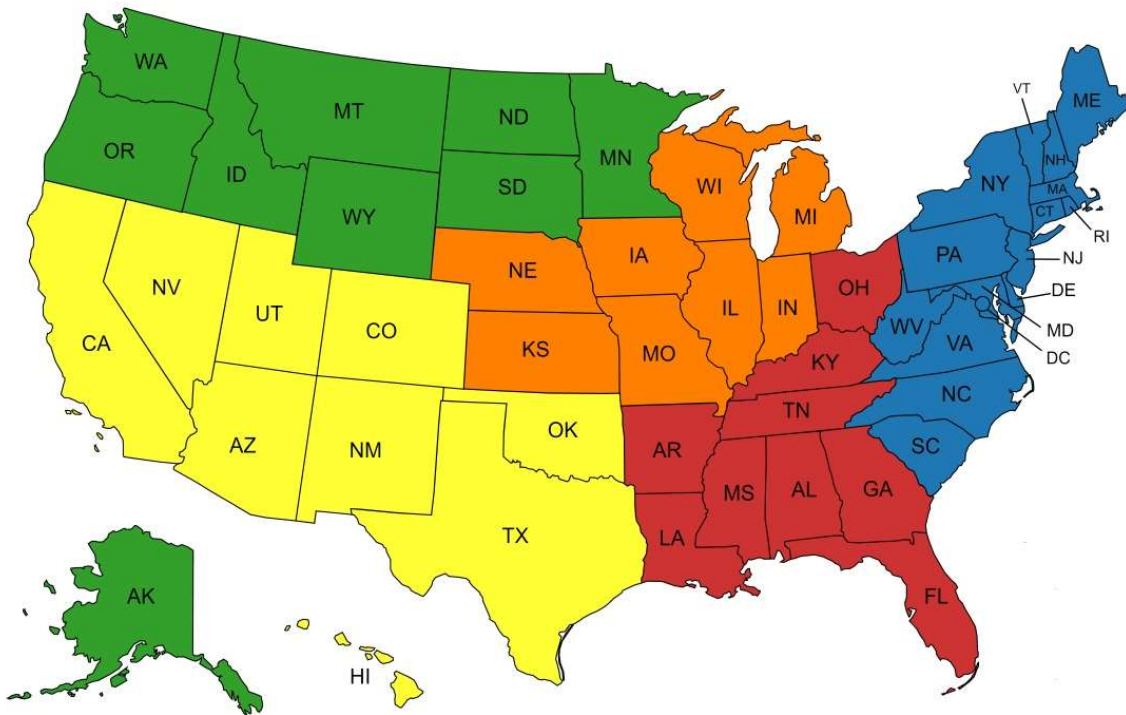
The Advisory Board would like to ask all of you as breeders and as owners of these amazing pigs to provide us with some topics you would like included in the next editions of the IPP Press.

- Anyone who would be interested in writing an article for submission in a future edition should send an email to the IPP Press
- Anyone with any topic ideas or things you feel should be included in an upcoming edition of the IPP Press please send an email.
- We would love pork recipes, cartoons, and “food for thoughts”
- The email address to for the IPP Press is IPPpress2021@gmail.com

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Earlier today, Duck Creek Pastures ("Duck Creek"), the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry (the "Registry"), and the Registry's Board of Advisers (the "Board") agreed to settle a lawsuit that Duck Creek had filed against the Registry and the Board in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The lawsuit involved, among other things, the removal of Duck Creek from the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry. The removal was based on a misunderstanding of Duck Creek's business and its adherence to the Idaho Pasture Pig breed standard. Had the misunderstanding not occurred, the Registry would not have removed Duck Creek. Duck Creek has always adhered to the breed standard and is committed to doing so in the future. Effective immediately, Duck Creek is reinstated to the Registry with full registration rights. All Duck Creek pigs registered before Duck Creek was removed from the Registry are again considered fully registered, and any Duck Creek pigs born thereafter are eligible for registration. Duck Creek is committed to abiding by the breed standard and the Registry asks breeders and buyers to treat Duck Creek no differently from any other breeder. The parties look forward to putting their differences behind them and focusing on a future that helps this great breed thrive.



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