

Letter from the Editor

Dear IPP Family

Well, it's spring piglet season again. And boy, this weather has been crazy! While our temperatures are getting into the 80's in the south, up north there's still a ton of snow. But the babies are coming no matter what! With the weather swings, it's important to watch our pigs closely to make sure they are acclimating to the weather changes. Pneumonia in pigs is a serious thing, and it can move swiftly resulting in unexpected and devastating losses. If your pigs aren't running for food at feeding time, take a closer look. Things are getting muddy with all the spring rain and snow melt. Make sure the pigs and their piglets still have a nice dry shelter with plenty of bedding. Enjoy those piglets!

Jennifer Twait



Image Provided by Ravenwood Heritage Farm
Jefferson, OH - 03/19/23



Image Provided by Drift Oak Ranch
Weatherford, TX - 03/15/2023



In the Pasture with the Registry

Most people purchasing breeding quality pigs are looking to raise quality pork from medium sized, friendly pigs. This breed has become more popular over the past few years as people look to start raising their own meat and others look to get better quality in their food. One very important thing for all breeders to remember as we move forward is that this breed needs to be bred for what it is and the only way to do that is to follow the breed standard. Not every pig is a breeding quality pig. Narrow, straight snouts, pigs that are too big (over the breed standard of 250 – 350 sows & 350 – 450 boars), pigs that do not grow at the correct rate, or any other pig not meeting the breed standard needs to be eaten NOT bred. These pigs will make fantastic pork and should be utilized as such.

The COI calculator is working very well for all those with access to it and we have had multiple requests for a hypothetical mating calculator that includes 4 parents and doesn't require pigs to already have an NR#. That is being completed now and we hope is available within the next 4 – 6 weeks.

The herd book is also in the works and will be available to all those with Premium membership as soon as it ready. We look forward to all of our breeders being able to locate specific lines and breeders across the United States.

The Premium membership renewal will be coming up soon. Anyone wanting to renew their Premium membership is able to do that starting May 1st and it will be renewed thru July 1 st, 2024. Only those breeders with a Registered pair or who are able to produce piglets from Registered Idaho Pasture Pigs will be able to obtain a Premium membership. This will keep the breeder list on the Registry website as accurate as possible and promote the breeders who are producing true Idaho Pasture Pigs either for feeders or breeders.

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*Image Provided by Spring Chicken Farms
Lyons, Oregon – 03/09/2023*

Visit the IPPR Members Area at;
www.ippr-pedigrees.com/db/members



Illustration submitted by Jim Molloy

IPPR & IPPBA

At this time the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry (IPPR) and the Idaho Pasture Pig Breed Association (IPPBA) are dedicated to working together for both the education and the betterment of the IPP breed. The two groups are comprised of different board members and are two different entities but strive to work together to build awareness and education within the breed.

- The primary focus of the IPPR is the Registration of the Idaho Pasture Pigs, continued education regarding the breed standard, overall care, feed, importance of minerals, shelters, best way to promote grazing, and a YouTube channel dedicated to education of all things related to Idaho Pasture Pigs.
- The primary focus of the IPPBA is to build a diverse community of IPP owners & breeders all over the United States. They focus on Shows, Conventions, Expos, and Educational Clinics to help educate and spread the word about this amazing breed of pig.

The Society is NOT affiliated nor is she working with the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry in any way.



Caring for Orphaned or Weak Piglets

By Michael Graham – Peaceful Pastures Farm



Images Provided by Peaceful Pastures Farm

Spring is here or just around the corner. For some of you, which means farrowing season is also here.

At some point, most of us will have an orphaned piglet or piglets to raise. Possibly one that just in need of some extra attention. Sometimes, it's just a runt that may need some extra supplementation to get it strong enough to hold its own without getting pushed out of the way by its larger siblings.

If you've got multiple litters hitting the ground close together, you may be able to move a piglet or two over to another sow. Ideally, this needs to happen within the first 24-48 hours after farrowing and after ensuring they have gotten a full 24 hours of colostrum. If this isn't an option, there are several different ways to supplement piglets depending on the circumstances. When supplementing or completely hand rearing, its essential that the piglets only get colostrum for at least the first 24 hours. Colostrum increases a piglet's protection against bacteria and viruses.



1. Frozen pig colostrum, if you've been able to milk and freeze colostrum from one of your sows during labor, is my first choice.
2. Multi species powdered colostrum replacer or powdered goats colostrum replacer are other options that should be readily available at your local farm store.
3. Whenever possible, I prefer to leave piglets with mom. Depending on your set up, it's possible to supplement piglets by giving them extra feedings either in the creep area or in the field just outside their paddock. I've used many methods of supplementing one piglet in a litter or the entire litter while still leaving them with mom the rest of the time. Other times it may be necessary to raise them away from mom all together. If they don't have the option of being with mom, there are a couple of important things to remember. First, they will need a source of supplemental heat either inside the house, in the barn, or in another type of shelter. Piglets are unable to produce heat or regulate their own body temperature for the first 3 weeks, so they will need a source of heat to keep the temperature at 85-90 degrees. Second, if they are not outside on pasture with the ability to root around for iron, then you will need to either give oral iron, iron shots, or provide them with clean dirt to root around in.

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Caring for Orphaned or Weak Piglets (cont'd)

By Michaela Graham – Peaceful Pastures Farm

Bottle feeding is never recommended. Pan, dropper, or syringe feeding is the preferred method to deliver the colostrum. Bottle feeding is associated with a risk of aspiration that can lead to respiratory issues, such as pneumonia which can be fatal quickly. Depending on the age of the piglets when they are removed for hand rearing, you may have to start with either dropper feeding or syringe feeding. I've had quite a bit of success those first couple days by dipping my pinky in milk and letting them suck on my pinky while very slowly adding milk from a dropper or syringe inserted into the side of their mouth. It's very important, however, to get them transitioned over to pan feeding as quickly as possible. A shallow bowl, like a pie pan, makes a great dish for pan feeding multiple baby piglets at the same time. For supplementing one piglet, I've found a plastic canning jar lid to be very useful. You can easily hold onto the canning lid to keep them from shoving it around and spilling it, plus it's small enough that you can keep them from climbing through it. Since anything that's not mom's actual milk can upset their gut bacteria, you will need to watch them closely for any signs of scours. Over feeding can also cause milk scours. Smaller amounts fed more frequently will reduce this risk. You can find several different recipes and options for using cows milk for baby piglets, but in my experience that's not a good idea nor is it recommended by my veterinarian. In fact, whenever I've had a piglet with scours, my veterinarians first advice is always to withhold all dairy that isn't from their mom.

Below are my milk preferences in order for feeding baby piglets:

1. Powdered pig milk replacer (usually only available online)
2. Real goats milk directly from your goats or from a local farmer. (I keep some on hand in my freezer at all times)
3. Goats milk from the grocery store
4. Goats milk powdered milk replacer
5. Multi species powdered milk replacer

Feeding schedule:

First 24 hours- piglets need feeding of colostrum only every hour the first 24 hours starting with 10-20 ml per feeding.

Day 2 - begin transitioning over to milk replacer or goats milk, slowly increasing the amount of each feeding if they act like they're still hungry.

Day 3 through day 7 - continue on full milk replacer every hour with 2 hour block overnight. Make sure you've got them transitioned over to pan feeding. (Be prepared for you and the piglets to be covered in sticky milk while they learn to get the hang of pan feeding)

Week 2 - feed every 2 hours with a 4 hour block overnight. Continue increasing feedings slightly each day if they're finishing off their milk within 3-5 minutes. Don't forget to make sure they also have water available now at all times as well. Congratulate yourself for making it through week 1, because it can definitely be exhausting.

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Caring for Orphaned or Weak Piglets (cont'd)

By Michaela Graham – Peaceful Pastures Farm

Week 3 - feedings every 3 hours with a 6 hour block overnight. It's time now to start introducing solid foods. I've had the most success with starting out blending a little puréed pumpkin in with their milk before adding hog feed. It's sweet and will help adjust them to the texture and flavor of their milk changing. If this is going well, you can start adding hog feed to their milk as well. It can be a slow process of getting them switched over to solid foods. I find my Vitamix blender extremely helpful to purée small amounts of hog feed with their milk or pumpkin milk mixture. You can also leave hog feed in their area feed choice. In my experience though, if mom isn't there to teach them to eat it they usually don't show much interest. Don't be worried if your piglets aren't consuming as much as the chart says on the back of the powdered milk replacer, mine never do.

Week 4 - by week 4 you should be able to get them transitioned over to a good thick mush at least 2 meals a day. It's also time to start weaning them off of supplemental heat (depending on your environment). Continue offering milk the other meals with feedings every 4 hours and an 8 hour block over night.

Week 5 - by now they should be on full feed twice a day with milk supplement poured on their feed, if they aren't yet eating solid foods as well as you'd like. Any time after 5 weeks of age they are ready to transition off of milk supplements.

There are many different reasons why you might have to hand rear a piglet. This is the basic protocol recommended by my vet that I've found to be successful on my farm. I hope you find these basic guidelines helpful if you ever find yourself needing to hand raise a piglet.

Best wishes for a prosperous farrowing season and happy spring!

Michaela Graham
Peaceful Pastures Farm
Shelton, Washington
IPP breeder since 2016



Longevity of Your Beloved Idaho Pasture Pigs

By Dave Cronauer – White Bison Farm

How long should I keep a pig is a question we get asked regularly. To answer this question, you must first figure out your goals and resources. Some people raise pigs for financial reasons, while others raise them for personal reasons such as feeding their family, support their community, or just for the love of pigs.



An Idaho Pasture Pig has a life expectancy of 10 -12 years. We expect that a sow will have 14 good parturitions (births) in her lifetime. That means that if she had her first litter at the age of one, then she would have seven years of good productivity bringing her to the age of 8. At this point the litters for this sow will normally drop off in size and frequency. The size will decrease slowly, so a sow that normally had 10 piglets may drop down to 7 the first year and maybe down to 5 the following year. Instead of having 2 litters a year, she may only have one litter.

Boars have a reproductive lifespan of about 10 years. We have not noticed any change in the litter sizes for boars regardless of age.

Now that we have talked about the longevity of the pigs, let's talk about the productivity.

A breeding pair of pigs will give you 100+ piglets over an 8-year period. One of the best returns on investments will be to keep the pair for that full length of time. At this point, you can continue to raise them with the smaller litter sizes or even butcher for sausage. Because we love our pigs immensely, it is very difficult to butcher those pigs that have become part of our family and worked at producing piglets for us for years, so we keep them and they get to live out their retirement in our pastures.

There are reasons to get rid of pigs earlier and you need to evaluate and determine what is best for your farm.

1. The first reason would be disposition. Having an Idaho Pasture Pig with a bad disposition or temperament is not common. When this happens, you need to cull this animal immediately.



2. Lack of productivity would be the next reason to cull your pig early. Sometimes pigs do not have as big of litters as you would like or maybe they have an excessive number of piglets. Either way, culling this sow is in your best interest.

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Longevity of Your Beloved Idaho Pasture Pigs (cont'd)

By Dave Cronauer – White Bison Farm

- The next reason to get rid of a pig from your farm is because you want different genetics. In this circumstance, selling this pig to a new farm is a great option.

However long you decide to keep your pigs is completely up to you. Hopefully this information will help you make an educated decision. Enjoy your pigs!



In the Kitchen with Idaho Pasture Pigs

R8F Chipotle Pulled Pork

Compliments of Chris Leahy of Rockin 8 Farm in Killeen, Texas



Ingredients

- ◊ 1 onion cut into wedges
- ◊ Good store bought pork rub or make your own
- ◊ 1 pork butt/pork shoulder roast 4-5 pounds
- ◊ 1 7 oz can of chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- ◊ 1 16 oz Dr. Pepper or Cola
- ◊ Rolls & coleslaw for serving



Instructions

1. Cut onion into wedges and line the bottom of the crockpot



2. Coat pork roast in the pork rub of your choice and rub it in.

3. Place the seasoned roast on top of onion bed in the crockpot.



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4. Top the pork roast with one 7 ounce can of chipotle peppers in adobo sauce.



5. Pour 16 ounces of Dr. Pepper or the cola of your choice into the crockpot.



6. Cook on high for 4-5 hours or on low for 7-8 hours (preferred)



7. Remove meat from crockpot and shred with two forks

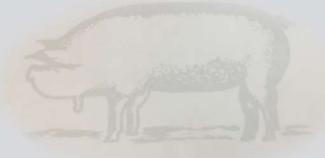
8. Place onions and juices in a blender. Add the chipotles as well for a kick (recommended) or leave them out for a milder version. Blend until liquefied.



9. Pour the liquid into the shredded meat. Mix well and return to crockpot to keep it warm.

10. Serve on a crusty roll (bolillo rolls or hoagie buns work well for this) with coleslaw as a garnish or a side.

ENJOY!

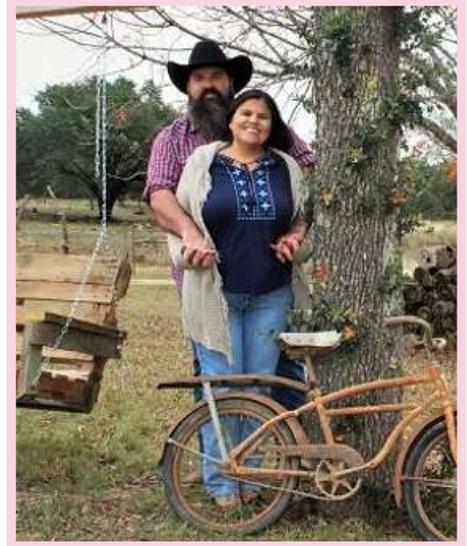


Farm Story – Rockin 8 Farm

Chris & Jessica Leahy – Killeen, TX

In 2014 Chris, Jessica, and their seven kids, moved from the Phoenix Metropolitan Area of Arizona to Texas. Their goal was to find a piece of land and start living a simpler lifestyle. As often happens, a person's goals and life's timeline had two different plans. They ended up living in a rental house owned by their folks for four years. In 2018, they did find their little homestead. They took a huge leap of faith (bordering on downright irresponsible) to buy their dream. In fact, within the first six months they were convinced that they were going to lose everything. But between Jessica's willingness to sacrifice, and both of their willingness to put in the sweat equity, their regular stead has become a HOMEstead.

By the time they found their own piece of Texas, another kiddo had come along and four out the eight kids had moved out to start their own lives. Four years later it is just Chris, Jess, and their two youngest boys living on the 5.63 acres of central Texas land that makes up Rockin 8 Farm.



Images provided by Rockin 8 Farm

In May of 2019 Chris started a YouTube channel. He needed a way to keep a farm journal because a note taker he is not. He also wanted family and friends back in Arizona to keep up with their adventures. And he figured that maybe he could teach a person or two what not to do on a homestead. Now the channel has over 2000 subscribers and may soon be another source of revenue. That is if everyone reading this subscribes and watches <https://www.youtube.com/@Rockin8Farm> (Hint Hint).



By mid-2020 they had chickens for eggs and were gardening on a fairly big scale, but something was missing...meat! Chris had been researching for quite some time and was highly interested in Idaho Pasture Pigs, but there is always next year, right?



In October of 2020, Chris got into some poison Ivy. The rash was so bad it required steroids. The steroids spiked Chris' blood sugar which fed an underlying infection in the rash sending him into sepsis and sending his body chemistry into an official diagnosis of type II diabetes. Looking out on his dream farm, his boys, and his best friend and love of his life Jessica, Chris new that he needed to make some changes. He embraced a keto/carnivore lifestyle and by the time he had lost his first ten pounds eating primary meat and fat, Jessica pulled him aside and said, "It's time to stop researching. Get us some damn pigs."

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Farm Story – Rockin 8 Farm (cont'd)

Chris & Jessica Leahy – Killeen, TX

After three visits to Eighth Time Family Farm in Temple, Texas, Chris and Jess bought two feeder IPPs from Melinda Sullivan and brought them home on December 20th. They thought they would raise these two feeders and then maybe raise one more feeder per year after that. They thought wrong.

Everything about this pig breed was perfect! They were very easy on the land which is important to Chris and Jess' views on minimizing human impact. They started helping Chris get the pioneer species (aka weeds) out of the pasture and it was being replaced by green grass and healthier soil. The temperament was unbelievable. The Rockin 8 Farm family was hooked!

The feeders that made Chris and Jess fall in love with IPPs have been processed but their pastures now have eight breeding sows representing five sow lines and two boar lines. Four more sow lines and another boar line will be added in 2023 bringing their breeding heard to 15 total pigs.

Chris and Jessica are registered breeders of IPPs and members of the Idaho Pasture Pig Breed Association. Chris also hopes to use his YouTube channel to bring more awareness to the breed and help teach the importance of protecting the lines and breeding to standard.

In addition to the pigs Jessica (the mastermind) and Chris (the grunt labor) are breeders of Green Whiting chickens and nine different Orpington color patterns including Crele English Orpington, Blue Buff Columbian English Orpington, Chocolate English Orpington, Lavender English Orpington, Buff English Orpington, Silver Laced English Orpington, Porcelain English Orpington, Blue Black Splash English Orpington, and Jubilee Orpington (whew that's a mouthful). They are also members of the United Orpington Club.

As you can see, Rockin 8 Farm is a bit of everything. However, it is basically two city slickers with full time jobs, little money, less time, and an addiction to pigs and chickens trying to make a go at a life of homesteading and farming. They have also discovered that the simple life they sought is ANYTHING BUT SIMPLE! They spend 50% of their day stressed out, overwhelmed, exhausted, and wondering why they do this...and the other 50% not being able to imagine living any other way.

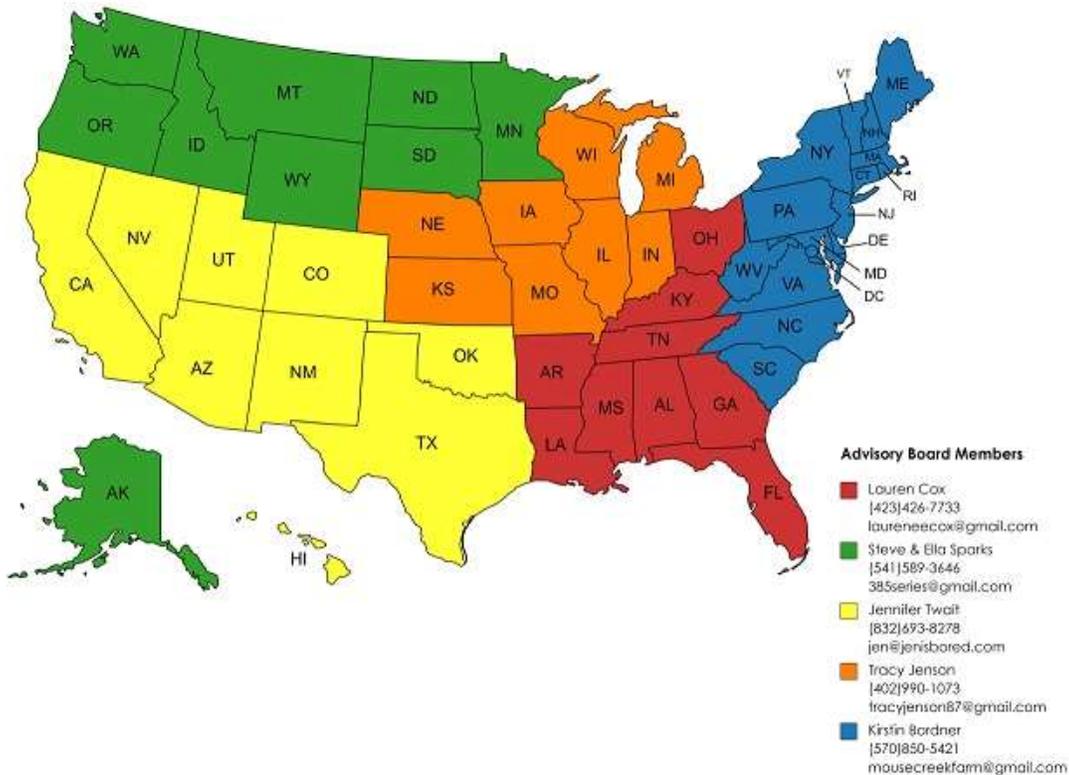


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Advisory Board Members!

Anyone needing help or advice, your advisory board members are here to help! Contact the advisory board member assigned to your state below!



3rd Annual IPPBA Show & Expo

June 16 – 18, 2023 in Mexico, MO

There will be speakers, raffles, demonstrations, talks, & vendors as well as the Show itself!

Come and join the educational weekend and visit with IPP breeders from all over the United States.

Email info@idahopasturepig.org for additional information