

Letter from the Editor

Dear IPP Family

Welcome to the 2024 fall edition of the IPP Press Newsletter! September 22 marked the first day of fall. For different breeders around the country, the change in season brings a lot of planning. Here in the south, we're stocking up on hay for bedding for our shelters and we've already got our solution for frost free waters. But up north, the challenge is real and I'm sure preparations are underway to prepare for the rapidly approaching change in weather. Good luck, guys!

Jennifer Twait



Image Provided by Aloha Acres
Stover, MO



Image Provided by Drift Oak Ranch
Weatherford, TX



In The Pasture With The Idaho Pasture Pig Registry

Another three months have come and gone, and the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry has been busy! Continual educational posts frequent the Facebook group, assistance is always available by the Board members and often utilized by owners and breeders across the United States, and a logo has been developed that is available to all active Premium members. All Premium members wishing to have a JPG of the logo to use on your website, Facebook page, or for marketing your farm, please send an email to idahopasturepigregistry@yahoo.com and one will be sent to you.

Due to a very generous donation by one of our Registered breeders, the herd book progress has resumed and is expected to be completed for the New Year.

Added to all of this, we have heard your requests and are implementing a few changes within a Registered Breeder's online account.

1. Each registered breeder is now able to go into a pig's account and change a boar to a barrow once it has been castrated.
2. The progeny of a boar is now present in the boar's account just like the litters show up in a sow's account.
3. A Classified Section is being added onto the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry website.
 - Each active registered breeder will be able to submit a classified ad through their online account.
 - Breeding quality piglets, feeder piglets, and registered adult pigs will be able to be posted in the Classified section provided they have an active NR# assigned to them or have a Registered name and number.

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- Each ad will be active for 30 days and then the option to renew will be available. This will keep the list of pigs available for sale current and as up to date as possible.
- Each ad will cost \$5.00 to cover the cost of running the program.
- The classified section is being connected to the website now and as soon as it is properly linked in and running smoothly, it will be made available to all active Registered breeders.

Finally, if you haven't already been made aware of the change on the Idaho Pasture Pig (IPP) Facebook group that is run by the IPPR, we have made a change regarding people being allowed to post pigs available to new homes because the integrity of the breed is of the utmost concern. Too many crosses have started appearing in our group and for this reason we are going to be making a big change starting immediately. To better maintain the integrity of the breed, going forward, all posts MUST contain either the NR# of the pig available, a Registration number of the pig available, or the Registration numbers of the parents of the pigs that are available. People do not have to be Registered breeders to post pigs available, but they must own Registered IPP. Feeder piglets will still be able to be posted, but the post must contain the Registration number of the parents to prove that the offspring are indeed truly Idaho Pasture Pigs. All posts not containing this information will be deleted. People that are multiple offenders of posting piglets that are not proven to be IPP or soliciting for their farm when they do not raise proven Idaho Pasture Pigs will be removed from the group. If posting the full Registration Certificates from the IPPR, it is recommended that you put a watermark on the picture as there have been an increasing number of complaints regarding other people scamming and unethical behavior.

Let's have a fantastic fall Everyone!

NOTICE: Due to personal reasons, Jennifer Twait will be stepping down from the IPP Registry advisory board in October. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Board for the southwestern region (including CA, NV, UT, AZ, NM, CO, OK, TX), 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 and live in one of the states mentioned above. 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. Due by October 15, 2024.



Image provided by Drift Oak Ranch
Weatherford, TX



Illustration by Jim Molloy

The Importance of Added Minerals in the Fall

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, Wisconsin

As fall rolls around, it is both a time for those of us in the northern states to get ready for winter and a time for those of you in the southern states to start looking forward to a reprieve from the heat of summer!

One of the things we have noticed is that come September in northern Wisconsin, our grass may still look green, but the nutritional value is starting to decrease. The grass isn't pulling the minerals from the ground like it did during the spring and summer months. Over the years, we have learned that putting additional minerals into the feed for one-month acts as a re-boot to the pig's systems and works to rebalances them. Traditionally, we mix 100 pounds of NexGen 2090 (or 2132) per ton of feed for our pigs. But, during the month of September, we mix those same minerals in at a rate of 150 pounds per ton. The added minerals in their feed gives the pigs the boost they need to adjust to the decreased minerals in the grasses and legumes in their pastures.



What we tend to see as the nutrient levels decrease in the grasses is that our pigs will start to nose the ground looking for those larger quantities that they have gotten used to all spring and summer. Most of the time it starts with the fastest growing group from 3 – 9 months old. In the past, I used to simply give that group some added minerals by top dressing their feed. Inevitably our lactating sows and then our younger piglets (3 weeks – 3 months) would go through the same cycle and finally it would affect our adult pigs. The adults that were just maintaining their weights and not lactating, pregnant, or rapidly growing weren't as affected, but after seeing this progression we decided to try adding minerals for one month into all of our feed for all of our pigs and it worked!

The first year we tried it we tried the new Fall mix of feed for the month of September, we timed it perfectly. No one nosed the ground or rooted at all, but simply transitioned into late fall and winter without any issues. The second year we ended up in a drought for the 2nd half of the summer and our grass died much faster than normal. We ended up starting in August with our fall mix. Because our timing was off, by the time we got the mineral heavy feed, the 3 – 9 month-old pigs were already really nosing the ground and rooting for minerals in places. It took them about an entire month before they were content, so having the fall mix for 2 months that year wasn't a bad thing. The following year our timing was about perfect again. Mother Nature had other plans for year four, instead of a drought, we ended up with more rain than we had seen in years throughout the entire summer. Our grass grew very well up until November that year. Instead of doing the fall mix at the beginning of September, we timed it out to run the middle of September thru the middle of October. The transition again went smoothly! This year, about a week before our fall mix arrived (which coincidentally didn't arrive until September 8th due to timing issues) our one group of feeders started nosing their pasture. Had our timing & feed consumption worked out better, September 1st would have been the perfect timing to get our Fall mix of feed. I always keep a bag of NexGen 2090 on hand for emergencies such as this, so I simply mixed additional minerals into their feed for that week as soon as I knew we were going to need it.

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The Importance of Added Minerals in the Fall – cont'd

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, Wisconsin

The first sign something isn't perfect with the feed, be it a lack of minerals, feed that was mixed incorrectly, or grass dying and not drawing the minerals up like it had been, is that the pigs will start to "yell" differently. Instead of greeting me each morning by saying "Good Morning – we are hungry" they scream "Where have you been – we are starving here." If you have ever heard this, you will understand exactly what I am saying.



Another initial sign that something is wrong is that they yell at me at all hours of the day if I am walking past. In my normal day, I can walk past multiple times and unless it is feeding time, they may give a grunt and say "Hello," but they don't yell and scream like they are starving. Now to be clear, I do not give snacks or pick grass every time I go by, but if your pigs have trained you to do these things, then this isn't going to be a good indicator for you.

Across the United States, the growing seasons vary, but a good rule of thumb for you is when your grass starts to slow in growth, pay attention to how your pigs react. If you notice uncommon screaming or if this is when they start causing rooting issues each year, they could very well need a re-boot to balance their systems.

Using Ground Hay During Low or No Grass Seasons

By Kirsten Bordner – Mouse Creek Farm – Dornsife, PA



Grazing pigs are designed to eat grass, but what do you do if you don't have any? For adult Idaho Pasture Pigs, hay in a rack is a great option provided you are able to get a nice soft hay. Young pigs don't tend to eat as much hay and coarse hay isn't eaten well by any age IPP. But, grind that hay and mix it with your regular grain ration and you will not only have a palatable/digestible ration, but you will save money as the entire plant is utilized and nothing is wasted. This would allow you to use a first cutting alfalfa orchard grass type hay which is cheaper than 2nd or 3rd cutting and also tends to grind easier than later cuttings.

I have been feeding ground hay for the past 5-6 winters in Pennsylvania and it has worked out great, saving me labor and hay, as well as letting the younger pigs eat all they want without getting fatty. I use an old Smedley range feeder and fill it once a week with my bucket tractor. My hay is a first cutting alfalfa orchard grass ground in a New Holland grinder mixer with a 5/8" screen. It's a slow process so as not to block the hammer mill, but well worth the time. I then blend this with my custom feed mix at 20% by weight which is about 50% by volume. The young feeders can free feed this mixture and for years now, I have seen where they very closely follow the amount of grain recommended by the Registry. The hay provides gut fill, forage and promotes the bacteria in the gut needed to digest grass. This sets the gut up for when grass starts again because the microbes are already there to help digest it. Piglets are more satisfied and smaller piglets get a chance to catch up because they can visit the feeder more often. Once grass starts, I discontinue the hay in their feed and go back to meal feeding.

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Using Ground Hay During Low or No Grass Seasons - cont'd

By Kirsten Bordner – Mouse Creek Farm – Dornsife, PA



Final product – ground hay!



Similar hay grinder to what I use.



Saffy enjoying her fall feed.

PUMPKIN SEASON!

October through December are excellent months to stock up on pumpkins to supplement your pig's diet! They are not only nutritious, but your pigs will love you for it! After the holidays is a great time to get pumpkins on sale or even free. Ask your neighbors for their unpainted jack-o-lanterns. Hit the pumpkin patch. Grocery stores and farmers markets usually sell their leftover pumpkins for next to nothing. Take advantage!



Image provided by Grazing Greens
Family Farm – Frederic, WI



Image provided by Podunk Pastures –
Sunnyside, WA



Image provided by White Bison Farm –
Laona, WI

Some Thoughts About Idaho Pasture Pigs

By Emily Robey – Little Pigs on the Prairie - Tuttle, OK

Lately, there's been some chatter labeling Idaho Pasture Pigs as "designer overpriced mutts." But those familiar with the breed know that this couldn't be further from the truth. IPPs are not just another backyard experiment but a carefully developed breed with unique traits that make them an excellent choice for both small-scale farmers and homesteaders. Let's set the record straight and dive into the reasons why the Idaho Pasture Pig deserves your respect and investment.

1. A Breed With a Purpose: Developed for Sustainable Pasturing

Idaho Pasture Pigs are not your average pig breed; they were specifically developed with pasture-raising in mind. The breed was created by crossing Duroc, Kunekune, and Berkshire pigs, combining the best traits of each to produce a pig that thrives on pasture, has a friendly disposition, and grows to a manageable size. This careful breeding is not a haphazard mix but a strategic effort to create a pig that is excellent for sustainable farming practices.



Image provided by Phillips Family Farm - Prosser, WA

2. Grass-Fed: Reducing Feed Costs and Promoting Sustainability

One of the standout features of IPPs is their ability to graze efficiently. Unlike many other pig breeds that require substantial amounts of grain, IPPs can derive a significant portion of their diet from grass and forage. This reduces the reliance on expensive commercial feeds, lowering overall feed costs and promoting a more natural, eco-friendly way of raising pigs. For farmers interested in regenerative agriculture and reducing their carbon footprint, IPPs are a fantastic option.

3. Friendly and Easy to Handle: Ideal for Families and Small Farms

Another major advantage of IPPs is their temperament. These pigs are known for their docile and friendly nature, making them ideal for families, including those with children. Their manageable size, typically maturing between 200-300 pounds, means they are easier to handle compared to larger, more aggressive breeds. This makes IPPs particularly suitable for small farms and homesteads, where the relationship between farmer and pig is a vital part of daily operations.



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Some Thoughts About Idaho Pasture Pigs – cont'd

By Emily Robey – Little Pigs on the Prairie - Tuttle, OK

4. High-Quality Meat: Superior Flavor and Marbling

When it comes to meat quality, Idaho Pasture Pigs stand out from the crowd. The combination of genetics from Duroc and Berkshire breeds contributes to high-quality pork that is well-marbled and flavorful. Many IPP owners rave about the superior taste and texture of the meat, often describing it as tender, juicy, and richly flavored. This high-quality pork not only satisfies home consumption needs but also fetches a premium price at market, offering a solid return on investment.



5. Healthier Pigs: Less Need for Antibiotics and Medications

Thanks to their ability to graze and forage, IPPs often enjoy better overall health compared to pigs raised in confinement or on high-grain diets. The natural diet contributes to healthier pigs with stronger immune systems, reducing the need for antibiotics and other medications. This is a win for farmers aiming to produce clean, healthy meat without relying heavily on pharmaceuticals.

6. Long-Term Investment in a Versatile, Hardy Breed

Owning and breeding Idaho Pasture Pigs is not just about the immediate returns but also about investing in a versatile, hardy breed that can adapt to a variety of climates and farming setups. They are resilient, with strong genetic diversity that helps them thrive in different environments. This adaptability means IPPs can be a reliable and sustainable choice for farmers across the country.

7. Supporting a Community of Ethical Breeding

When you invest in Idaho Pasture Pigs, you're also supporting a community dedicated to ethical breeding practices. Breeders of IPPs are often committed to maintaining the integrity and health of the breed, which includes proper record-keeping, breeding for specific traits, and ensuring the welfare of the animals. This is not about churning out pigs for profit but about nurturing a breed that aligns with values of sustainability, quality, and humane farming.

🌟🐷 Conclusion: Not Just a Pig, but a Partner in Sustainable Farming 🌟🐷

In summary, Idaho Pasture Pigs are far from overpriced designer mutts. They represent a thoughtful and intentional approach to pig breeding that emphasizes sustainability, meat quality, ease of management, and overall farm efficiency. For those looking to invest in a pig that offers more than just meat—one that aligns with a vision of sustainable and ethical farming—the Idaho Pasture Pig is a breed worth every penny.

So, the next time someone dismisses IPPs as "just another pig," remind them of the careful breeding, the lower feed costs, the superior meat quality, and the friendly, manageable nature of this incredible breed. The Idaho Pasture Pig is not just a pig; it's a smart, sustainable choice for the modern homesteader.

Farm Story – Robbins Acres

Mike & Terri Robbins – Liberty, IN



We are Mike & Terri Robbins from Robbins Acres in Indiana. We live on a third generation family farm that has sat dormant for many years. It has been very exciting and rewarding to add the Idaho Pasture Pigs. They have encouraged us to bring this old place back to life!!

We started with IPPs over four years ago. We happened upon the breed online, did some research and actually purchased our first ones as non-believers. “Pigs don’t eat grass!” Coming from the farm girl in me that had hogs growing up. Well, wouldn’t you know it, these did!! We were just blown away by their personalities and how easy they are to handle. Then we got to work to decide just where we wanted this endeavor to head.



The meat!!! We wanted to provide this great quality of meat to our corner of the world. With our first feeders, we gave about half of the meat away to convince others that we were not crazy!!

From there we’ve been led to create our Farm to Table program!

We currently have 2 wonderful boars and 7 great sows in our program and looking forward to adding a few more gilts and a boar next summer. The Goal is to add to our genetics and continue to work to provide consistent litters for meat production, breeding stock and feeders.

For anyone considering this breed-they are Amazing Animals! In doing your homework you will find there is a lot to learn and they are not just any pig. Preparation is the key and do not be afraid to regroup, look at your program and add to or change your goals. Patience is an asset-There is Always One that will not cooperate with your well laid plans!!

Each passing year has brought its experiences and has pivoted our program. We have met a lot of great people and pigs. We look forward to fostering relationships both old and new. We strive for Quality in our program and have a passion to help others along in their IPP journey to live and learn with these “Perfect Pigs”!



Contact us anytime!! Happy Grazing!!

Mike & Terri

Our Mission is continuing our program while providing a lifestyle that our children & grandchildren can carry into the future!!

In the Kitchen with Idaho Pasture Pigs

'Tis the Season for Ham!



Phillips Family Farm

January 30, 2023 · 🌐

So proud of this beautiful Idaho Pasture Pig ham that we raised here on our farm. It's the best homegrown ham I've ever eaten! I covered it in a delicious brown sugar and dijon mustard glaze and cooked it in the crockpot. Turned out so juicy and delicious, my kids were begging for seconds.



Along with turkey, ham is a big holiday staple. No matter how you prepare it, enjoy it knowing it came from one of your delicious, flavorful Idaho Pasture Pig feeders!



If you would like to submit a recipe for a future issue, please send the recipe with pictures to the registry at idahopasturepigregistry@yahoo.com or directly to Jennifer (the editor) at jen@driftoakranch.com



Image provided by Craft Island Farms
Jacksonville, TX

Visit the IPPR Members Area at;

www.ippr-pedigrees.com/db/members

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!

