

Letter from the Editor

Dear IPP Family

Sorry we've missed a newsletter issue (April 2026) and the July 1, 2026 newsletter is a little late! We hope to get back on schedule now that the IPP registry is settled in their new location in New York state. This has been a strange year with weather and the heat waves which are affecting everybody. Despite a nice spring, our fields are already crunchy and we have to rely on hay to supplement our IPP's grazing. Remember your wallows (not just mud, but water too) and shade. "Stay Cool – Jen T"

Jennifer Twait (Jennifer Renee on FB)
Drift Oak Ranch – Weatherford, TX



Image Provided by Drift Oak Ranch
Weatherford, TX



Image Provided by Serenity Hill Homestead
Burlington, Wisconsin



**HAPPY
SUMMER**



In The Pasture With The Idaho Pasture Pig Registry

The Registry has transitioned and is located at PO Box 16, Prattsburgh, NY 14873. A ridiculously slow and incompetent job by the USPS has set back Registrations and paperwork. We would like to Thank everyone for their patience.

One major change request sent in by a breeder was to allow an LLC or partnership to be listed on the Certificate of Registration. This was voted on by the Board earlier this spring and it was unanimously agreed to allow this change. Going forward, any LLC or partnership that wishes to be listed on the back of the Original Registration must email the IPPR proper documentation showing the farm as a legal partnership or LLC. When the farm is listed on the back of the Registration Certificates, the owner(s) of the legal entity will also be included. Registrations completed prior to the proper paperwork being submitted will only have the owner's name listed, but the change will be recorded in their account. If a breeder would like a new Registration with the full LLC or Partnership name listed as well as the owner's name, a duplicate order form must be completed and sent to the IPPR along with the proper payment.

Premium membership expired on June 30th, so if you are a Registered breeder and would like to be listed on the IPPR Registered breeder page and have access to the COI & hypothetical breeding calculator, this premium membership must be renewed. Renewal is done through the shopping cart tab in the online account.

We would like to say a huge Thank you to all of our dedicated breeders who work extremely hard to uphold and educate people about the importance of the breed standard and the Idaho Pasture Pig breed! The continued success and quality of the breed itself is hugely dependent on responsible breeders, and we are blessed with many across the United States.

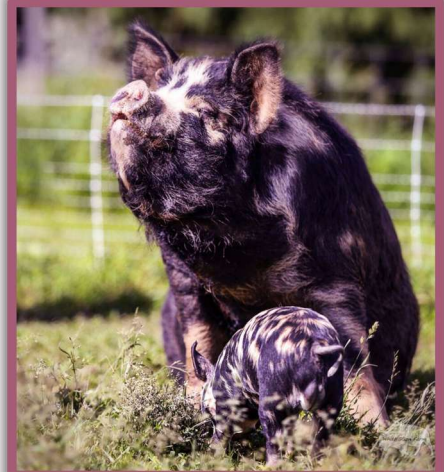
Hope you had a blessed 4th of July and Stay Safe this holiday season!

Ebb & Flow of Pig Sales

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, New York

The rise and fall of Idaho Pasture Pig sales is no different than the fluctuations of all animal sales. This fluctuation is influenced by a number of things such as the season, the economy, and of course market demand. Is one more important than the other, not really, but they do all influence each other to some extent. Let me explain further:

The sale of all swine as well as many other animals is higher in the early spring months because many people want to raise feeder pigs through the spring & summer, but do not want to raise them over the winter months. For this reason, sales are always higher in the spring as compared to the fall season. When I say higher, I don't mean you can charge more in the spring, but that the number of people buying pigs is higher in the spring as compared to the fall or winter months. This is not a new concept and has been happening for as long as anyone can remember, so it really shouldn't be a surprise that this happens, but for some, it is. Planning your litters ahead of time with this knowledge will help to ensure the best success for your farm. Whether you are sell all feeder piglet or you want to focus on both breeding quality and feeders, understanding when you market will be higher is important.



Another factor which will always play a part in the number of pigs being sold is the economic conditions such as inflation, interest rates, job security, wars, and even smaller items such as cost of veterinary care, cost of animal feed, and natural disasters. A lot of what I just mentioned are all intertwined and effect the overall cost of raising an animal. When the cost is higher, the number of sales will decrease.

The last item I mentioned is market demand. As the Idaho Pasture Pig gained notoriety, there was an influx of people who thought they should raise & breed their own pigs. Whether for novelty, the thought of quick money, or because they truly wanted to raise quality pork for themselves and their families. What a lot of these people found out is that raising animals isn't easy. Taking care of animals is work. People also greatly underestimate the need to market and expect to sell piglets without any marketing or advertising at all. You may have the best product in the world, but if no one knows you have it, you will never sell it! Due to the increased number of people raising and breeding Idaho Pasture Pigs over the past few years, a larger number of pigs have been available. As is always the case when breeder numbers increase, piglet numbers increase, and for this reason, demand decreases. What inevitably happens is that the people who were only in it for money, fame, or novelty decide it is too much work and sell out or butcher their animals. Over time the number of pigs evens out, and demand again increase. This ebb & flow is true of all walks of life and affects the sales of everything, not just IPP.

Most of us can't influence seasonal variations or economic conditions, but we can affect the market demand for Idaho Pasture Pigs.

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Ebb & Flow of Pig Sales – cont'd

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, New York



For the betterment of the breed, the IPPR needs to continue to stress the importance of a few things:

1. Buying from Reputable Registered breeders is important and can mean the difference in your success or failure in raising IPP.
2. Whether buying breeders or feeders it is important to know what you are getting. The only way to ensure you are absolutely getting the pig you want is to check. Even if you are purchasing barrows/feeders, ask to see the Registration Certificates of the parents.
3. As the Idaho Pasture Pig gains popularity, we are seeing more and more people taking the cheap way. They are purchasing pigs listed as IPP only to find out that they are crosses. The IPP was bred for a number of reasons and if you purchase pigs listed as IPP, but haven't verified that they are indeed true Idaho Pasture Pigs, then you shouldn't be surprised when they don't behave like an Idaho Pasture Pig.
4. Don't purchase unregistered Idaho Pasture Pigs for breeders. As I just stated, without the Official Registration Certificate from the IPPR, there is no way to guarantee that what you are purchasing is truly an IPP. Now if you want a cross to raise for meat on your own farm, then by all means – go ahead, but if you want to raise Idaho Pasture Pigs for meat or to have IPP piglets to raise for meat, then knowing that the pig you have is in fact an actual Idaho Pasture Pig is essential to your goal. Yes – an unregistered IPP may in fact be a true IPP, but without the paperwork to prove it, there is no way to know for sure. One thing is for sure, a reputable registered breeder is going to be able to back up their words with proof and the proof is in the Certificate of Registration.



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 quality pig in terms of breeding. The pigs that do not conform to the breed standard will make fantastic pork and should be utilized as such. It is the responsibility of the breeder to provide quality in terms of conformation. The Idaho Pasture Pig was not bred to be "cookie-cutter" pigs that all have the same exact shape and this is a good thing, not something we should be looking to change, but staying within the breed standard is extremely important when picking breeding quality piglets. Reputable means to be trusted and finding a reputable breeder to work with is essential. A reputable breeder will answer your questions, not only show you how to succeed, but truly Want you to succeed, and they will be happy to show you how they raise their pigs.

Nosing Versus Rooting – What to Expect and How to Fix It!

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, New York

Do all pigs nose the ground to a certain extent? Absolutely! Do Idaho Pasture Pigs commonly root? Now that is a different answer entirely! Will all pigs root if certain factors affect them, the answer is yes, but do all pigs need or desire to root – the answer to that is no.

The main difference between a pig nosing the ground as compared to a pig that is truly rooting can be noted in the degree of the hole being dug, the expanse of the deep hole, and the destruction of the grasses on the land.

Nosing

Nosing the ground is when the ground gets turned over slightly. The grass gets overturned in certain areas as the Pigs look for specific grasses, legumes, or other tasty treats.

One specific tasty treat is a dandelion. We have never started a new pasture where our pigs haven't dedicated the first couple of days to removing the dandelions and eating the roots. They do this by nosing the ground. Another reason you may see your pigs overturning the soil is in the early spring when the grass is first starting to come out of the ground, but is growing very slowly. They want those fresh shoots and will tend to overturn the ground to get them. Young piglets will also tend to nose the ground as they learn to eat and be pigs. Remember, pigs, like most animals, will use their noses and mouths to investigate things, so as piglets grow and start to explore, we tend to see them nose the ground investigating their surroundings. They tend to outgrow this by the time they are entering the young adult stage. Having something like a toy or a ball for them to play with will help keep them entertained and provide an outlet for their curiosity! Some other good items for them to play with are pumpkins, apples, garden veggies, or even an old bowling ball. Another thing that happens in the fall is that as the grass begins to lose its nutritional value, the diet of your pigs needs to be of utmost concern! We have plenty of beautiful green grass and clover readily available to our pigs this time of year, but the nutritional value of the grasses themselves is decreasing. We have found that this time of year as the pig's diet changes we have to increase our minerals in our feed for a month or two to help the pigs adjust to the changes. We put 100 pounds of swine minerals (and you have



to be extremely specific in getting a swine mineral that actually has ALL of the nutrients needed by your grazing pigs and in the correct amounts) into a ton of feed every time we get feed mixed up.....BUT..... come September - every year since we have lived in Wisconsin - we have found that our pigs need a bit more minerals to adjust to the changes in nutrients in the grasses. We mix a 4 - 6 week supply of feed at 150 pounds of minerals per ton and once that feed is gone, the pigs have adjusted and we go back to our 100 pounds per ton! This isn't to say this will happen to everyone, because we didn't notice it as much when we lived in Pennsylvania, but if you start to notice any changes in the fall,

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Nosing Versus Rooting – What to Expect and How to Fix It! – cont'd

By Jodi Cronauer – White Bison Farm, New York

this will usually fix the problem. We notice it first in our faster growing, 2 - 4- month-old pigs, then in our lactating sows, and so on, but if we don't increase the minerals for 4 - 6 weeks, all of our pigs start to nose the ground whereas the rest of the year, they only graze our pastures. Once we get their minerals increased and their bodies adjusted after about 4 - 6 weeks, we go back to our normal feed and everyone continues to do fantastic! No more nosing the ground! Another common time to see your pigs nosing the ground more is when it rains and the ground gets saturated with water. This could be due to more bugs, grubs, or worms coming to the surface or just because it is easy to move the ground around and is entertaining for them. Once the ground is less saturated with water and has dried up some, the pigs will normally stop nosing the ground and go back to grazing.

Rooting

Rooting is the exact opposite of nosing the ground. Rooting occurs for entirely different reasons. We will go over these reasons as well so that it will hopefully help make it easier to determine what and why your pigs are nosing or rooting the ground.

Conformation: One of the biggest reasons is conformation. Pigs who have long, straight snouts are unable to graze as efficiently as pigs with upturned snouts. You may see the pigs digging larger areas trying to get to grass, but destroying the land instead due to their poor grazing conformation. Something important to remember is that pigs eat from the top down. They aren't able to efficiently turn their heads and eat like other animals such as cows, horses, sheep, etc. That means that if the grass gets too tall, they will start to nose it over so that they can eat it. We mow our maternity ward at least twice a year and our bigger pastures at least once a summer for this reason. Teaching your pigs to nose over the grasses isn't ideal as rooting can be a learned behavior. The height you need to keep your pastures at is dependent on the ages and sizes of the pigs in those pastures. Obviously 4 - 6 week old piglets are going to need the grasses at a shorter level than full grown adults. I, for one, will gladly mow the pastures if it means that the grass is growing!

Overfeeding: One thing that is very often overlooked and not understood is that when Idaho Pasture Pigs are free fed like commercial pigs or if they are overfed, they tend to root more. We are not positive on the reason for this, but one thing we have concluded is that when pigs are getting free feed, they are most times being fed commercial pig feed that is usually lacking in certain minerals. The pigs tend to get full from the feed, but may still be missing their minerals they need, so they go looking for the minerals in the ground.

This is something that can be rectified provided the correct feed with the proper minerals are fed and if the pig's feed is slowly cut back to a normal level, but it takes twice as long to correct the problem, so don't expect to cut the feed back and have the rooting immediately stop. One thing to note: Grinding hay into your feed is not the same as overfeeding grains and is typically not going to produce this result.

Overcrowding: When piglets are small, having a smaller paddock (16 x 16) for them isn't a problem for a few weeks, but as they grow that pasture will need to expand with them. A lot of factors go into the decision about what size pasture is going to work best, but one thing that this is 100% true is that keeping IPP over 4 months old in pens the size of 16 x 16 is going to cause nothing but problems. Whether you are rotationally grazing or you have larger pastures for the summertime, you need to plan accordingly to give the pigs plenty of room.

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Nosing Versus Rooting – What to Expect and How to Fix It! – cont'd

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When Idaho Pasture Pigs are too confined, they tend to root. If you are set up to provide larger summer pastures, it is important to evaluate how many pigs you want in the area and what your grass count is. If you plan to rotationally graze your pigs, providing a pasture that is bigger and keeping them on that pasture for one day longer is going to increase your productivity and success with them. Teaching them to root because their pasture is too confined is not beneficial to the breed, the land, or the pork they are producing.

I am not saying rotationally grazing Idaho Pasture Pigs is bad, in fact, quite the opposite, BUT it is important to formulate your rotational grazing to fit the animal the best. Don't get stuck in one mindset but instead be open to options! Figure out what will work with the land you have, the quantity of animals you intend to graze and grow, the growing season for your area, where you want wallows, shelter, and their feed to go, what kind of pork you want to produce, and the overall health and well being of the pigs you are raising. Personally, I never recommend people do pasture areas smaller than 50 x 50, but again that size may increase depending on the factors listed above.

One thing to remember is that this entire article is about making sure your pigs have ample room and are not too confined causing them to root. Having smaller sacrificial pastures for the winter or muddy season is a completely different topic and does not factor into this at all.

Wet Ground: Earlier I mentioned that when it rains and the ground gets saturated with water, it is common to see the pigs nose the ground some. This could also turn into true rooting depending on the quantity of water and the temperature. Finding a new wet spot to make into a wallow is always a good idea to a pig. 😊

Mineral Deficiency: This has been covered in grave detail in many articles, posts, and on the website, but to re-iterate, if your Idaho Pasture Pigs are not getting the necessary minerals in their diet, they will dig in the ground to find more. Dirt is composed of minerals, so if a mineral or nutrient is missing in your pigs' diet, the pig will dig through the soil trying to find more. Traditional pig feed is designed for free-choice feeding. One of the benefits of Idaho Pasture Pigs is that they are able to thrive on lower feed intake and a higher grass/hay/legume intake. That means that you need to have a higher percentage of minerals (at the correct amounts) in their feed to ensure they get the necessary minerals into their diet. The amount of mineral deficiency is going to be dependent on your soil composition, time of year, and quality & quantity of grasses available. For this reason, having a feed that is created or designed specifically for your Idaho Pasture Pigs is going to provide them with the best success and help ensure that they are not digging in the ground to find additional minerals.

Fence Rows & Wooded Area: Fence rows and wooded areas tend to have more shade than the rest of the pasture and for this reason it is common to see the pigs make themselves wallows in the cool dirt of these areas. Because pigs are unable to sweat, the cool dirt or mud is used to help them cool off.

Grass too tall: As I mentioned before, pigs must eat from the top down due to their conformation. For this reason, if the grass gets too tall, they will knock it over in order to eat it.

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Nosing Versus Rooting – What to Expect and How to Fix It! – cont'd

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Learned Behavior: Rooting can be a learned behavior, so it is important to not raise Idaho Pasture Pigs in the same pasture as other breeds of pigs. It is just as important to make sure that you have taken as many precautions as possible to ensure you are not teaching your pigs to root by having grass that is too tall, deficient amounts of minerals, etc.

In the attached pictures you will see some examples of both rooting and nosing the ground. Knowing what is happening and if you need to change anything in the pasture or their diet is going to help ensure you have the best possible experience and the healthiest pigs.

These are examples of nose holes from digging up dandelions or other desirable forbs.

Last one is a deeper hole, probably pursuing blackberry or other desirable roots. They usually don't get much worse than this unless they make a wallow middle of nowhere.



This photo is a good example of some young feeders who have turned over this section of grass. It will repair itself usually with no input from me given some time to rest. So these 2 photos are a good example of what I call "the churn". We live in a wet clay bowl, so any animal walking around an area a lot will churn it into muck. The pigs usually churn up a section along the alleyway where they get fed as one might expect. It usually self repairs and seeds pretty quickly in the spring once you rotate animals off of it, although some weeds may creep in if you don't want to use a seed mix on it.





As always, thank you Jim Molloy of Rolling Hills Farm in Monroe, WI for continuing to delight all of us with these fun Pigtoons!



Image Provided by Serenity Hill Homestead
Burlington, Wisconsin

Tell your friends and farm followers to join the Idaho Pasture Pig Registry today for valuable information on everything IPP!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/707312192613309>

Find Registered breeders across the United States.



Image Provided by Serenity Hill Homestead
Burlington, Wisconsin

In the Kitchen with Idaho Pasture Pigs

Creamy Pork – courtesy of a “Pasture Pig Pork Lover”



I came up with this recipe because I don't grill or smoke and the crock pot is pretty much my favorite way to prepare almost anything.

Ingredients:

- 1-2 pounds pork, cut into ½” cubes
- 2 tsp flour
- 4-8 tsp paprika (add according to your taste)
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 TBSP butter
- 1 ½ cup heavy whipping cream



Place flour, paprika, salt and black pepper in a Ziploc bag. Add pork and toss until the pork cubes are covered.

Preheat a skillet and add butter on medium heat. Place pork in heated skillet and cook until brown (145-165 degrees internally).

Lower the heat and add heavy cream. Stirring constantly, bring the mixture to a boil and cook uncovered until the cream slightly thickens (5-7 minutes).

Serve hot over egg noodles or rice.

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

Visit the IPPR Members Area at;

www.ippr-pedigrees.com/db/members

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