

Raising Pigs on silage –Teacher information

Pigs are very important animals in PNG. They are used for bride price, compensation and eating at special occasions. Families can raise pigs for selling and their own eating. Pigs are a good source of protein. Children and adults need protein for growth and other important functions in the body. Protein helps build, repair and maintain our muscles.

Pig breeds

Indigenous Pigs (Ples pig), Large White, Duroc and cross breeds (crosses of these breeds) can mate and produce 7 to 10 piglets at any one time. A healthy sow can produce up to 4 clutches of piglets per year.

Pigs housing

Pigs live in a piggery. A piggery must have access to water at all times and should have proper drainage system into a dug sewage pond to control waste. Pig houses are made from bush materials with concrete flooring to manage waste efficiently. Use kunai grass, woven sago leaves or iron roof as roofing material. The advantage of iron roofing is that the rain water is possibly collected through gutter and down pipes into the water storage tank. The interior of the house can be divided into rooms to hold a pig or a group of piglets. The nesting pen should contain protective bars to hold sow when piglets move freely to suck nipples. The house shall also have a mating pen for boar and sow

Daily and Weekly Chores to Keep Your Pigs Healthy

The growth performance of pigs depends on good feeds, healthy environment and the attitude of farmers towards looking after the pigs.

- **Making sure to feed and remove waste at all times.** Wash the feed waste from the trough every morning and in the afternoon before the new feed is assigned. Use water to flush off waste on the floor and brush thoroughly into the waste run-ways.
- **Keep water available at all times.** Make sure the water is always clean. Pigs need clean water to grow well. Provide water in the containers or trough.
- **Keeping grower.** Weaners are piglets separated from the sow after 1-2 months of suckling and are kept in the growing shed to reach market weight. The growth, feeds and management of the growers (growing pig) is important to determine the selling price of pigs. It is necessary to give a close attention to the types of feed during this stage. Silage feed is very important for grower pigs. In grower shed, separate males from females.

- **Pigs can eat vegetable scraps.** Give them left over food scraps.
- **Pigs also scavenge and eat grass.** Traditionally, pigs forage in the old garden or left to roam around and eat what they can find.
- **Silage feedlot can be made from sweet potato tubers, leaves and vines.** Processed feeds are sometimes hard to get and most times the feed is expensive. It is necessary to make feeds using part or whole of sweet potato.

How to Make Silage

- 1kg of fresh sweet potato tubers
- 1kg of fresh sweet potato tuber and vines
- 10 grams of salt
- Chopping boards
- Knife
- Grater
- Storage bucket
- Garbage Plastic bag
- Canvas

After harvest, wash sweet potato tubers to remove soil dirt, remove dry leaves and vines and wash to remove dirt. Weigh Sweet potato tubers as well as leaves and vines. After weighing, grate sweet potato tubers to pieces and chop sweet potato leaves and vines into pieces.

Spread 2kg of sweet potato tubers, leaves and vines over a canvas and start mixing together, add 10 grams of salt and mix thoroughly.

Place a garbage plastic bag into the bucket and spread sweet potato/salt mixture. Press the mixture tightly together after every layers of spread to compress and compact everything in the bucket. After the bucket is full, spread a finger full of salt over the top, tie the plastic bag to vacuum, shield the top of the bucket and store buckets in a safe place. The silage will be ready to feed grower pigs at the end of the month. Feed silage to pigs as it is or mix silage with commercial pig grower diet or any types of food from the kitchen.

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