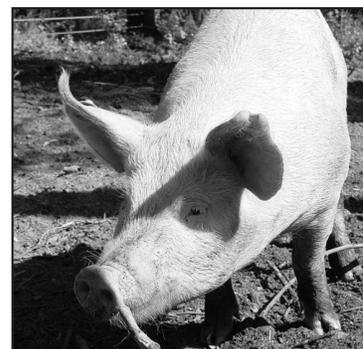


Equipment Needed

1. Waterer - Rubber buckets in an old tire work well.
2. Self Feeder - Although these are rather expensive (\$75 to \$100), they will probably pay for themselves if you are feeding 3 to 4 pigs, due to reduced feed waste.
3. Plywood calf-hutch type housing plus a fenced-in area for exercise - the fence should be woven wire with a board around the bottom of the inside for reinforcement. Pigs will sometimes root holes under fences and these must be repaired before the pigs get free. You need 60 square feet of space per pig.



Raising Your Own Pork — Will It Pay?

Item	Average Cost	Your Cost
40# Weaner Pig	60.00	_____
Interest for 4 months @ 10%	2.00	_____
600# Feed @ \$24.00/100	144.00	_____
Wormer + Parasite Control	2.00	_____
Bedding (straw/hay)	12.00	_____
Housing & Fencing \$135 cost ÷ 5 years use ÷ 3 pigs per year	8.67	_____
Waterer & Feeders \$68 ÷ 5 years use ÷ 3 pigs	4.53	_____
TOTAL COST	233.20	

*NOTE - These costs do not include charges for labor, risk, management, etc.

Did It Pay? Remember, a pig is not all pork chops and ham!

Example A: A 210# hog with head, leaf fat, and kidneys attached will dress approximately 74% for 155 pounds of meat.

Example B: A 210# hog with head, kidneys, and leaf fat removed will dress out approximately 70% for 147 pounds of meat.

From the 147 pounds of unprocessed carcass you can expect to get approximately 135 pounds of retail cuts.

In Example A, the production cost is \$1.50/lb. For Example B, the production cost is \$1.59/lb. These costs do not include charges for processing meat. Those costs in the Palmer region are: killing fee - \$27.50; cutting and wrapping (including quick freezing) cost 30 to 35¢/lb.

Another potential source of income is the manure produced. A pig confined to a 60 sq ft pen will produce approximately 1.2 tons of manure in 5 months. This is equal to 120# of 10-7-9 fertilizer worth approximately \$17.00.

For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office or Milan Shipka, Extension Livestock Specialist, at 907-474-7429 or ffmps@uaf.edu. This publication was originally developed by Jerry Purser, Extension Agriculture Development Agent, in 1975. Technical review by Milan Shipka in November 2006.

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