



# Pig Tales

Fun Facts & Amazing  
Activities About Pigs



Sask  
PORK

## Did You Know?

Sows are pregnant for 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days. They have 8-16 piglets in a litter.

# ALL ABOUT PIGS

In Saskatchewan we have about **140 hog farms** that raise about **2 million pigs every year**. Pork is the delicious meat that comes from pigs. It's where we get **pork chops, hot dogs, sausages and bacon!**

Many years ago, most Canadians lived on farms and grew their own food. They raised animals like chickens, cows and pigs and also grew crops such as wheat, barley, corn and peas. This was used to feed their families and farm animals.

Today, since most Canadians no longer live on farms, modern farms have gotten much bigger and are able to grow larger amounts of food to feed billions of people around the world.

### Where do pigs live?

Pigs are raised in modern barns that have heat and air conditioning to keep them warm and comfortable in our cold winters and cool in the hot summers.

### What do pigs eat?

Pigs eat a variety of grains and legumes like barley, corn, soybeans, peas and wheat. Vitamins and minerals are sometimes added to the pigs feed to make sure they are getting all the nutrients they need to grow and stay healthy!



### JOKE:

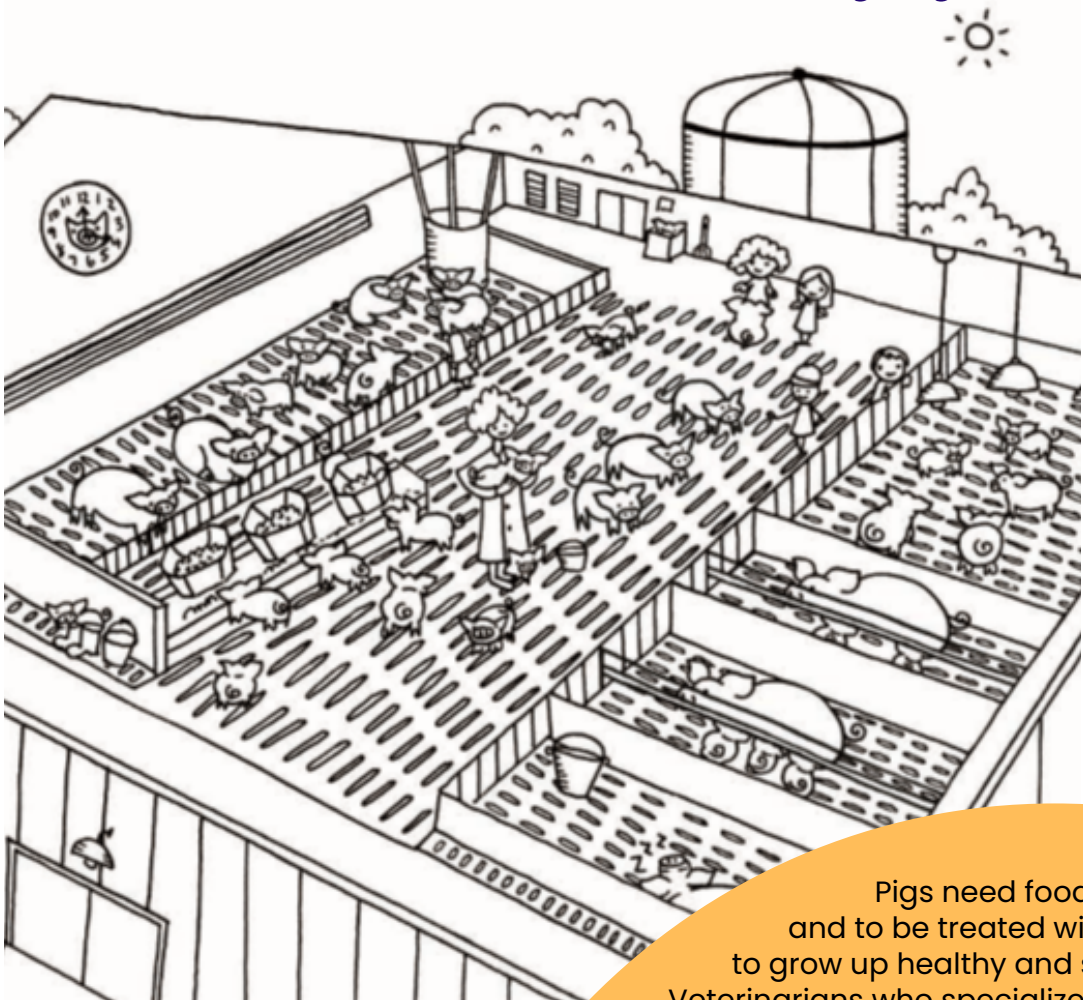
What do you get when you cross a pig with a centipede?

### ANSWER:

Bacon & legs



# This Little Piggy



Pigs need food, water and to be treated with care to grow up healthy and strong. Veterinarians who specialize in pigs help farmers keep their animals healthy. How many pigs do you see in this barn?

This picture shows a small farm. **The average hog farm in Saskatchewan has 7,000 pigs.** Some hog farms have 2000–5000 sows (mother pigs) and boars (male pigs). Now that's a busy place!



# Pig Facts

## How big does a pig grow?

Pigs can reach more than 300 kgs if they are fed for many years. They will grow from 2.2 kg (1 lb) to 180 kgs (220-280 lbs) in six months.

## Do pigs make good pets?

While new born piglets are very cute and cuddly, they do grow very fast and most of us just wouldn't have the room in our house to raise a pig to full grown. They are farm animals and happy in small herds of pigs of the same size and age.

## How do pigs communicate?

They grunt to talk to one another and have about 20 different vocalizations (sounds) that all mean different things. Some mean I'm hungry, or I'm thirsty, or I like you!

## Are there a lot of pigs in Saskatchewan?

Raising pigs is the third biggest agriculture sector in Saskatchewan, behind grains and oilseeds, and raising cows for beef.



## PIG-TIONARY

**Boar:** full grown male pig (father)

**Sow:** full grown female pig (mother)

**Litter:** group of piglets born at one time

**Piglet:** newborn pig weighing 1-2 kg

**Runt:** smallest pig in the litter

**Feeder pig:** piglet after it's weaned from the sow

**Market hog:** pigs raised for meat production

**Pork producer:** farmer that raises pigs

# L'il Pigs House

**F**armers raise  in a special . The  of a  is covered with  not . They fit  cold more easily than other animals. Farmers keep the  warm to make sure the  stay healthy. Heat  may be used to keep the  warm. Raising  indoors also keeps the   from disease. When  **R** about 3 weeks old, they begin eating a special diet of  and minerals. When they reach  110 kg they are sent by  to a meat packing  to be made into  for us to eat.  farmers **R** business , who use modern equipment  help them raise the  pigs in the .



## Did You Know?

Saskatchewan pork is exported by ships to many countries. People in faraway places like Japan, China, Korea and Mexico like to eat pork from Canada.





# EVERYTHING BUT THE OINK

Pigs also provide us with important items that we use in our every day lives. These are called by-products.

What do upholstery and chalk have in common? They are both made from parts of a pig! There are 11 more things hidden in this word search. Can you find them?

**JOKE:**  
What do pigs drive?  
**ANSWER:**  
Pig-up trucks

- PUTTY
- BONE
- PLASTICS
- CRAYONS
- CHINA
- CEMENT
- FLOOR WAX
- GLASS
- RUBBER
- GLUE
- COSMETICS

F L O O R W A X S P  
 C A K P U T T Y T L  
 O E W H B G L U E A  
 S O A K B L C W M S  
 M Y P E E O B P A T  
 E P S B R V I A S I  
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 I G L A S S E X O S  
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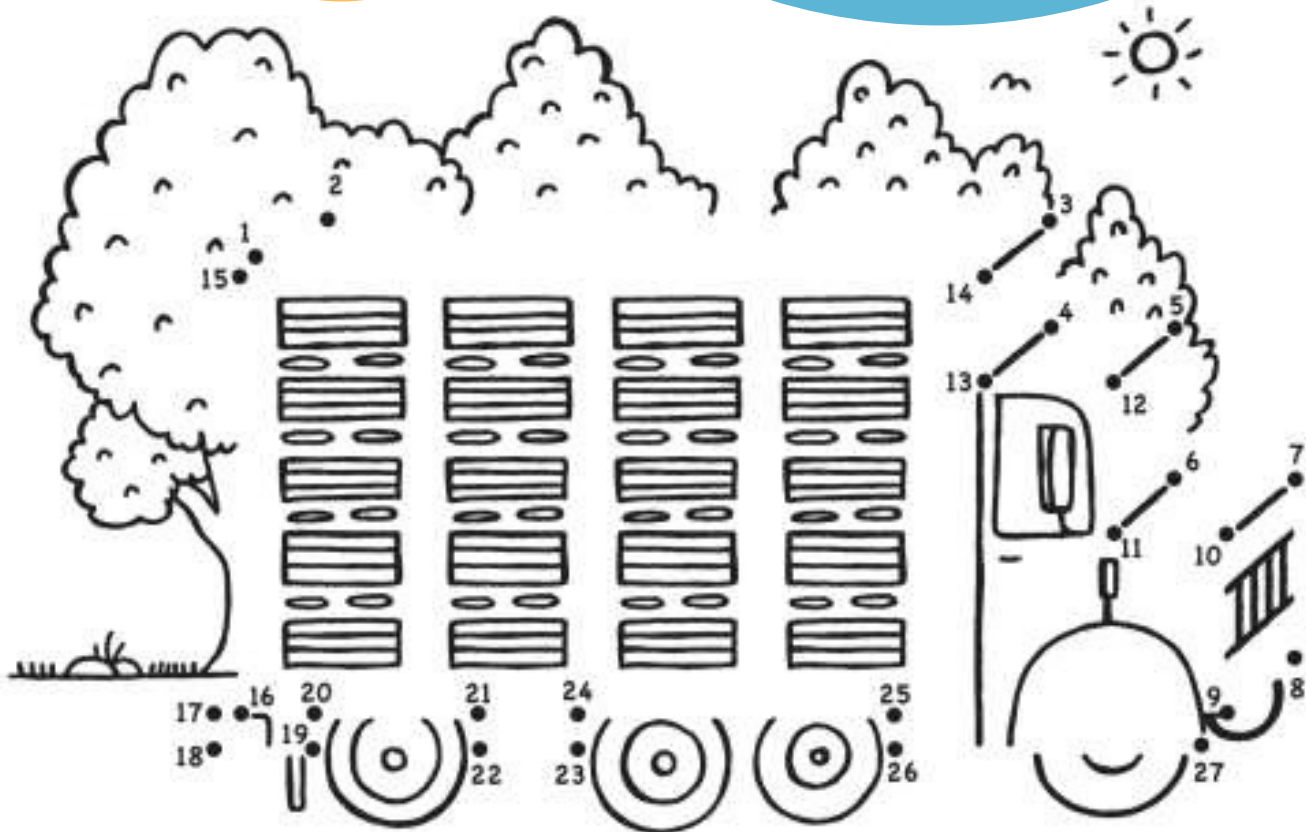
# Off to Market

**JOKE:**  
How do pigs  
write secret  
messages?

**ANSWER:**  
In invisible  
oink

When pigs reach 110-130 kgs they are ready for market. They travel in specially designed trucks; some even have sprinklers and fans to help keep pigs cool on hot days. Truckers who haul pigs must take special training and write a test.

Connect the dots to see one of these special trucks!



Pork is very nutritious and has protein that our bodies need to build muscle. It also has vitamins and minerals for strong bones, teeth, and eyes!

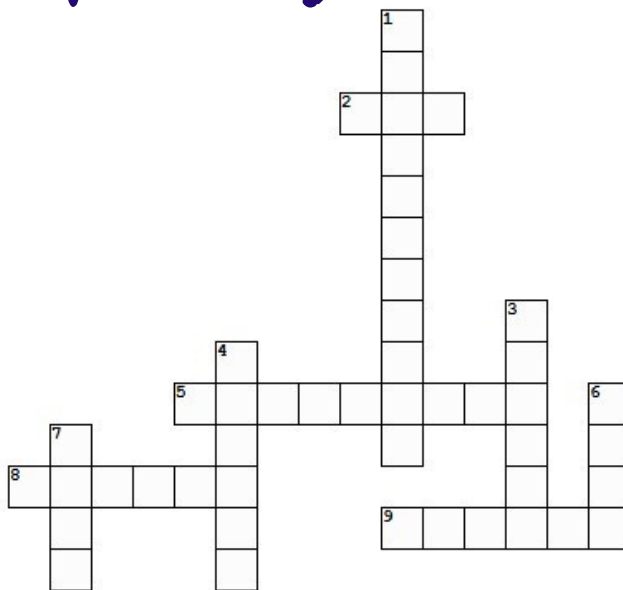


This fun crossword puzzle uses many words that a hog farmer uses on the farm! See how many words you can fill in. Match the words with the crossword clues at the bottom of this page.

**Farmer • piglet • sow  
farrow • market hog • boar  
litter • biosecurity • barn**



# The Word in the Barn



## Across

2. a mother pig
5. a pig that has reached 250 + lbs in weight and is ready to go to market
8. person who takes care of pigs
9. a group of piglets born at one time from one sow

## Down

1. actions taken to protect pigs from disease
3. newborn pig
4. to give birth
6. male pig
7. building where pigs are raised

## JOKE:

What do pigs do after school?

## ANSWER:

Their hamwork



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