

Overview of Pig Production Industry

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(Key concepts, major stages, and current trends)

1. Industry Scope & Significance

Aspect	Details
Global Production	>1.2?billion pigs slaughtered annually (FAO, 2023). Major producers: China, EU, USA, Brazil, Vietnam.
Economic Impact	Generates billions in revenue; supports feed manufacturers, equipment makers, veterinary services, and rural employment.
Food Security	Pork is the most consumed meat worldwide (~36?% of total meat intake).
By?products	Meat, off?al, skin, blood, fat, and collagen are used in food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and bio?energy.

2. Production Systems

System	Typical Size	Housing	Management Style	Main Markets
Intensive (Conventional)	500–5,000 sows per farm	Fully enclosed, climate? controlled barns; slatted or solid floors	High biosecurity, automated feeding, strict genetics	Commercial pork, processed products
Semi?Intensive	100–500 sows	Partial confinement; outdoor runs or paddocks	Mix of manual & automated practices	Niche & regional markets
Extensive (Free?range/Outdoor)	<100 sows	Open paddocks, pastures, shelter barns	Low input, more labor?intensive	Specialty, organic, heritage pork
Integrated Systems	Varies	Combines breeding, nursery, finishing, and processing under one ownership	Full control of genetics, feed, health	Large?scale processors, export

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3. Production Cycle

1. Breeding & Genetics

- *Selection*: Rapid growth, lean muscle, disease resistance, feed efficiency.
- *Breeds*: Commercial (e.g., Large White, Landrace, Duroc) vs. heritage (e.g., Berkshire, Mangalitsa).

2. Gestation

- 114±2 days.
- Sows housed in crates or pens; nutrition optimized for fetal development.

3. Farrowing & Lactation

- Litters: 10–14 piglets (commercial).
- Piglets stay with sow ~3 weeks; creep feed introduced at ~10 days.

4. Nursery (Weaning to ~30 kg)

- Piglets moved to heated pens.
- High protein diets, vaccination schedule, disease monitoring.

5. Grow/Finisher (30 kg ? market weight 100–130 kg)

- Phase feeding: starter, grower, finisher diets.
- Space allocation: 0.6–0.8 m²/pig (intensive).

6. Processing & Distribution

- Slaughter within 24 h of arrival.
- Carcass grading, cutting, packaging, cold chain logistics.

4. Key Inputs

Input

Role

Typical Cost
Share*

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Feed	60–70% of total production cost; primary source of energy & protein (corn, soybean meal, wheat).	60–70%
Genetics	Influences growth rate, feed conversion, carcass quality.	5–10%
Health & Biosecurity	Vaccination, medication, hygiene protocols.	5–8%
Labor & Management	Animal handling	