Gilt #1:

Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
~ 8 weeks (Weight does not matter at this time in the feeding stage to us.)

Feed:
Self Feed – 611 (She is eating about 2.5-3 pounds a day) We put about 1/4 of oat groats in AM and PM.

What she looks like:
Pretty bloomy right now, chunky made, has a lot of muscle expression and width

What we will monitor:
At this age we mainly like to make sure they get acclimated, on feed well and stay healthy. However, we will pay close attention to make sure that she doesn’t get too much muscle, that could potentially hinder structure...at the same time this is still an important time for muscle development so don’t drop protein too fast.

Plan:
We will keep her on this diet for another 10 days to 2 weeks and then start staging protein down by mixing 50% 611 and 50% 632.
Thoughts on receiving/starter stage:

In our opinion the best feed to receive new pigs on is 606 or 611 (for the first ten days to two weeks) since these feeds will be the most similar to what they were on at the breeder’s farm. It is always good to try and keep them on the same type of feed or diet that they were on at the breeder’s to try and keep at least one thing consistent during this stressful time. However, like we said before the most important part of this stage is acclimation, getting on feed and staying healthy!

It is always good to ask the breeder if they have had all of their vaccinations or if they have been wormed already. By 8 weeks old, most of them probably have. When you bring new baby pigs in be sure that they learn the type of water system that you have, for example we have bowl waters at our house so if you have nipple waters, make sure that they learn how to use them. Pay special attention to notice if any of them start to scour or cough. Mixing pigs from all different places and the changes in the weather that we see this time of year make it very conducive to pigs getting sick.

Question & Answer Section:

Q&A

Question:

Would you recommend the same for starting barrows on a 606 or 611?

Answer:

Yes, we would recommend this same thing for barrows.

We actually feed barrows and gilts very similarly throughout the feeding period. For some breeding gilt shows, you may have to feed for a little more flesh and body closer to the end, but we don’t feed barrows and gilts that much differently at all, especially with the recent trends in the junior market barrow shows lately.

Barrows do tend to deposit fat more easily that gilts and as we feed the gilts, we may need to add an additional energy source, but just like everything, all pigs are different from each other, so you just have to adjust accordingly, regardless barrow or gilt.
Q&A

Question:
What do you typically give to combat the scours and coughing...I know many feeders are having this problem right now? Thanks for sharing your knowledge! This is a great tool for people.

Answer:
As far as what medications to use we will refer you to your local vet; however, I will share with you some additional practices that we always use to help in these situations. For scours, we almost always take a stool sample as soon as we can to a vet or laboratory to be analyzed. This will help you to know what you are combating and the most appropriate drug to use. It is important to take a sample from a pig that has not yet been treated. We will also add some additional oat groats into their diet as well as lightly top dress it with some type of electrolyte to help them from becoming dehydrated. We also give them a probiotic if we are treating them with medications because just like in people, antibiotics will kill the good bacteria in the stomach just like the bad. This will help replenish that source of “good” bacteria.

As far as a cough goes, we can’t stress enough how important it is to establish a good, close working relationship with a local vet. Some medications seem to work better than others from year to year and they will be able to help you with that. Just like we mentioned above about using probiotics when treating with medications, we would do the same here.

Q&A

Question:
What does the oat groats do to the pigs this early?

Answer:
Oat groats simply serve as a fiber source that is very easily utilized and are great for aiding in digestion at pretty much any age of pig that is on feed. We actually make it a practice in our nursery (with pigs taking a stool sample as soon as we can to a vet or laboratory to be analyzed. This will help you to know what you are combating and the most appropriate drug to use. It is important to take a sample from a pig that has not yet been treated. We will also add some additional oat groats into their diet as well as lightly top dress it with some type of electrolyte to help them from becoming dehydrated. We also give them a probiotic if we are treating them with medications because just like in people, antibiotics will kill the good bacteria in the stomach just like the bad. This will help replenish that source of “good” bacteria.

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Q&A

Question:
Do you feed those pigs that tend to be larger framed differently? Will adding fat earlier keep them from growing “up”?

Answer:
Yes. Depending on the age/weight of this type of pig you could have a couple different scenarios. If the pig is smaller and/or younger for the show it was purchased for then we would end up “pushing” it and feeding it hard throughout the feeding period. This may be through more feed and/or higher percent protein. If it is a pig that is right on target as far as age/weight then we would manage the weight in the middle part of the feeding period to where we have plenty of room at the end to push hard then. It is important on these kinds of pigs to be able to gain 2.25 lbs/day or more the last 30 days to get them as chunky and wide as we need them now. 611 is a “best friend” for a pig like this, probably both in the beginning and at the end.

We have heard that adding fat earlier will keep these kinds of pigs from growing up; however, we don’t really have anything to prove that theory. Like most things with feeding pigs, it works on some and doesn’t on others and genetics would obviously play a role.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

**Weight/Age:**
~ 9 weeks (Weight does not matter at this time in the feeding stage to us.)

**Feed:**
Starting to hand feed – per feeding she gets:
3/4 pounds 611
3/4 pounds of 632 (mixing the two to introduce new feed)
1/4 pounds of oat groats

**What she looks like:**
She has developed more of muscle, rib and body over this last week. A little tighter moving than last week.

**What we will monitor:**
She has gotten as much power as we think she needs right now and her hind legs are starting to look a little more straight than we would like, so we will drop protein level a little bit and start monitoring how much she eats per day.

**Plan:**
We are starting to hand feed her twice a day and want to start trying to teach her to eat that way versus self-feed. Based on how much muscle she has developed over the last week and the way her structure looks now, we will probably move her to 50% 632 and 50% 685 next week, but not going to make any knee jerk reaction changes each week.
Additional thoughts:

One thing that you will see is that when we switch feeds we often will mix what they are currently on with the next feed we are moving to. This is not in order for them to accept the new feed as much as for them to move to a different nutritional plane and different diet make up a little more slowly. We try not to change things drastically. This way you know direction the change is making and continue to allow the pig to develop. Some pigs will react to changes more quickly and we will see that they will respond to feed changes more quickly than others the whole way. As you are feeding, you need to learn these things about your pigs, remember the feed is just part of the equation and genetics play a role development, conversion, response to feed, consumption, etc.

During this time of the feeding period, don’t worry about a whole lot other than keeping healthy, getting them tamed down, and used to a routine. Remember, these pigs are still pretty young and lots of pigs this age might still be at a breeder’s farm in a small contained pen. So any additional walking, exercising, etc may just be too much right now and use up too much energy (fat) reserves, thus loosing condition and bloom.

Q&A

Question:
Why are you choosing to feed 50-50 685/632 which would make an 18% versus feeding 672? Is it the medications or the percentage of fat?

Answer:
672 is perfectly acceptable to feed and is used as much as any feed that we have. It is the most convenient and easiest to use. However, you will see that through this feeding period, we will adjust the ratios of 632 and 685 some depending on how the pigs look, and we tend to like that flexibility that mixing these two feeds gives us. At some point, we may decide to put one of them on 2/3 632 and 1/3 685 if she needs just a little more muscle expression or vice versa (2/3 685; 1/3 632) if we would like for her to mellow out some in her muscle and flesh. Like I said earlier though, 672 is great to feed and provides the convenience that some of us desire and need. Hope this helps explain our thinking behind that, thanks!
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
~ 10 weeks (Weight does not matter at this time in the feeding stage to us.)

Feed:
On hand feed – per feeding she gets:
3/4 pound 632
1 pound of 685
1 oz. System Mechanic (per day)
1/4 pound of oat groats

What she looks like:
She has definitely maintained muscularity and shape. She is actually not as tight as she was but still has as much muscle as she needs and I'm comfortable with right now. She has started to grow a little and little leaner appearing which are both good for this stage.

What we will monitor:
She is still doing real well. We are going to keep watching muscle development and make sure she stays sound and flexible.

Plan:
She is cleaning up 1 1/2# feed and the oat groats and hungry by the next feeding. We are now on 632 and 685 and will be on a combination of these feeds most of the feeding period unless something drastically changes. We did increase to 1 3/4 of feed per feeding because she is eating so well and a little heavier on 685 because she has enough shape. If she does not eat all of this in about 20 minutes, we will rake the feeder out. This will help train her to eat and will pay off in the end. We will feed System Mechanic from this point forward. We will make changes in the ratio of 632 and 685 according to how she changes phenotypically and may start adding Full Figure as an added fat source in the next couple weeks, but let's see what this feed change does. I do not want to change every week.

“...let’s see what this feed change does. I don’t want to change every week.”
Additional thoughts:

You will see on gilt #1 that we are going to start raking her feed out after about 20 minutes each feeding. This is to get the pigs trained to eat and not be picky. This is easier on some than others but be strong and patient and it will help in the long run, but don’t start to early. I would wait until they are established on feed well and acclimated probably 3-4 weeks after you receive your pigs. When you start you may want to rake what they leave in the morning and then feed the evening ration plus the remainder of the morning ration and leave all night for a week and then start raking both morning and night. At this time, make sure to have the oat groats and we like to incorporate System Mechanic.

Q&A

Question:
Does using 632 as a part of your feeding pose a problem with Safe-guard in it over a length of time?
Answer:
Thanks for the question, no, feeding 632 throughout the feeding period or for an extended amount of time does not pose any problems. Thanks!

Question:
My daughter’s pig doesn’t like to eat in the evenings and over night, we leave her feed and add the normal ration in the morning and she eats almost all of it during the day. Is there a way to get her to eat better?
Answer:
Start by switching when you leave the feed in for her so you get her eating pattern changed. Feed her a normal ration at night and if she has feed still left in the morning rake it out. You can save that and that evening feed her the normal ration plus what was left and leave all night. If she has eaten all of the feed overnight go ahead and feed her the normal ration and give her 20-30 minutes to eat. I would suggest to do this for a week-10 days, then start pulling the feed she leaves both morning and night after you have given her the 20-30 minutes to eat. When you are training them to eat like this, it is important to have the oat groats in the diet as well as top dress System Mechanic both to help digestion and appetite. Some are more difficult than others to get trained, but once you get them to eat twice per day, it will pay off in the end.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
~ 11 weeks (We will begin to weigh them this week.)

Feed:
On hand feed – per feeding she gets:
1 1/2 pound 685
1/2 pound of oat groats
1 oz. System Mechanic (per day)

What she looks like:
She is really wide and muscular. She has gotten a lot of hip and ham. Body dimension as far as rib shape and depth look really good. Has gotten slightly fatter. Her fat cover is appropriate for this stage.

What we will monitor:
She is still doing well. We are going to keep watching muscle development. We feel like she has continually added muscle even while lowering the protein, so we are going to keep watching this and make sure feet/legs stay sound.

Plan:
She has continually added muscle even while lowering the protein, so we know genetically she is going to be one that has plenty of muscle and with that she could get tighter as far as movement if she continues to get more. We are going to go to all 685 and actually go down to 1 1/2# again, but increase the oat groats to 1/2# per feeding. Currently, she looks extremely good, but want to head off any future issues that may occur if she gets too much muscle.
Additional thoughts:

A couple questions have been brought up that we can address for everyone. One is how we handle lysine level in the feed in determining what ration to use. Lysine is an amino acid and a very important one in swine diets. Pigs do not synthesize lysine themselves so we must provide through feeding and lysine is the first rate limiting amino acid, so its requirements must be met for the other amino acids to “work” as well. Amino acids are the building blocks of protein and we can see that manipulating the amino acid content and profile definitely yields differences in performance, both weight gain as well as muscle development. With all of this said, we do not necessarily change diets when feeding show pigs too often because of lysine alone. Most feeds that are higher in protein are also higher in lysine, and work down accordingly. You will see that we are moving Gilt #1 to all 685 which is a 16% protein feed. We haven’t weighed these gilts yet, but I would guess that she is 80# or so. You will hear people all the time say to not move to a 16% diet until pigs are 100#, but 685 is high enough in lysine to go ahead and start earlier and we think that this allows you to still get the advantages of feeding a 16% while keeping more muscle expression than most 16% feeds provide and not hinder development. If Gilt #1 doesnt slow down on muscle development we may end up moving to 687 which is also a 16% protein feed, but is lower in lysine. I hope that helps, and send questions if you have any....... 

Q&A

Question: Do you give the 1 oz system mechanic in one feeding or 1/2 oz twice a day

Answer: We like to give the 1 oz in one feeding, we feel like it is easier to measure when feeding small amounts like this. There is no problem with feeding it 1/2 oz twice a day, just a personal preference.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
~ 13 weeks
- As soon as we can get our scales clean this week we will weigh them

Feed:
On hand feed – per feeding she gets:
1 3/4 pound 685
1/2 pound of oat groats
2 oz Full Figure
1 oz. System Mechanic (per day)

What she looks like:
She has stayed tremendously wide and muscular, with the same amount of body/rib shape. She has gotten softer in her overall appearance both muscle and fat cover. And she is loosened up as far as structure.

What we will monitor:
We are very pleased with what the feed changes have done. Slowing her down and lowering protein has really helped her stay loose enough structured. We are going to try to keep her on track, but increase feed slightly and add Full Figure to increase the amount of energy in her diet, because she is definitely eating the current ration each feeding quickly and I don’t think she is as ‘fresh” in her look, but in this middle stage that is not real important.

Plan:
We want to keep her growing slow enough and just maintain muscle for a while now. She is eating great and doing really well with what we are doing right now, so no big changes needed. We will watch to make sure she stays on track and may continue to increase as time goes on. We need to start monitoring weight as well.
**Additional thoughts:**

These gilts are starting to grow and get into an intermediate stage of the feeding period. This is a time feeders often panic, because that bloomy “cute” show pig they bought has started to lose some shape and is not as muscular, fat, shapely, “sale ready”, etc as before. This is normal and good for the end result. However, this is the time to start slowly adjusting the ration to match and maximize the pigs genetic potential.

One thing I talked about on Gilt #2 is the fact that she needed to get fatter and still needed more muscle right now. We are keeping protein and amino acid profile high in her diet, which while these pigs are growing doesn’t necessarily promote fat deposition. Therefore, we are adding Full Figure as well to help get her fatter. With the high fat feeds and added fat supplement, you need to make sure to not get too out of hand, introduce slowly and don’t try to increase feed content and energy at the same time. Pigs tend to eat to an energy requirement, so the more high fat products you have in the diet, the less the pig will have to eat to meet their energy requirement.

People seem to be starting to work with their projects more at this time in the feeding period as far as practicing showing, maybe even going to shows, remember the more they exercise the more feed they may need to eat and/or you may need to add some fat to the diet. Just a quick not to consider....

**Q&A**

**Question:**

When and why would you start slopping the feed or does it make a difference?

**Answer:**

We put all pigs, for the most part, on wet feed the last 30 days or so. We feel like it helps a couple different things. It does seem like pigs that are wet fed are bigger bodied/softer middled. This is probably due to nothing more than increased intake at a certain point so their stomach/middle is expanded. We also like to wet feed because it seems to us if they are used to eating wet, then they tend to stay on feed and especially water better at the show. As we have talked about in previous weeks, if the pigs are trained to eat, we tend to see pigs eat but sometimes go off of water at the show. Water intake is very important...therefore you can get water in them through wet feeding. This doesn’t work on 100% of the pigs, but these are the reasons we see why it helps and why you would do it.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
~ 14 weeks

Feed:
Same as last week:
On hand feed – per feeding she gets:
1 3/4 pound 685
1/2 pound of oat groats
2 oz Full Figure
1 oz. System Mechanic (per day)

What she looks like:
Overall appearance has stayed basically the same. The fat that we added last week has seemed to help “freshen” her up some.

What we will monitor:
We want her to continue to “coast” or maintain muscle development and fat cover for now.

Plan:
We will increase the amount of feed in the coming weeks as she grows and requires more to maintain.
Additional thoughts:

We are not making huge adjustments at this point, just altering the ration to fit their development and phenotypic changes. A couple of things that are sometimes overlooked are: how much the pigs are eating relative to their weight, you need to be realistic as far as the amount that the pig is able to consume but at the same time, as pigs grow they require more feed to maintain body condition and muscle. Also, most areas have just now started cooling down for the winter. We all try to keep the pigs in as optimal environment as possible but we also need to remember that when it is colder, pigs require additional energy to stay warm. Therefore, you may need to increase feed slightly (1/4 pound per feeding) to help them maintain...the great thing about this is that pigs tend to eat better when it is cooler as well.

Q&A

Question:
I am using 698 instead of oat groats, is that better or it doesn’t make a difference at this stage?

Answer:
We have a lot of feeders that use 698 in place of oat groats with great success. 698 will provide the fiber and benefits to digestion/gut health that oats provide, while still providing some added fat and nutritional aspects to allow the pigs to start depositing some finish and add some body. We also see that pigs tend to each better and more consistently when on 698. 698 can be fed wet or dry.

Question:
We started adding Full Figure at a rate of 1 oz per feeding for about 5 days and then increased it to 2 oz per feeding. My question is if they back off on feed consumption, should you cut back on fat or feed?

Answer:
As long as you know that it was due to the increased fat in the diet, I would say to back down on fat first. Pigs will eat to meet their energy requirement and obviously fat provides a lot of energy. If you start slowly and increase over time as she grows, you should be fine. With this said, very rarely do you have to feed more than 2-4oz per feeding of Full Figure to have them start depositing extra cover. The low amount is definitely an advantage of Full Figure.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

**Weight/Age:**
~15 weeks

**Feed:**
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:
- 2 pound - 685
- 1/2 of oat groats
- 2 oz Full Figure
- 1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)

**What she looks like:**
She has started to get more flesh/condition with the added fat and feed. Started maturing in her look and maintained muscle mass. She doesn’t have as much raw shape as she had several weeks back.

**What we will monitor:**
We want her to continue to “coast” or maintain muscle development and fat cover for now.

**Plan:**
The plan is about the same as we have had with her. This week all we did was increase feed content/amount. She has been a very easy feeding gilt that

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Gilt #2 at 15 weeks
responds well to feed changes. She doesn’t have the amount of raw muscle shape/expression that she had several weeks ago, which is fine. We will be able to feed that into her later. Right now she just needs to continue on the same course.
Additional thoughts:

You can tell the gilts are starting to get a little more mature in their look. At this point, I think you need to make sure that the pigs are progressing forward in terms of fat cover, body, and mass, but again don’t think you should have to make drastic changes, just small changes between the types of feed and respond to how the pigs are developing and increasing feed it needed to help them maintain.

We have gotten several calls the last week about pigs that look good and are gaining weight properly, but are still very hungry. I would say to not concerned with this if they are

Q&A

Question:
When do you start walking and how much?

Answer:
Once pigs are on feed well and most importantly, when they are gentle enough, then we start practicing with them. We can’t stress enough how important we think it is for them to be really gentle and comfortable with you around them before you get them out of the pen. If not, then you run into problems with them running excessively, etc. We always tell people to talk in terms of practicing showing vs. walking, exercising, etc. Additionally pigs, like humans, have to work up stamina, so we usually start out practicing with them for five minutes or so and then eventually work up to no more than 15-20 minutes.

Question:
I’m mixing 1 1/2lbs 685 with 1/2lbs 632 and I’m starting to see some great rib growth. My question is would I be better off switching to a 672/685 mix for the next month to try to get a little more fat?

Answer:
You could definitely do that or you could add some supplemental fat (Full Figure) if you have not already. Another good source for fat, as well as rib and body is 698 SLOP. You could use it in place of oats (if you are feeding them now) or just add 1/4 lb. per feeding. We like using SLOP sometimes as another source of added fat and fiber since it also helps with keeping their stomach “happy”

Question:
What is the difference between full figure and the super oink???

We want to start putting cover on our projects and been wondering which one to try.

Answer:
You could definitely do that or you could add some supplemental fat (Full Figure) if you have not already. Another good source for fat, as well as rib and body is 698 SLOP. You could use it in place of oats (if you are feeding them now) or just add 1/4 lb. per feeding. We like using SLOP sometimes as another source of added fat and fiber since it also helps with keeping their stomach “happy”
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:

Feed:
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:

- 2 pounds - 685
- 1/2 pound - 698 “Slop”
- 2 oz Full Figure
- 1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)

What she looks like:
Gilt #1 has grown up in terms of frame size and started looking more mature. She still has a lot of muscle mass, good shape and adequate fat cover. She actually doesn’t have as much depth of body as she had which is a result of her growing more.

What we will monitor:
We need to start feeding her slightly more and work to gain her body dimension back while keeping muscle shape.

Plan:
We have switched from Oat Groats to 698 “Slop”, which should allow for even more body and continue for her to get a bit fatter. 698 still is great from their gut and provides the amount of oat groats that we need for digestion as well as several other attributes to 698 that promotes consumption, proper digestion, as well as adding body and flesh. We need to continue to increase a little as far as content of feed.
Additional thoughts:

It has been a couple weeks since we have updated the diary, but the gilts were pretty much doing what we needed to do and no feed changes. The one thing that we encountered since the last post was the gilts going off of feed briefly. Gilt #1 was the first to go off of feed and the day later Gilt #2 did. However, we were able to get them back on feed very quickly by following a few steps that we always try to do or advise people to do when this happens. It was a morning feeding that they were slow to eat and then only finished about half of their feed. I raked the feed out of the trough and saved back. That evening I gave them 1/2# oat groats with a tablespoon of plain yogurt on the oats along with some added probiotics. They nibbled at this and ate most of it. I gave them the feed they had left that morning and they did about the same. I raked this out. Gave them a shot of b-complex and the next morning only gave them a half of their normal ration, but took out all added fat (Full Figure) and added the oats and yogurt. They did eat this better, but still not all of it. I went ahead and left in for them to nibble throughout the day, but did not feed them at all that night. The next morning, which would be 48 hours from the first time they showed a lack of appetite, they were back to eating and cleaning the feed up like normal in 15 minutes or so. I added the fat back to the ration that evening and since they have not backed up at all. I think that sometimes we push too much high energy products to them and this “burns” them out or there may have been a little stomach bug that came through or something, but maybe this method can help you if you have one go off feed, it seems to work for us most of the time.

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LINDNER FEEDING DIARY

Q&A

Question:

I think I over did the fat. 175-185 lbs feeding 2.5# of 686 and 6oz full figure twice per day….not eating all of it now.

Answer:

I would probably say that you are running into consumption issues because of the amount of additional fat in combination with 686 which is high in fat as well. I would suggest lowering the amount of added fat or move to 687 which is slightly lower in fat but also lower in lysine and does a good job in softening them

Question:

Will the 698 Slop help drop the gut and flank area. Also is that the same as the shape and guts. Have some barrows that really need help in that area. They are on the 685, oats, and fat now however they need help in the middle rib area also. Another Question for another note is how do some of the barrows seem to be so large and weighing the same as we do and we look 40 lbs lighter. That has always been on my mind at ever major we go too. Thanks for what y’all are doing.

Answer:

Yes 698 will help with expanding their midsection. It is not the same as 686 Shape and guts. 698 can be fed as a complete feed; however we feed it more like a supplement than a complete feed in order to lower protein while increasing fat and fiber in the diet. With most pigs we feed 1/2-3/4 pound per feeding, but on those individuals that are much harder middle we feel comfortable doubling that amount if needed. Remember 698 is a combination product that will not only add body but also increase fat cover.

Question:

I need to know what to do if I'm needing mind to expand around the rib cage?

Answer:

We have a new product that we are coming out with this week called TNT. It is a filler product that you can use to expand their mid-section (body) and give them more rib. Start two weeks or so before the show by adding 4-6 oz. per feeding of TNT and every 4 days add an additional 2 oz. of TNT until desired fill is reached.
the same amount, pigs can look and be made differently (from a muscle, fat, and structure standpoint) thus they need to be fed differently based on those three attributes.

For example, pigs that are more extreme in their muscle pattern and need to be softer from a fat standpoint need to be on a lower protein, lower lysine, higher fat feed in order to soften their muscle and lay on more fat. Conversely, pigs that need more muscle and/or shape to their muscle and have plenty of fat cover need to be fed a higher protein, higher lysine, lower fat feed.

The feeds we talk about on here are all feeds that can be fed to a pig at any weight after they are about 8 weeks old, so we feel it most important to make changed in the feed to match the desired phenotype (physical traits) versus “blanket” feeding pigs at the same weight, the same feed, regardless of what they look like. . .

**Q&A**

**Question:**
How can I widen a hog feeding 672 and slop. wat else can i feed weighing 90lbs

**Answer:**
You may want to come back and feed some 611. Reference gilt #2, we have continually had her on some portion of 611 since we were slightly concerned about her width when we started. It takes genetics, feed, etc but this gilt has continued to get wider and we attribute that partly to 611.

**Question:**
Can u please explain what “feeding phenotype” means?

**Answer:**
Phenotype is the observable physical characteristics, expressed physical traits, and as it pertains to show pigs it is a pig’s physical appearance.

With that being said, we think it is best to evaluate the muscle type, fat cover, and structure of your pig and let that “tell” you what feed it needs to be fed versus letting the weight of your pig determine what feed you feed it. Just like people, even when they weigh

The feeds we talk about on here are all feeds that can be fed to a pig at any weight after they are about 8 weeks old, so we feel it most important to make changed in the feed to match the desired phenotype (physical traits) versus “blanket” feeding pigs at the same weight, the same feed, regardless of what they look like. . .
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

**Weight/Age:**
211 lbs (1/6/13)

**Feed:**
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:

- 2 1/2 pounds - 685
- 1/2 pound - 698 “Slop”
- 4 oz Full Figure
- 3/4 pound TNT
- 1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)

**What she looks like:**
Gilt #1 is started to look much more like a market hog and looks like she is not growing up in terms of frame much more. Her muscle shape is good and fat cover continues to come. She needs to be a little deeper bodied for the end.

**What we will monitor:**
We will work her feed up and try to add some additional body depth and freshness. We need to start her final push.

**Plan:**
We have grown this gilt slowly, and muscle dimension is good and structure has stayed good. She has lost some body and and needs to be fresher. We will add some additional 685 (1/2#) and also have started to feed TNT. TNT is a new supplement to the Lindner lineup that is a high fiber feed product that works to add body and build center dimension. We will use this this last month to increase rib shape and depth. TNT is designed to build body, not just instant swelling, but does also increase fill.
Additional thoughts:

We are targeting these gilts for the second week in February so we have about 35 days left until we want them to be at their max potential. I apologize for not having weights posted sooner.....They are as big as we want them to be just off of the concept that they need to gain at least 2# per day and sometimes more towards the end, but not too far out. They have been gaining about 2# per day on 4# of feed, plus slop and fat. We are going to increase them for a couple weeks because they look like they need to be turned loose. We will monitor weight gain each week and if we need to hold for a few days to keep down where they can still be at 280-285 at the end, we will.

There does seem like we are getting more calls than ever about pigs that are too heavy. Lindner 699 “Weight Watcher” is a product designed to hold pigs without causing them to “crash” in the way that they look. It is tagged to feed 3#/day to accomplish 1#/day of gain per day, but to lighter weight pigs you may need to only feed 2 1/2#/day. 699 Weight Watcher is complete, high protein, high fat, high fiber feed and designed to not be fed with any additional feed or supplements.

We feel like the “final push” for the show should be started 25-35 days from the day of the show. As a rule of thumb we like for pigs to weigh 180-200# 30 days out from the show in order to make sure they are big enough to get there successfully and not too big to weigh in and appear fresh. 311 is a feed that does a very good job to add mass, width and flesh. Do not feed 611 to add muscle shape at the end or to pigs that are too tight in terms of structure. It does give pigs a very fresh appearance, adds fat and allows for pigs to be as massive as they can be genetically. You notice on gilt #1 we are simply going to increase amount of feed because she does have a tendency to be too tight and gets muscle mass quickly.

Q&A

Question:
What will you feed for muscle shape?

Answer:
There are several different things that you can do to get more muscle shape and which one you do depends on how much more shape your pig needs. You can increase the proportion of 632 in the ration. Another option is 7-10 days before the show you can feed 1-2 oz. per feeding of Tune N, or lastly you can use Vitamin P (Paylean) to get more muscle shape. The main difference in the results you will get between Tune N and Vitamin P is that Vitamin P will give you more shape while also increasing muscle mass and content, while Tune N will just increase shape with the amount of muscle mass staying the same. Pigs also tend to gain more weight on Vitamin P versus Tune N.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
226 lbs (1/13/13)

Feed:
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:

1 pound - 611
1 pound - 685
1/2 pound - 698 “Slop”
4 oz Full Figure
1 pound TNT
1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)
Feeding Wet…

What she looks like:
Gilt #1 has started to body down more and she is fresher with more muscle shape than last week. Still plenty powerful and is staying sound. Could still soften up some in terms of body and flesh. However, she has increased gain and needs to moderate just a bit in order to gain over 2#/day the last few weeks

What we will monitor:
We will work to at least maintain body and slow gain slightly. She needs to continue to increase in terms of mass and center dimension, but don’t

feed for the last 3 weeks. I do think that I have seen the combination of SLOP and TNT do a great job as far as adding body when fed together. I also put her on part 611. We have talked about 611 providing extra mass and flesh and especially since we have to lower feed we want to make sure she is being provided the feed to promote fat and mass. We are going to feed wet from now on.

Gilt #1
want her to get tight as far as movement, but we do feel like she grew slow enough that her structure is in good shape at this point.

Plan:
The TNT has really helped with body depth and rib shape. Interesting with this product, you will see initial fill to be better, but not a dramatic increase at first. However, with this gilt, so should be most, after about 10 days on TNT, the gilt was significantly bigger bodied, and even before we fed the next feeding time (therefore without being fed for 12-15 hours) she is still full and big bodied. We need to moderate gain slightly as well as maintain body, so we are going to lower feed and increase the TNT for this week, and hopefully be able to increase
Q&A

Question:
Is the use on TNT, Full Figure, or 611 a substitute for paylean (Vitamin P)? I guess I can't tell the difference in what the results should between these products when they are used. Can they all be used concurrently? Please summarize. Also, when you use the term “wet feed” I assume you are merely adding some levels of water to the feed is that correct?

Answer:
TNT is a filler product that you use to add more depth of body and rib.

Full Figure is a fat supplement. 611 is a complete feed. Feed 611 when your pig needs to be fatter and have more mass. The results seen when feeding 611 are not typical of a normal 23% protein feed. It will not get your pigs harder or give them more hard muscle shape. Because of the percent fat and the protein sources used it will soften them and make them more massive.

Vitamin P is a Paylean supplement; however, it is the only one available with a comprehensive probiotic and yeast profile, the Feet First program for foot integrity, and a complex pH buffering system.

When we talk about wet feeding we are meaning to add water. We get that question a lot about how much water to add and we like to say to make it the consistency of oatmeal. Not too runny like soup or sticky and dry like putty.

Question:
How quick will you see results with TNT and second how far out from show fate should you start feeding it?

Answer:
We have started seeing results with TNT in about 3-5 days, depending on the pig and how much of it we have on. We recommend starting it a couple of weeks before the show in order to “build” body; however, you can start it earlier than that if you desire to.

Question:
How long do we feed Lindner system mechanic?

Answer:
We recommend feeding it throughout the entire feeding period to get the best results. We usually start them on it as soon as they are on feed well and then use throughout the rest of the season. It is especially important from a stomach and gut health standpoint to feed throughout the entire feeding period.

Question:
Will the high protein content of 611 make it harder to lay cover than say a 16% protein feed?

Answer:
No, that is somewhat of a misconception for 611. Feed 611 when you pig needs to be fatter and have more mass. The results seen when feeding 611 are not typical of a normal 23% protein feed. It will not get your pigs harder or give them more hard muscle shape. Because of the protein sources, the total energy content, and the fat level, they will “bulk up” a good bit on this feed and the majority of that “bulk” with be from getting fatter.

LINDNER FEEDING DIARY

Additional thoughts:

No big changes this week, just tweaking a few things. One change is to feed both gilts wet from this point forward. I personally like feeding them wet the last 30-40 days for 2 or 3 reasons. Many people think it makes them bigger bodied/softer and it does just because of the volume of intake but doesn’t change them dramatically in terms of phenotype (physical appearance). It does help to mix the supplements in more uniformly. And for me the main reason is if we have trained them to eat like we talked about in the beginning then it seems like they will almost always eat and when we get to the show I have them go off of water more often then go off of feed. If we are wet feeding them, then we can get fluids in them at the same time as feeding if they do happen to go off of water at the show.
Gilt #1: Feeding Strategy for a heavy muscled pig

Weight/Age:
247 lbs (1/24/13)

Feed:
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:

1 1/4 pound - 611
1 1/4 pound - 685
1/2 pound - 698 “Slop”
6 oz Full Figure
1 pound TNT
1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)
Feeding Wet…

What she looks like:
Gilt #1 has really bodied down well and even on a little lower amount of feed has maintained body and freshness. Muscle shape and width has stayed very good. She has lost a little condition the past couple of weeks.

What we will monitor:
We will increase the amount of feed she is getting and try to increase fat cover, body and flesh. Want to maintain muscle shape and width and be on an upward swing the last two weeks. Need to monitor weight gain but I think the way she has converted and gained, this ration will be good for her to finish within weight parameters.

Plan:
We are simply going to increase the feed content the past couple of weeks. She has maintained body and actually increased depth and body softness with the addition of TNT and especially with the combination of TNT and 698 slop. The 611 and 685 is as good a feed combination there is to add mass and fat. She has plenty of muscle shape and power so we do not have to include any Paylean (Vitamin P) on her.
Additional thoughts:

The Vitamin P product delivers Paylean which aids in increased muscle mass/shape and expression as well as feed conversion. However, it also provides added probiotics (7 different probiotics), pH buffers and the Feet First Program to aid in digestion, gut and muscle pH and foot/hoof integrity.

Q&A

Question:
Can you use Vitamin and Tune at the same time or a combination thereof?

Answer:
Yes you can use them at the same time.

Question:
How do we know the amount of Vitamin P to feed a day?

Answer:
It depends on the amount of muscle mass increase you think you need. You can always start with 1 oz per feeding for a few days and then adjust depending on the results that you see.

1 oz = 4.5 grams
2 oz = 9 grams
Scoop included in the bucket is a 2 oz. scoop
Feed:
On hand feed—per feeding she gets:

1 1/4 pound - 685
1 1/4 pound - 611
1/2 pound - 698 “Slop”
6 oz Full Figure
1 pound- TNT
1 oz System Mechanic (total per day)
Feeding Wet…

What she looks like:
Gilt #1 remained on the same ration since the last post (January 25th). The main challenge with this gilt was managing her feet and legs in relation to the muscle that she was genetically predisposed with.

She is a perfect example of one that if she would have been allowed to gain as much as she could have and if the protein level wouldn’t have been managed correctly (lowered) at the right times, her structure soundness and squareness could have been compromised. That being said, we are very happy with the results!
From start to finish!

October 1, 2012
October 9, 2012
October 16, 2012

October 24, 2012
November 4, 2012
November 14, 2012

November 27, 2012
December 17, 2012
January 7, 2013

January 15, 2013
January 25, 2013
February 11, 2013