



Ministry of Rural Development



Technical Bulletin 5

General Managemental Practices of Pig Rearing

DAY-National Rural Livelihood Mission

About the Technical Bulletin

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a flagship program of Govt. of India, dedicated to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. DAY-NRLM focuses on empowering rural women through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and community institutions. The DAY-NRLM is making concerted efforts to augment livelihoods of SHG women through multiple farm, allied and non-farm activities. Livestock rearing is one of the crucial components among these activities. It offers SHG women an opportunity to generate income, achieve self-sufficiency, and strengthen their economic prospects.

In India, amidst various livestock farming sectors, pig farming stands out as a highly promising and lucrative sector. It provides quick avenues for economic progress, particularly beneficial for new entrepreneurs and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The appeal of pig farming lies in its high fecundity rate, better-feed conversion efficiency, early maturity, short generation interval and minimal investment of housing and equipment. These attributes make pig farming an attractive choice, enabling individuals to achieve financial stability.

The Technical Bulletin has been structured into five parts to serve as a comprehensive resource for individuals and organizations seeking to enhance their understanding and proficiency in pig farming. Each part offers specific insights and guidance, covering various aspects of pig farming, from its significance to selection of breeds, pig shed construction, feeding, health & disease management, and general management practices. By dividing the information into these distinct sections, the Technical Bulletin aims to provide a systematic and accessible resource that equips readers with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful and sustainable pig rearing. These five parts collectively offer a valuable reference for achieving success in the field.

This Bulletin provides comprehensive insights into General Management Practices essential for successful pig farming. It encompasses various crucial aspects, from pig rearing shed maintenance to selection, breeding, and caring for pigs throughout their life cycle.

Effective feeding management and feed requirements are emphasized, ensuring the well-being and growth of the animals. Disease prevention strategies and common diseases are discussed to maintain the health of your pig herd. Other management practices such as vaccination, culling, castration, and segregation of diseased animals play a vital role in sustaining a healthy pig population. The bulletin also covers essential practices like flushing of pigs, record-keeping, and proper care and management of specific aspects such as boars, pregnant sows, farrowing, and newborn piglets. This comprehensive guidance equips pig farmers with the knowledge and tools needed for efficient, disease-resistant, and successful pig rearing.

General Management Practices of Pig Rearing

Pig Rearing Shed

- Land should be elevated with no water-logged areas having optimum light and drainage facility.
- 80 square feet per animal should be allotted.
- 10 -12 square feet per piglet is recommended.
- Low-cost pig sheds (sty) could be made up of bamboo, wood, concrete wall.
- The floor must be cemented, hard, no slippery, impervious, well sloped (3 cm per metre) to easily removal of excreta.
- Cross ventilation in shed with individual pens for weaner, grower, dry sow, lactating sow, boar as per standard.





Selection of Pig

- Take high growth pigs either descript, non-descript or cross breeds based on local availability.
- Select pig as per market demand and meat quality.
- Pigs that are ready for breeding.
- Free from the diseases and any physical defects.
- Select sow which gave 9-10 piglets per litter
- Purchase of breeds when the animals weight is about 30-40 kg.
- Male and females should not be from the same parents.
- Check the teats of pigs carefully. At-least 12 well-spaced, functional teats

Breeding Management

- For every 10 sows, one boar must be maintained for maximum fertility.
- Breed the animals when it is in peak heat period (12 to 24 hours of heat).
- Mating when female pigs show symptoms of oestrous (heat) only i.e. restlessness, enlargement of vulva, loss of appetite, increased vocalization, frequent urination, red swollen vulva, riding other females, elevation of tail, arched back etc
- Pen mating is the best mating where boar is allowed to run with the sow in pen.



Care During Pregnancy Period

- Keep pregnant sows in comfortable space.
- Provide balanced nutrition, mineral mixture but in restricted manner to improve reproductive production.
- Give special attention to pregnant sows one week before farrowing by providing adequate space, feed, water etc.
- The sows and farrowing pens should be dewormed 2-3 weeks before and disinfect 3-4 days before date of farrowing.

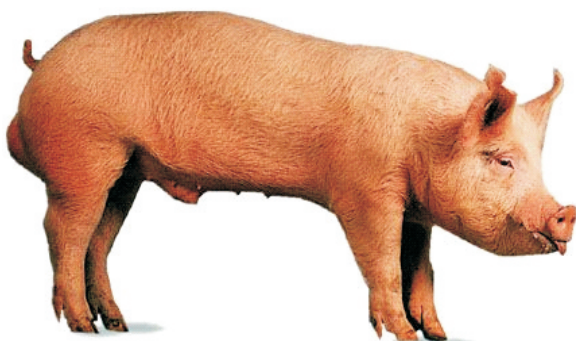


Care during Farrowing

- Keep the farrowing pen dry, clean, properly disinfect and bedding materials ready in farrowing pen.
- Move the animal to the clean pen 10 days before farrowing.
- Normally, a sow farrows within 40 minutes but in some cases, it may take up to 5 hours resulting in mortality of piglets.
- Don't disturb the mother in case of normal farrowing.
- Wipe the piglets clean with towel/straw. Disinfect the naval cord with tincture of iodine
- Placenta, dead piglets, soiled bedding etc. may be removed and buried in time with least delay. The placenta will be expelled generally within a short while.

Care and Management of New Born Piglets

- The piglets should be kept in warm, clean all mucous of piglets to ensure the clear breathing passage.
- Colostrum feeding of piglet within few hours after birth.
- Mother's milk for first 6-8 weeks along with creep feed.
- Provide iron within 3-5 days to piglet to prevent from piglet anaemia.
- Removal of needle teeth (8 nos.) which may cause injury to the teat while suckling.
- Vaccinate the piglets as per recommended schedule.
- Docking to be done during piglet period.
- Male piglets not selected for breeding should be castrated preferably at the age of 3-4 weeks.



Care and Management of Boar:

- The boar should not be fatty and give feed as per schedule only.
- Give plenty of grasses and legume hay and 2kg of concentrate mixture in off season. An additional 0.5 kg of concentrate may be given 2 weeks prior to breeding season.
- Boars should not be used for breeding earlier than 8 months.
- A young boar can be used for 15-20 sows in a season.
- A boar can be allowed to serve before being fed and do one service per day.

Feeding management

The growth and mortality of pigs largely depend on their feeding. Generally, farmers rear pigs with zero inputs like kitchen/hotel waste as well as vegetable waste mixed with rice polish/ wheat bran only. But balanced nutrition is very important for proper growth and development. Pigs must have plenty of clean, fresh water every day. Two types of feeding are practiced in India. They are

1. Concentrated feed.
2. Locally available vegetation, leaf, stem etc chopped with kitchen wastage or kitchen wastage with rice husk also.

Feed requirement of pig

Stage	Before weaning	Weaner	Growing	Finishing pig	Dry sows and Boars	Lactating sows
Age (days)	0-35	35-56	56-110	110-160	285/year	80/year
Body Mass (Kg)	1.5-9	9-20	20-50	50-90	140-200	140-200
Intake (Gm/day)	50-250	Almost 800	Almost 1900	Almost 3000	4kg/sow/day from weaning to breeding. 2kg/sow/day during pregnancy.	2kg plus 0.4kg/piglet to 8kg/day

Diseases and its prevention

Health care measure to be followed in a pig farm is one of the most important factors and if not followed properly, farmer may incur a heavy loss. The pigs can be infected with a number of internal parasites, skin infections and other bacterial and viral diseases, which in turn will result in poor growth and even death of pig.

The most common Pig Diseases in India

- Bacterial Diseases: Brucellosis, swine Erysipelas, Dysentery, Pneumonia, fever etc
- Viral diseases: Foot and Mouth (FMD) disease, Swine Fever, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black Quarter etc, Swine Influenza.
- Protozoal disease/Parasitic diseases: Fluke infection, Tape worm, round worm, tick, lice etc
- Other diseases: Piglet anaemia, Exudative dermatitis

Prevention

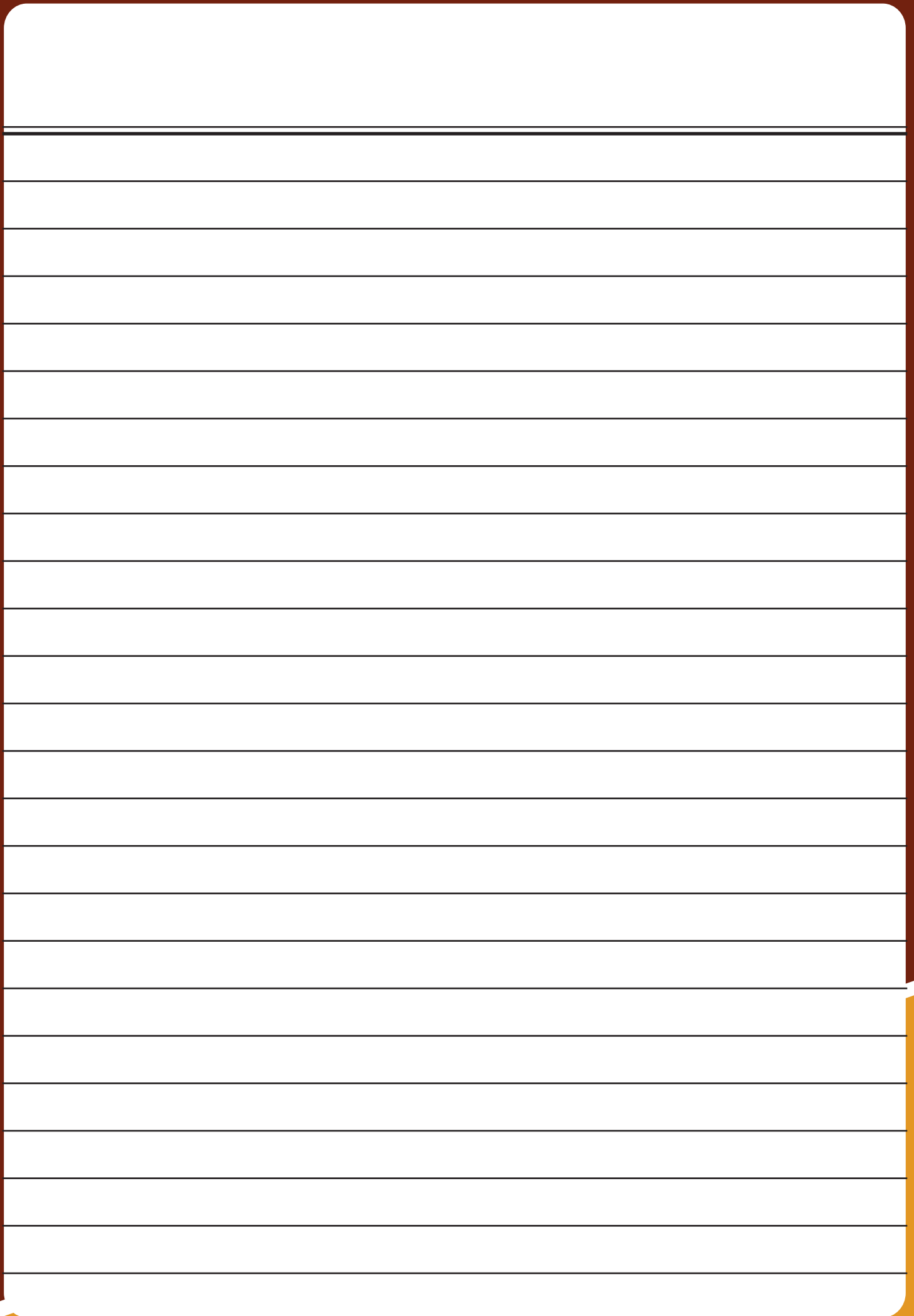
- Vaccination of Pigs against disease like swine fever, swine influenza, FMD etc.
- Quarterly deworming of pigs to prevent from ecto and endo parasites infection.
- Give balanced feed and maintain biosecurity.
- Keep the pigs as cleaned and hygienic.
- Iron administration within 3-5 days of birth to prevent from piglet anaemia.
- Keep the pigs in house and keep sick pigs in separate house.
- Proper disposal of death pig and manure.
- Contact with veterinarian


Other Managemental Practices

- **Vaccination schedule**

Name of disease	Age and schedule
Swine Fever Vaccine	First dose at 25-30 days followed by booster dose after 6 months.
FMD Vaccine	At 42 days and then do annually
Hemorrhagic Septicemia vaccine	At 60 days and then do annually

- **Culling of animals:** Unproductive with very less litter size or with very high inter-farrowing period, repeat breeders, aged animals, unproductive boars etc. are to be culled and sold out for meat purpose.
- **Castration of piglets:** Male piglets which are unwanted and not fit for breeding purpose are to be castrated just after weaning and may be kept in the farm as fattener animal which later on may be sold for meat purpose. Castrating the pig makes it put on more fat and the meat does not have a strong piggy smell. Young pigs should be castrated at 2 to 3 weeks of age.
- **Segregation of diseased animal:** A separate house should be there to keep the animals suffering from contagious diseases.
- **Flushing of pig :** Flushing is a practice of giving extra feed to sows and gilts from 1-2 weeks prior to mating and returns to normal feeding after mating
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain reproductive record, disease cum treatment record, vaccination, feed etc record.





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