

Pork (swine)



Swine, multiply quickly, mature more rapidly, and are more feed efficient than other livestock, with the exception of poultry. Swine are also capable of using recycled food waste from kitchens, along with many agricultural by-products from the field, in addition to commercially available feedstuffs. As a high-quality protein source, swine is ideal for small scale production in Hawaii.

Scientific name: *Sus scrofa* (L.)

Gestation length: 114 days (3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days)

Farrow to wean phase: Birth – Weaning (3-6 weeks). Newborn piglets nurse on their mother's milk, and eventually adjust to a grain based diet.

Wean to feeder phase: Weaning pigs (10 pounds) are fed rations varying in protein content until they reach an average weight of about 40 pounds (~ 1 month)

Growing/Finishing phase: Feeder pigs (40 pounds) are fed either a grain-based or recycled food waste based diet until they reach a desired market weight. In Hawaii, hogs are marketed at different weights depending on use:

- 120-220 pounds for huli-huli, kalua, & whole hog roasts
- 220-280 pounds for traditional production of retail cuts
- 280-320 pounds for specialty markets and charcuterie

Harvest and Processing

- Once hogs reach an average market weight (typically 250 pounds and 6 months of age) they are sent to a processing facility to be harvested.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors are stationed in all federally inspected packing plants to oversee and ensure food safety, product quality and animal welfare standards are implemented.

Nutrition and Preparation

- Cook chops, roasts, loins and tenderloin to an internal temperature of 145° F, followed by a three minute rest. Ground pork should be cooked to 160° F.
- Match style of cookery (grilled, roasted, braised, sautéing, etc.) to individual cuts for an optimum eating experience.



Other Names:

Pua`a (Hawaiian), pua`a (Samoan), baboy (Filipino), panni (Malayalam), dwaeji (Korean), buta (Japanese), zhū (Chinese)



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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