

PIGS





PIGS

- ▶ Pig production is an important rural industry that contributes significantly to Australia's economy.
- ▶ When you buy local produce you're helping to support Australian farmers and their families.





ORIGIN OF THE PIG

- ▶ *Pigs are smart, sociable and inquisitive animals.*
- ▶ *Today's pigs descend from wild boars that were domesticated approximately 10,000 years ago in various locations in Asia and then crossed with wild boars in Europe.*
- ▶ *A pig's natural lifespan may be up to 20 years.*

PIG BREEDS

- ▶ There are 8 pure breeds of pig remaining in Australia.
- ▶ Importation of live pigs is no longer allowed in Australia to protect our biosecurity.
- ▶ Three are common in commercial pork production - Landrace, Large White and Duroc.
- ▶ The remaining five breeds tend to be used by outdoor producers.
- ▶ Their popularity varies according to their commercial value - Tamworth, Wessex Saddleback, Hampshire, Berkshire and Large Black.
- ▶ Some of these breeds are quite rare.





PIG TERMINOLOGY

- ▶ Boars are male pigs
- ▶ Gilts (female pigs who haven't reproduced before)
- ▶ Sows (female pigs who have reproduced before)
- ▶ Pig pregnancy lasts around 116 days



THE LARGE WHITE

- ▶ The Large White was developed in England in the late 1700's and has become well established as a major breed in most commercial pig breeding countries.
- ▶ This breed has its origins in a small Chinese pig crossed with white pigs from Yorkshire and nearby counties. This cross formed the basis of the Small White, Middle White and Large White breeds.
- ▶ The Large White became popular in the 19th century after a pair were exhibited at the Windsor Royal Show in 1851.
- ▶ The breed was introduced into Australia late in the 19th century.
- ▶ The Large White is now the most popular breed in Australia and used extensively in commercial operations.
- ▶ The Large White is free from black hair, an attribute sort after in a commercial operation, and are a hardy breed.
- ▶ The sows are known for their large litters, great maternal instincts and excellent milk production.
- ▶ Large Whites are commonly used in crossbreeding and the most popular cross is one with the Landrace. This cross is commonly used as a sow line in many herds.

THE LANDRACE



- ▶ The Landrace originated in Denmark from a cross with native pigs and the Large White. The Danish spent years improving the breed under strict government control and did not allow export of any live animals until World War II. The first Landrace exported went to Sweden and with further breeding from these pigs, the eventually reached England and Ireland.
- ▶ The first Landrace arrived in Australia from Ireland in 1958. It is now the second most popular pig breed in this country.
- ▶ The Landrace is also free of black hair. They have lopped ears, excellent hams and long middles. A fault in the Landrace, nervous disorders such as porcine stress syndrome, still occur in some strains of the breed today.
- ▶ The Landrace gained popularity as intensive housing became more common. The breed also improved carcass quality producing a larger eye muscle. The Landrace produces higher weaning weights but is not a prolific breeder and is a little fatter than the Large White.

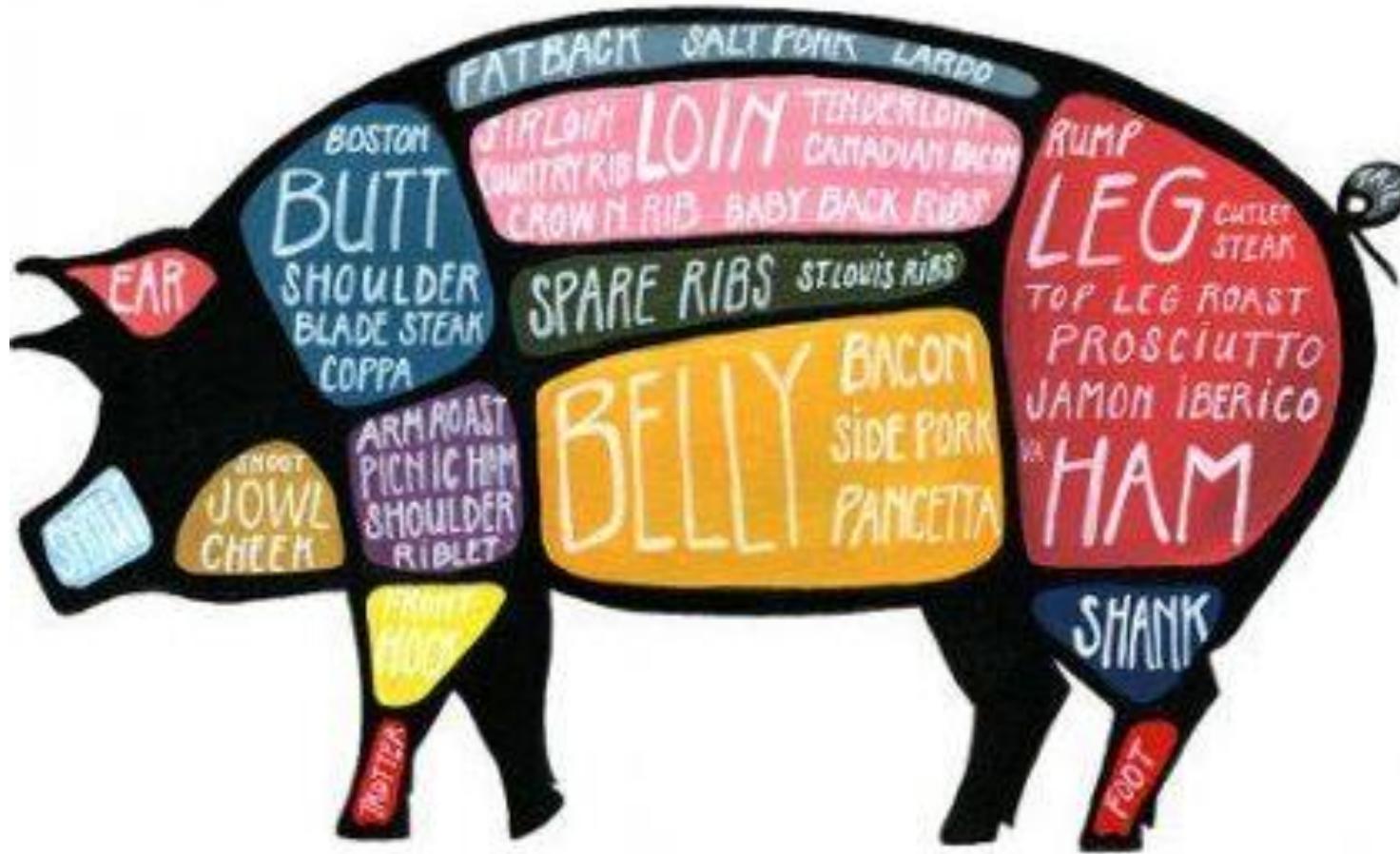
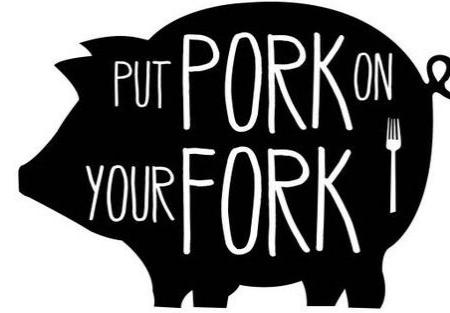


THE DUROC

- ▶ The modern Duroc originated from crosses of two red breeds from the United States, the Jersey Red and the Duroc from New York, producing a much more compact animal than the New York Red and very large Jersey Red.
- ▶ The Duroc first arrived in Australia in 1922 but had a short lived popularity and became extinct here in the 1940's. Durocs were re-introduced from new bloodlines from New Zealand and Canada.
- ▶ The Duroc is a very large pig with small lop ears. They are reddish in colour, varying from brassy gold to a deep burgundy.
- ▶ It is generally the duroc boar that is used in commercial cross breeding programs with the Landrace / Large White sows' The Duroc produces a heavy carcass and this cross works well for bacon production.
- ▶ For such a large breed, the litter size of the pure duroc sow is quite small and for this reason they are not used in commercial operations. A duroc cross sow will perform much better and are an ideal choice for outdoor herds.



PORK CUTS



HEALTH CARE, PESTS & DISEASES

- ▶ Animal health, welfare and biosecurity are all important stages of the livestock production chain. If managed poorly each can have adverse impacts on productivity.
- ▶ Biosecurity programs for farming industries are designed to prevent the spread of infectious disease and contain disease outbreaks when they occur.
- ▶ Parasites and disease impact on all animals, including Alpacas. Animals affected by disease may not always show obvious clinical signs.
- ▶ Biosecurity is important at the national, regional and property level.
- ▶ Producers are governed by Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. State and territory governments are responsible for animal welfare laws and their enforcement. These are enforced through animal welfare or prevention of cruelty to animals' legislation.





RISKS & CHALLENGES

- ▶ Like any primary production enterprise there are risks associated with commercial production of pigs. Some will be outside of a producer's control however experienced producers are usually able to manage these risks.
- ▶ Risks include the loss of vital export markets. The COVID-19 outbreak had a massive impact on a lot of our export markets.
- ▶ Disease and pests, it is extremely important that we maintain Australia's freedom from major diseases through strict quarantine laws and procedures.
- ▶ Here in Australia weather events such as drought, fires and flooding take a huge toll on our farming communities. They really need our support.

POP QUIZ

- ▶ Pigs were domesticated approximately _____ years ago.
- ▶ There are _____ pure breeds of pig remaining in Australia.
- ▶ Australia imports live pigs TRUE/FALSE
- ▶ A male pig is called a _____. Female pigs who haven't reproduced before are called _____. Female pigs who have produced before are called _____.
- ▶ Pregnancy lasts around _____.
- ▶ A pigs natural lifespan can be up to _____ years.
- ▶ Why do you think it is important to buy local produce?

- ▶ What are the three most common breeds used in commercial production



RESEARCH TASK

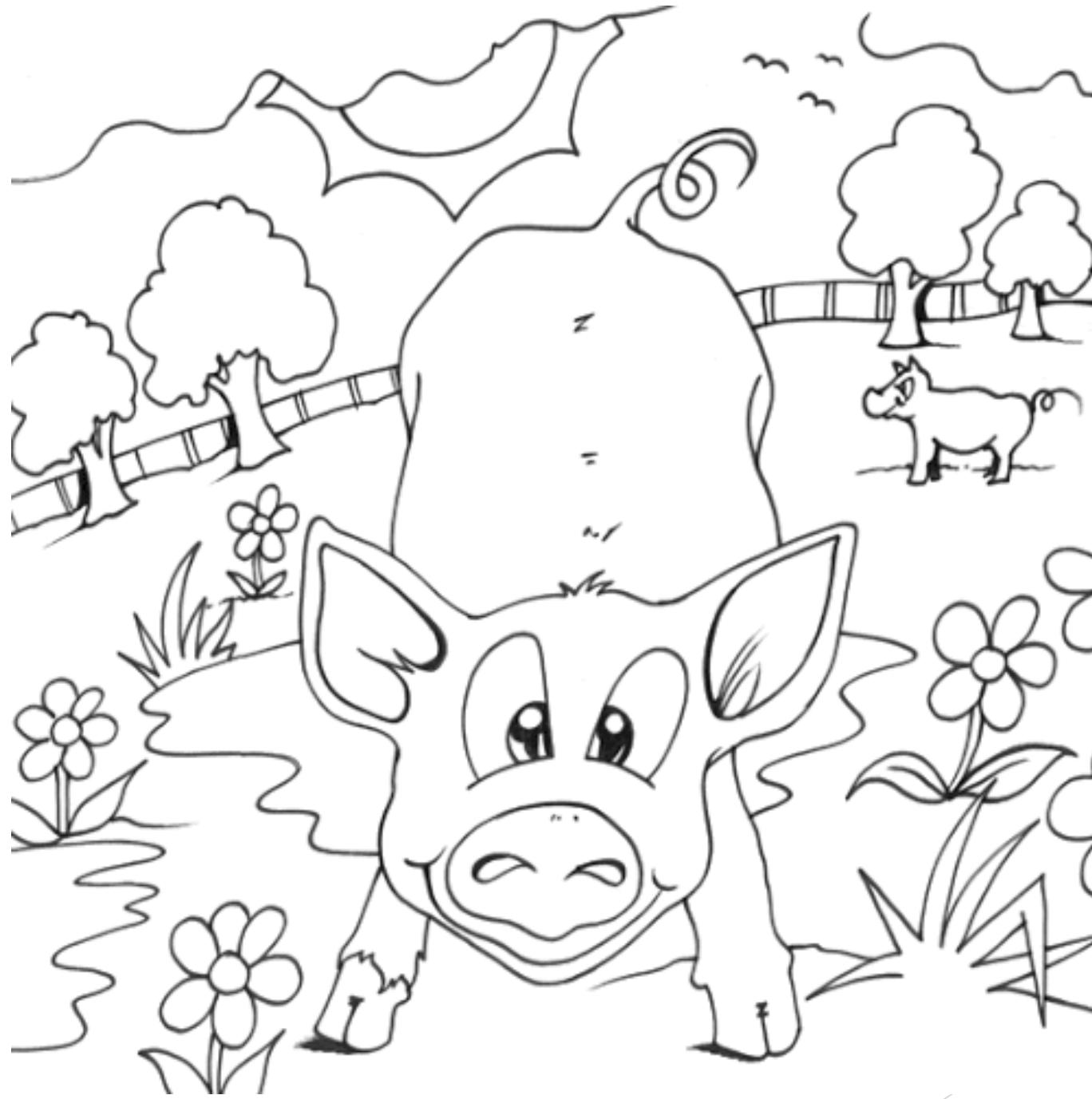
- ▶ Research how many kilograms of pork Australian's consume in a year
- ▶ Why is the importation of live pigs in to Australia no longer allowed
- ▶ Does Australia produce any pig products other than meat?
- ▶ What Australian pig producing businesses can you find

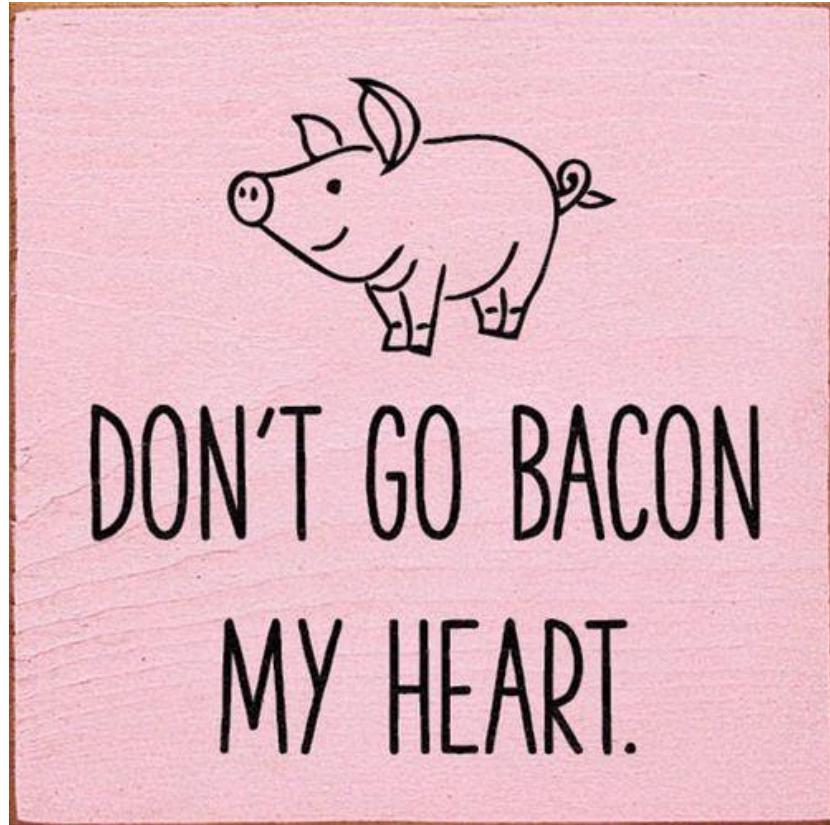


RESEARCH NOTES



PIGS





RESOURCE

NSW DPI

QLD Dep of Agriculture and Fisheries

RSPCA

Wikipedia