MARKET PIG

LIFE CYCLE OF A MARKET PIG

Gestation (pregnancy)
- 114 days (3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days)
  - Gilts (female pigs) reach maturity and are bred at 170 to 220 days of age.
  - After delivering their first litter of pigs, gilts are called sows.
  - Gestation (pregnancy) is about 114 days, or 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

Farrowing (birth to weaning)
- 21 days (3 weeks)
  - Sows and gilts are moved to a farrowing barn when ready to give birth (farrow).
  - Usually, a sow or gilt will have 12 to 13 pigs per litter.
  - 2-3 lbs. at birth
  - Sows nurse piglets until they are weaned at about 21 days of age.
  - 13-15 lbs. at weaning

Nursery
- 42 to 56 days (6 to 8 weeks)
  - After weaning, piglets are moved to a nursery or to a wean-to-finish barn and are housed with piglets from other litters.
  - Specialized temperature controls and ventilation support the newly weaned piglets.
  - Piglets are fed a corn/soybean meal diet, eating 1.4 to 4 lbs. per day.
  - In this phase, pigs grow to 50 to 60 lbs.
  - 50-60 lbs. after nursery phase

Growing and finishing
- 115 to 120 days (16 to 17 weeks)
  - Pigs are moved from the nursery to a finishing barn to accommodate their continued growth. If pigs are in a wean-to-finish barn, they remain there.
  - In the grow/finish phase, pigs consume 6 to 10 lbs. of feed daily.
  - A diet typically consists of corn and soybean meal, as well as vitamins and minerals to ensure proper health and growth of the pigs.
  - As the pigs grow, they are monitored daily to ensure that they are healthy.
  - At about six months of age, the pigs weigh about 280 lbs. and are then market ready.
  - 280 lbs. at market weight

**Average Weights**
- 2-3 lbs. at birth
- 12-15 lbs. at weaning
- 50-60 lbs. after the nursery phase
- 280 lbs. at market weight