

**Big
farmer**



The pig farm and farmer

The UK has a variety of farms, ranging from indoor units and outdoor units, as well as straw-based and slatted accommodation.

The farmer's most important job is to look after the health and welfare of the pigs and piglets.

Outdoor sows and piglets are housed in arcs, these are small huts for each sow and her piglets. During the year, other pigs may be housed in larger paddocks and share tents. Pigs like to keep themselves cool by rolling around in mud.

For pigs that are housed indoors, the buildings are designed to be the correct temperature to enable them to grow efficiently.

Pig arc



Farming food for you



Pigs

In the UK, there are about 10,000 pig farms, which are mainly in the east of the country, such as East Anglia and Yorkshire.

The pig

There are many different breeds of pig, including Large White, Landrace and British Saddleback. Small farms often have Welsh, Tamworth and Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs.

A female pig which has had piglets (baby pigs) is called a sow. Male pigs are called boars.

A sow will have around 12–15 piglets each time.

Piglets are usually born at night, weigh around 1 kg and can walk very soon after birth. By 15 weeks they weigh over 60 kg and at 20–26 weeks they weigh 70–100 kg.

Piglets make their way to the sow's udder for milk. As sows can be quite clumsy and lie on their piglets, they are often placed in farrowing crates for a short time for the welfare for the sow and piglet.

Adult pigs eat cereal grains, such as corn (with added vitamins and minerals). Pigs are also fed the by-products from dairies, distilleries and bakeries, as well as soya bean meal. A typical sow eats between 1,200 kg and 1,500 kg of food each year.



Uses

Pigs are kept to produce meat, which can be used in a range of different dishes and meals.



Sweet and sour pork