

## Phase 1: Gestation

Average Duration of this Phase

114 days



- Gilts (female pigs) reach maturity and are bred between 170 and 220 days of age.
- After gilts deliver their first litter of pigs, they are then called sows.
- Gestation (pregnancy) is 114 days, which is about three months, three weeks and three days.

# Life Cycle of a Market Pig



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## Phase 2: Farrowing

## Phase 3: Nursery

## Phase 4: Growing and Finishing

Average Duration of Each Phase

21 days

42-56 days

115-120 days



- A piglet weighs 2-3 lbs. at birth.
- After giving birth, the sow nurses piglets until weaning at 21 days of age.

- After weaning, the piglet is taken to the nursery where it is housed with piglets from other litters.
- Piglets remain in the nursery for six to eight weeks and grow from 12-15 lbs. to 50-60 lbs.
- During the nursery phase, the piglet eats between 1.5 and 4 lbs. of feed per day.

- The growing and finishing phase is 115 to 120 days, or about 16 to 17 weeks.
- The pig consumes between 6-10 lbs. of feed per day.
- The pig is fed a diet of corn and soybean meal.
- As the pig grows, it is monitored daily to ensure that it is healthy.
- At five to six months, the pig weighs around 280 lbs. and is market ready.



### Average Weights

2-3 lbs. at birth  
12-15 lbs. at weaning



50-60 lbs.  
after leaving the nursery



280 lbs. at market weight

