

Mr. Thaxton, farmer, near Mechanicsburg, Ohio, feeds his pigs; Summer 1938



Published:
September 1938

Description:
Mr. Thaxton feeds his pigs corn from a corn crib. The pigs lived outside in a pig sty. Piglets and sows were not separated.

Mr. Thaxton rents his land. Within the past eight years, hogs have not been profitable. They would bring 10 cents a foot.

- Think and Discuss:**
1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
 2. How do you think Mr. Thaxton's ability to make money from his hogs affects how he can house his livestock?

Pigs on farm, Tygart Valley, West Virginia; August 1936



Published:

August 1936

Description:

Pigs were often raised in a pasture which allowed them to forage for food. Housing huts can also be seen throughout the pasture.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. What type of environmental factors might these pigs face?
3. Why do you think it's important to have pigs forage for food?



Published:

September 1941

Description:

Pigs cannot sweat. This makes cooling off in a field difficult.

Pigs find shade to cool off. Puddles provide water for drinking and mud for pigs to roll in for sun protection.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. What type of environmental factors might these pigs face?
3. Imagine you're a veterinarian checking on these pigs. How long do you think it would take? Why?

[Untitled photo, possibly related to: Part of George Cowley's family (rural rehabilitation), looking over pigs in sty. Pike County, Alabama]; May 1939



Published:
May 1939

Description:

The whole family helped to raise their animals. These pigs are being kept in a pig sty. Sows (female pigs) and piglets (baby pigs) were housed together. Scrap metal or wood was used to create shades.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. If you were one of the children in the picture, what do you think your day would be like?
3. This image was taken during the Great Depression. How do you think this impacted the family in the photo?



Published:

September, 1936

Description:

Pigs being raised in a pen. The pigs are owned by multiple farmers (cooperative). Some pigs lay in the shade where others eat from a trough. In the background there is a shade shelter and overnight housing.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. Why do you think farmers would share the cost of raising livestock?
3. In what ways might the environment impact be different for these pigs compared to other images you have looked at? (be sure to reference the other picture's number in your response)

Purebred Hampshires feeding at the Two River Non-Stock Cooperative, a FSA (Farm Security Administration) coop at Waterloo, Nebraska. There are 181 heads of hogs, and their average weight 160 pounds. There are also 40 sows and 219 suckling pigs; September 1941



Published:

September 1941

Description:

181 pigs being raised in a pen eating at a trough. The pigs are owned by multiple farmers (cooperative). The pigs are an average weight of 160 pounds.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. How do you think a flood would affect the pigs and the pen they are being kept in?
3. In the background of the photo, you can see a farmer. What do you think it would be like to take care of 181 pigs in a large pen?



Published:

September 1941

Description:

Sow (female pig) suckles (feeds milk) piglets (baby pigs) in a pen. Straw covers the bottom of the dirt floor.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. What animal behaviors do you see being expressed in this picture? What structures are the pigs using?
3. How does the care for the sow in this picture differ from the care of the sow in the 2016 picture?

Hogs live out their last days in the "finishing shed," where they are grouped by weight to give smaller animals a fair chance at food, on Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, Iowa, near the town of Newhall; August, 2016



Highsmith, Carol M. "Hogs live out their last days in the "finishing shed," where they are grouped by weight to give smaller animals a fair chance at food, on Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, Iowa, near the town of Newhall". August, 2016. [Courtesy of the Library of Congress](#)

Published Date:
August, 2016

Description:

Pigs on an Iowa farm in a finishing barn. Pigs will live here until they weigh 260-280 pounds. The barn has slats on the floor to remove manure. The manure goes into a pit beneath. Pigs are fed a ration of corn and soybeans with automatic feeders.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. The manure from pigs is managed by the farmer. Laws regulate how much manure is added to fields and how it is stored. If manure gets into a water way, it can cause fish kills. That's why farmers take good care to manage their livestock manure. How do you think farmers in the 1930's managed their manure? (use evidence from other photos)

Piglets, separated from their mothers for the first time, keep their distance from strangers in the heated swine nursery at Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, near Newhall, Iowa



Published Date:

August, 2016

Description:

Weaned pigs in a barn. Pigs are separated by size to reduce fighting. An automatic waterer can be seen on the left side. The weaned pigs share a feeding trough.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. Imagine you're a veterinarian checking on these pigs. How long do you think it would take? Why?

Highsmith, Carol M. "Piglets, separated from their mothers for the first time, keep their distance from strangers in the heated swine nursery at Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, near Newhall, Iowa". August 2016. [Courtesy of the Library of Congress](#)

Sows suckle their litter of piglets in the farrowing, or birthing, shed on Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, Iowa, near the town of Newhall



Highsmith, Carol M. "Sows suckle their litter of piglets in the farrowing, or birthing, shed on Dean and Julie Folkmann's hog farm in Benton County, Iowa, near the town of Newhall. August 2016. [Courtesy of the Library of Congress](#)

Published Date:
August, 2016

Description:

Piglets (baby pigs) suckle (drink milk) on the sow (female pig). The sow is in a farrowing crate. A rotating bar slows the sow as she lays down. This gives time for piglets to move out of the way, so the sow doesn't crush them. To the left a heat lamp is available for the piglets to keep them warm.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. How do you think rain or snow would affect the sows and piglets?
3. Each sow and her piglets are kept in a separate pen. Why do you think this is?

Pigs housed in hoop barns.



Published Date:

2000's

Description:

Pigs living in hoop barns. Hoop barns provide more protection from weather than a pasture. They are a lower cost than confinement buildings.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. The farmer in this photo is using two types of fencing. Why do you think they chose to do this?
3. How do you think this farmer would manage cleaning the hoop barns?

Modern hog barn ventilation system in Iowa.



Photo courtesy of the Iowa Pork Producers Association

Published Date:

2000's

Description:

Modern hog barn (confinement building) with curtains pulled over windows. Ventilation system helps to control temperature and move air in and out. The barns are built on a small hill with vegetation surrounding them.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. How do you think a flood would affect the pigs in these buildings?
3. In what ways does this type of housing help protect the pigs from disease?

Modern hog barns in Iowa.



Published Date:

2000's

Description:

Modern hog barn (confinement building) with curtains pulled over windows. You can also see some venting technology on the top of the barn. Feed is stored in bins outside the barn. The feed is automatically moved from the bin to the barn for the pigs to eat. A corn field surrounds the barns.

Think and Discuss:

1. Using evidence from the photo describe what you see.
2. How do you think the technology in this barn impacts the farmer? What about the consumer?