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### **Feed Pigs Less Fat, More Fiber: Market Later**

*Source: Linda Geist & Dr. Marcia Shannon.*

During this time, everyone is having to adapt quickly-especially those in animal agriculture. Meat processing plants are slowing production so hog producers may have to hold onto their pigs longer. That means feeding them longer; and doing that cheaper is critical.

An excellent article covered this alteration in nutrition from Extension swine nutritionist, Dr. Marcia Shannon. These hog producers should move to feeding low-energy, high-fiber diets with an adjusted lysine-to-calorie ratio and remove any growth-promoting technologies. Fiber will be a cheap fill for pigs.

Soy hulls, wheat middling, wheat bran, corn gluten or sugar beet pulp will replace all protein and fat sources. The big disadvantage is that confinement pits will fill with more manure when feeding high-fiber diets.

Utilizing a diet such as this and removing growth promoters will increase time in the finisher by as much as six to ten days. Younger pigs will be easier to slow on growth.

Visit <http://pork.org/public-health/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19> for more information.



4-H Clipart

### **Livestock Guardian Animals & Dogs**

Recently, I and Luke Wilbers of Lincoln University's Busby Farm hosted an online program providing information on Livestock Guardian Animals and Dogs and what to consider for an operation.

**Livestock Guardian Animals:** These are usually donkeys or llamas. Both of these animals have a natural 'hatred' of canine-like predators and thus, don't need any special training and require little time to get 'acclimated' to their flock/herd. They are also herbivores and can mostly eat what their flock/herd eats. Donkeys, however, are hindgut fermenters and cannot have any ionophores (feed additives to improve feed efficiency). Donkeys are also considered more aggressive than llamas and live for about 30 years, whereas llamas live to about 20. If you do get a donkey, be sure to get only one due to their strong herd mentality with other equids; you should also only get a female or a castrated male. For llamas, it's ok to get 2, but be sure they are the same sex. Although not typical, in-tact males are more likely to be aggressive toward their flock/herd. Higher humidity is usually harder on llamas as well, when compared to donkeys.

Livestock guardian dogs (LGD) will require their own feed. Wilbers suggests feeding them once a day to check on everyone and keep the dogs gentle enough to humans. This makes trips to the vet much easier. LGDs should be bonded to their flock/herd at an early age. They also tend to roam or find ways to escape most fencing systems. Unfortunately, to mitigate this depends a lot on the individual animal.

While there are a lot of varying opinions on breeds and gender, LGDs are bred specifically to protect livestock, and are the most likely to protect against large predators. Perhaps the most common predator of concern, here in MO, are feral dogs.

For more information about what option may work best for you, please contact either myself or Luke Wilbers.

## Events

### Spring 2020 Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sales

Please note: due to the COVID-19 situation there have been some changes to sales. Fruitland and Farmington have rescheduled. Many sales will be offering online bidding and Facebook Live video feed. Please check with the sale barn before the sale to find out about their in-person sale policy; examples of impact can be not allowing presale viewing in-person, allowing only registered buyers, etc. Go to <https://missouri.app.box.com/v/ShowMeSelect2020> to download the catalogs to these upcoming sales.

- May 15 - Joplin Regional Stockyards, Inc.; Carthage, MO at 7 p.m.  
Coordinator: Eldon Cole, 417-466-3102
- May 16 - Kingsville Livestock Auction; Kingsville, MO at 11 a.m.  
Coordinator: David Hoffman, 816-380-8460
- May 22 - South Central Regional Stockyard; Vienna, MO at 6 p.m.  
Coordinator: Anita Ellis, 573-890-0851 current (573-642-0755)
- May 30 - F&T Livestock Market; Palmyra, MO at 6 p.m.  
Coordinator: Daniel Mallory, 573-985-3911
- June 5 - SEMO Livestock Sales LLC; Fruitland, MO at 7 p.m.  
Coordinator: Erin Larimore, 573-243-3581
- June 12 - Farmington Regional Stockyards, LLC; Farmington, MO at 7 p.m.  
Coordinator: Kendra Graham, 573-756-4539

## Town Halls

Go to <https://ipm.missouri.edu/townHalls/> to register for these weekly Town Halls. MU Plant Science and Animal Science Extension faculty answer the current, pressing questions of our farmers, growers and the public in weekly one-hour “town hall” meetings.

- Field Crops: Fridays 7 – 8 am
- Forages/Livestock: Thursdays 12 – 1 pm
- Commercial Horticulture: Wednesdays 12 – 1 pm
- Home Horticulture: Wednesdays 11 am – 12 pm

## Backgrounding 101: UPDATE

May 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 3 pm, Online-based Program via Zoom: Feeding weaned calves to the next stage of production maybe a new marketing opportunity for some. So, join us to learn from the experts on Nutrition, Marketing, Health, and Facilities. To finish, we’ll wrap up with a panel Q&A. Registration is required in order to get the link <https://extension2.missouri.edu/events/backgrounding-101>. Please call 573-890-0851 if you have any questions or email [snella@missouri.edu](mailto:snella@missouri.edu).

## New Facebook Group

We have a new Facebook group for the farmers in our area of central MO. Go to Facebook and search @MUecAgTIDBITS or go to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/MUecAgTIDBITS/>.

## Extension Office Closures and Farm Visits

Keep up to date on your local Extension office’s hours. Due to the current conditions, some Extension offices are closed or at limited capacity. Farm visits are very limited per approval.

But not to worry! We are still keeping up with your questions daily! I still get ration balancing, pasture management, and other questions via email and phone call. Please let us know how we can best serve you during these complicated times. Thank you for all you do and please stay safe out there!