Weaning Pigs

Proper preparation for weaning will help make it a safer and less stressful event for pigs and handlers alike.

Always lift and set down a piglet safely. Grasp the pig's hind leg; lift it until is held vertically; lower the pig until its front hooves touch.

Prepare the path of movement by removing all obstacles and distractions. Secure all gates.

If the sow is weaned before the pigs, you won't need to worry about the sow's protective instincts; however, pigs have more room to run.

If the pigs are weaned before the sow, they will have less room to run; however, the sow may become aggressive protecting her litter.

Be mindful of heat lamps, heaters and power washer lines. These physical obstacles can injure pigs and handlers if you are not careful.

Always use two hands to hold a piglet receiving injections away from your body to reduce your risk of accidental injection.

Use intermittent sound to more effectively move pigs because it keeps the sound new and fresh.

Use straight or gently curved paths when moving piglets. The pigs will move more efficiently when they can see where they are going.

When sorting pigs in a wean-to-market barn, be on the lookout for fallout pigs. These pigs will need extra care to regain health.

Always lift a heavy feed bag safely. Squat down, use your arms to evenly distribute the bag's weight, then, using your legs, stand straight up.