

Hello Students!

My name is Marguerite Tan. I live in Snowflake, Arizona, and work for a farm that raises pigs. The farm is called Pigs for Farmer John. On this farm, we raise about 250,000 pigs per year.

Have you ever wanted to visit a pig farm? Well, chances are you might not get the opportunity. One of the most important parts about working on a pig farm is keeping the pigs healthy. To help keep our animals from getting sick, we follow very strict biosecurity guidelines. We don't allow many visitors to the farm. If someone does come to visit, we must verify that they have not been around other pigs, they must shower and wash their hair, and then put on farm issued clothes. This helps prevent bacteria and disease from coming onto the farm that might be carried on people's skin or clothes. It might seem a little strange, but it is very important to keep our animals healthy!

Our pigs stay inside where the temperature is 70 degrees all year long. We use air-conditioning and heating depending on the time of year. Pigs cannot add or take off clothes like we can. This is why our pigs live in the comfort of the indoors- they don't like to be too hot or too cold.



Pigs on our farm are given a unique identifying number, such as Q201, which is used as that pig's name. This identifying number allows us to keep track of everything about that animal-its birth date, if it ever got sick, who its parents are, if that pig is good at eating food, etc.

Our sows (momma pigs) weigh about 300-500 pounds and live about 6 years. The boars (daddy pigs) can get to over 1200 pounds in weight and live for about 5 years. Sows on our farm will have about 10

piglets in a litter on our farm. The piglets weigh about 2.5 pounds at birth. They drink their mother's milk for the first 14 days and then start to eat a solid food diet. They live with their mom until they are weaned at about 22 days of age. They weigh about 14 pounds at this time. Market hogs (hogs raised for meat and byproducts) are sold when they are about 6 months old and weigh about 280 pounds.



I hope you have enjoyed learning a little bit about how we care for our pigs. I cannot wait to get your questions!

Sincerely,

*Marguerite*

Marguerite Tan



