

# ADAS

# Smallholder Training Workshops

## **“Managing the Small Pig Herd”** *For Maximum Health and Optimum Production*

ADAS understands the difficulties often faced by the smallholder sector with finding reliable and relevant sources of information and practical advice on keeping small herds of pigs. Our aim with these workshops is to provide small holders with easily accessible, affordable and relevant training provided by experienced pig specialists with a recognised track record in providing training to the small holder sector.

We invite you to the first in a series of four workshops aimed at small scale pig keepers. Along with guest speakers and demonstrations where appropriate, we will discuss the problems that can arise when dealing with either a few pet finishers for personal use or a breeding group to fill a niche market.

### **Part 1– Introduction to Good Pig Keeping**

**Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Umberslade Farm Park, Tanwarth in Arden, Warwickshire, B94 5AE

**Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Amerton Farm, Stowe by Chartley, Staffordshire, ST18 0LA

## Topics in more detail:

### What to look for when buying a pig

Whatever your reasons for keeping pigs, buying stock can be a



considerable investment and as with any investment you need to be clear about what you are looking for. The talk will include what to look out for with regard to health, general conformation and behaviour patterns in pigs that are both healthy and

unhealthy. For example - *“Why shouldn’t I buy a hairy piglet?”* and *“how many teats should my pig have?”* *‘Where should I buy pigs from to reduce disease transfer’* and *‘Do I need to take special precautions about quarantine and biosecurity procedures’*

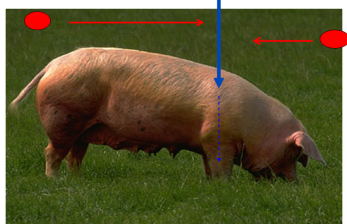
### Housing and Handling

Pigs have little hair to insulate in winter and protect in summer, so it is vital they are provided with the correct housing and environment in order to thrive. This talk will cover 5 main areas of pig housing and environment: 1) correct shelter for each pig type eg: sows, weaners, growers, 2) land suitability, 3) climate - with particular regard to rainfall, 4) stocking density and 5) suitability of the breed.



Handling skills will include information of pig behaviour and how

Point of Balance



ADAS

pigs perceive images/objects. Tips for easy movement, how to use the “point of balance” to your advantage, equipment needed and identifying the lead pig in a group. We may also be able to show good handling in a demonstration on farm in the

afternoon (host dependant)

## Feeding the Pig

Feed is becoming increasingly expensive and it is vital to administer the correct feed at the correct time. However, the subject can become quite complex and confusing, and so our feed expert speaker will guide you through which feed should be given and how best to administer the feeds for optimum gains.



Lunch and refreshments are provided throughout the day and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Training in the morning will be in the meeting room where notes can be made, comments and questions can be answered easily. Our aim is to encourage questions, personal observations and comments to the group – *the more you put in the more you get out!*

In the afternoon will be a farm walk to meet the pig/s on site where a discussion on either a previous topic eg: handling/ accommodation can continue or the host farm may speak regarding the animals and share tips. *(Please bring some clean/disinfected outdoor clothing)*

### Schedule of the day:

09:45	Arrive/register – Coffee	
10:00	What to look for when buying a pig	ADAS
10:50	Housing and handling	ADAS
11:40	Coffee/ discussion	
12:00	Feeding the pig	Feed Co.
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Farm walk – demonstration and talk	
14:45	Discussion	
15:00	Finish	

## **Further Meetings in the series:**

### **Part 2 - Pig Health and Reproduction**

*Common pig diseases, worming and vaccinations. Condition of the sow for optimum fertility. AI for beginners.*

4<sup>th</sup> May          Amerton Farm – Staffs  
11<sup>th</sup> May         Umberslade Farm Park – Warwickshire

### **Part 3 – Sow Condition, Gestation, Farrowing and Litter management**

*Sow condition and feeding throughout the reproductive cycle, physiology of gestation and how to manage it! Farrowing – what's happening, what to expect and when to intervene (DVD footage). Feeding and managing the litter. Common weaning problems and pitfalls.*

7<sup>th</sup> June          Amerton Farm - Staffs  
8<sup>th</sup> June          Umberslade Farm Park - Warwickshire

### **Part 4 – Loading, Transport and Casualty pigs. Marketing a Niche Product**

*Stress-free loading, how to create a loading area. What pigs are “fit to travel”? Options for “unfit” pigs. What is a casualty pig and how to manage it? Euthanasia – when should it be done and by whom? Home slaughtering - legalities? What product to prepare (pork or bacon) and how to market it.*

6<sup>th</sup> July          Umberslade Farm Park - Warwickshire  
7<sup>th</sup> July          Amerton Farm – Staffs



If you would like to book a place or for more details please contact Mandy Cowie on 01974 282229 or alternatively email [Mandy.cowie@adas.co.uk](mailto:Mandy.cowie@adas.co.uk).

