



Flat Aggie ADVENTURES


Reproduction Part 2




DID YOU KNOW?


 **Gestation** is the carrying of a piglets inside a female animal.

 **Farrow** is the act of the sow giving birth to piglets.

 **Ultrasound** is an electronic image that helps us see the fetus (baby).

 **Pound** is a unit of weight. Equals about 1 baseball.



 **Millimeter** is a unit of measuring. Equals the thickness of a penny.



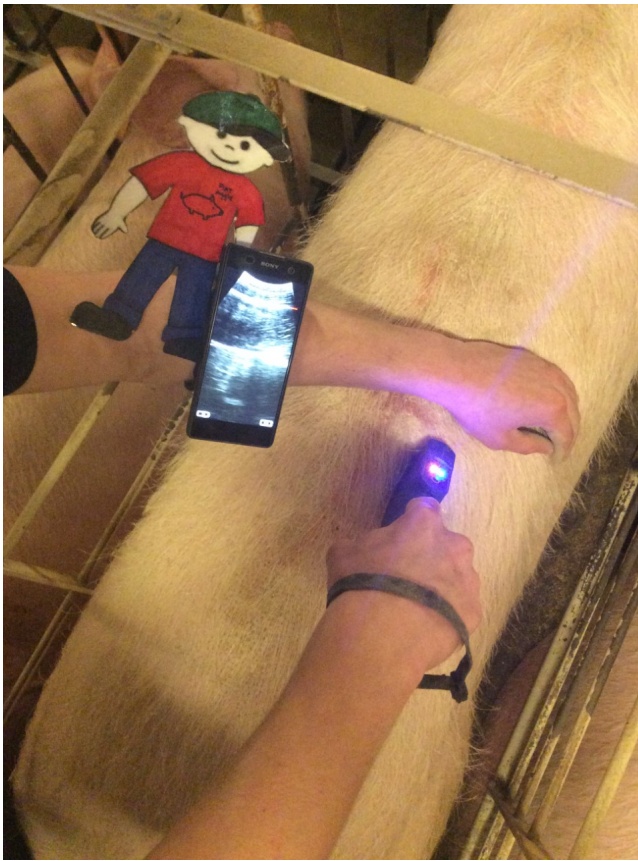
GESTATION

Flat Aggie is preparing the sow for breeding and soon the sow will be carrying a litter of piglets.

In the last issue, we discovered that boars are used for heatchecking. The boars help Flat Aggie to know when to breed a sow.

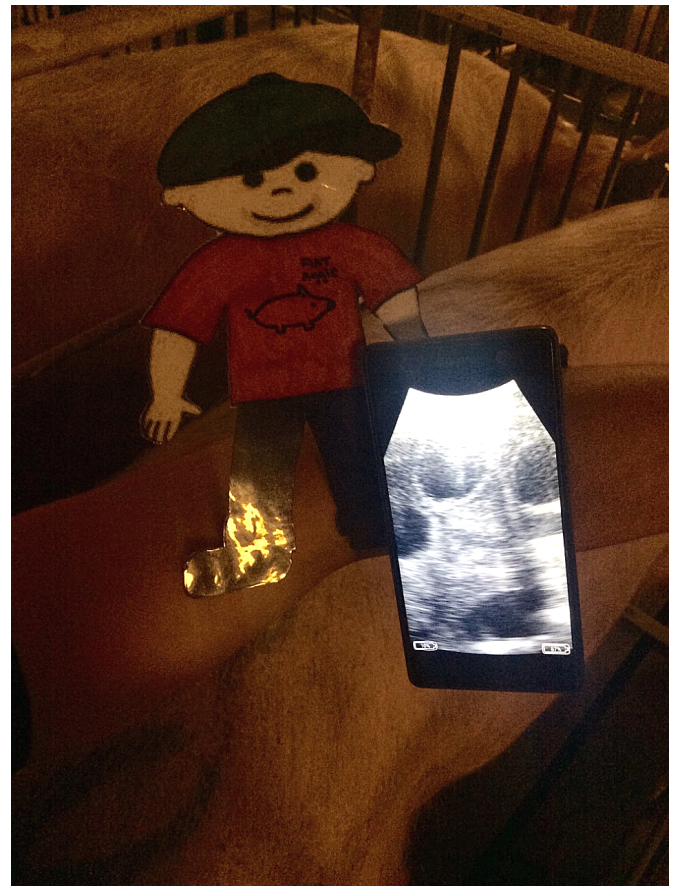
Flat Aggie uses the number on the sow's back to keep track of the day she was bred and the breeder number.





ULTRASOUND

Here Flat Aggie is checking to see if the sow is pregnant. He uses an ultrasound device 4 to 5 weeks after they are bred. The device reads through the sow's lower flank. As you can tell in the picture the small black circles are the first stage of piglet's life. When Flat Aggie sees these circles, he knows this sow will farrow in about 114 days.



SOW HEALTH CHECK

Three weeks after they are bred Flat Aggie tests their backfat to see how thick it is. We do this to make sure they are not over or underweight. Once he determines how many millimeters thick the backfat is he will adjust how many pounds of feed that individual sow gets every day. At our farm our sows stay in pens until its time to farrow. We group the sows in pens of 12 based off their back fat and size.

FUN PIG FACTS

- Pig's skin is so thick that neither flies or ticks bother them.
- Pig's have 4 toes on each foot.
- The average temperature of a pig barn is 70 degrees.

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JOKE OF THE DAY

What kind of pig knows karate?

A Pork Chop