Nebraska Scientific

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Tell me about Fetal Pigs

WHAT IS A FETAL PIG ?

Fetal pigs are collected from the packing house as a by-product of the meat industry. These pigs are removed from the uterus of pregnant sows, taken to our facility where they are preserved. These pigs would otherwise be discarded.

REASONS FOR USING FETAL PIGS IN THE CLASSROOM DISSECTION

- Anatomy of the fetal pig closely resembles that of man. Unlike a frog (an amphibian), the fetal pig is a mammal.
- Economical - fetal pigs can cost less than using the same size frog, rat or any other vertebrate.
- By-product of the food industry. These fetal pigs are considered waste products of packing houses.
- Abundant - as long as pork is consumed, fetal pigs will continue to be available.
- The fetal pig was never born; it did not "die" for dissection purposes. For those concerned about the use of live animals in scientific study, these fetal pigs are a viable alternative.
- Soft fetal tissue is easy to dissect.

WHERE DO FETAL PIGS COME FROM?

- Sows are sent to market to be butchered. As part of the butchering process, we remove many organs including the uterus. Fetal pigs in various stages of development are often found within the uterus.
- These fetal pigs are removed from the uterus and are then transported to our laboratory for proper preservation and injections.
- Sows ARE NOT bred for the purpose of producing fetal pigs for dissection. Fetal pigs are a by-product of the food industry.
- Pig embryos that are not used for education will be used in the production of fertilizer or will be discarded.

WHY WOULD FARMERS SEND PREGNANT SOWS TO MARKET?

- During extreme cold and extreme heat the mortality rate for sows increase. Rather than risk having the sow die from uncontrollable weather conditions, farmers will often send the sow to market to recover some of their investment.
- Farmers will often raise a larger number of sows than they expect to keep. This way the farmer can sell off any extra sows once the optimum number of baby pigs are born. Since no one can predict the number of piglets to be born per sow, raising extra sows is one way to insure getting the desired number of baby pigs.
- Market prices will often encourage the farmer to sell livestock prematurely. Occasionally, the farmer may sell pigs just because he/she needs the money.

ESTIMATED GESTATION of the PIG

Length	*Approximate age*
10 - 15 mm	20 - 30 days
15 - 20 mm	30 - 40 days
20 - 40 mm	40 - 55 days
50 - 75 mm	60 - 70 days
7 - 9"	80 - 90 days
9 - 11"	90 - 100 days
11 - 13"	100 - 110 days
13 - 15"	110 - 115 days

Fetal Pigs
The Speciality of NebraskaScientific

Nebraska Scientific, through its parent company, *Cyrgus Company, Inc.*, is the world's largest processor of fetal pigs. With over 50 years of experience, we process thousands of fetal pigs per year. Our preserving process insures adequate penetration into the tissue. Fetal pigs that have preservative injected into the body cavity are described as "plain preserved". "Plain embalmed" pigs have preservative injected through the arterial system. Many customers request an embalmed fetal pig with the circulatory system injected, which we offer in single and double form. "Single injections" are done with a red latex that fills the arterial system. The "double injection" adds a blue latex into the veins, injected through the jugular vein. After injections, the specimen is placed in Nebanol, our no smell solution that rids the specimen of any formalin odors, insuring it to be safe and pleasant for student use.

We offer several sizes of fetal pigs for classroom dissection. The most popular sizes include 7-9", 9-11", 11-13", and our jumbo 13-15". All four of these sizes are available as plain, single or double injected.

Nebraska Scientific / *Cyrgus* is able to apply efficient mass production techniques due to the volume of fetal pigs processed daily. The result is a low cost specimen, with choice of sizes and injections.

Check out the fetal pigs available from Nebraska Scientific - CLICK HERE.

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