Gilts (female pigs) are bred and give birth to a litter in 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days. After delivery of their first litter, gilts are called sows. The litter of 12-13 pigs are raised in a farrowing barn. Typically, pigs are raised completely in climate-controlled facilities.

Piglets weigh 2-3 pounds at birth. They nurse with their mother for 3 weeks before being weaned. At weaning, piglets weigh 13-15 pounds. They are moved to a nursery with other litters. Piglets are fed a corn/soybean meal diet, eating up to 4 pounds of food per day. They will grow to 50-60 pounds during this 8-week period.

After being processed, retailers and foodservice operators sell pork in supermarkets and restaurants for purchase by consumers. Pork - including bacon - is an excellent source of protein and provides several important vitamins and minerals. Each year, the average American consumes nearly 18 pounds of bacon.