# What to feed a baby pig



## FIRST HOURS WITH A PIGLET

1. Warm it first: dry it and give a draught-free spot at 90–95°F (32–35°C) with room to move off the heat.
2. Limp, shivering or fitting can mean low blood sugar: call a vet now and never pour milk into a piglet that can't swallow.
3. Under a day old? Give colostrum (sow, cow, goat or replacer) before the gut stops absorbing antibodies at about 24 hours.
4. Offer small amounts from a shallow dish or drop by drop from a syringe, and never squirt or force: milk in the lungs can cause pneumonia.
5. Tube feed only if a vet or experienced keeper has taught you, because a wrongly placed tube can kill.
6. Call a vet for watery diarrhea, a swollen belly, coughing or refusing feeds.

**Penn State: saving a small piglet: extension.psu.edu**

**Low blood sugar signs: thepigsite.com**

**Mini pig orphan care: americanminipigassociation.com**

### ✓ Safe staples

- **Sow colostrum** – First 24 hours. Antibodies and energy
- **Cow, goat or replacer colostrum** – If no sow colostrum. Never microwave it
- **Pig (sow) milk replacer** – Main food. Mix exactly by the label
- **Clean fresh water** – Always on offer, shallow dish
- **Piglet creep feed** – Small, fresh amounts from about 1 week
- **Mini pig starter or grower** – Mini pig base diet
- **Fresh grass** – Untreated grass once strong enough
- **Grass hay** – Fiber for mini pigs. No mould
- **Leafy greens** – After pellets are eaten well

### ! Small amounts only

- **Goat's milk** – Stand-in after colostrum, pasteurized
- **Kid or lamb milk replacer** – Backup if no pig replacer
- **Cow's milk** – Emergency only. Get pig replacer
- **Electrolyte solution** – For scours, on vet advice
- **Pumpkin and squash** – Small plain pieces after weaning
- **Carrots and cucumber** – A little, chopped, besides pellets
- **Banana** – A few small pieces after weaning
- **Apple** – Training treat, no core or seeds
- **Grapes** – Cut up, a few as a treat
- **Peanuts (shelled, unsalted)** – A few, shelled and unsalted only

### ⊗ Never feed

- **Meat and meat scraps** – Disease risk. Banned or regulated
- **Kitchen and table scraps (swill)** – Illegal in many places, spreads disease
- **Eggs** – Banned in some places. Skip
- **Cheese** – Rich and salty, not for piglets
- **Bread** – Starchy filler. Skip it
- **Potatoes and peelings** – Green ones poison. The rest is starch
- **Chocolate, coffee and tea** – Toxic caffeine and theobromine
- **Avocado** – Skin and pit toxic, pit can choke
- **Salty snacks and canned food** – Salt poisoning risk
- **Dog or cat food** – Wrong diet, too much salt and protein
- **Mouldy or spoiled feed** – Mould toxins can kill
- **Acorns** – Can cause severe poisoning

## Feeding schedule

| Age | Looks like | Food | Amount | How often |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **0–24 hours** | Newborn; under about 1 kg (2.2 lb) is a high-risk runt | Colostrum: sow, cow, goat or replacer | About 15 mL a feed; at least 100 mL per kg of birth weight by 16 hours | Every 1–2 hours |
| **1–3 days** | Dry, able to stand and swallow | Pig milk replacer after colostrum | Start 10–20 mL a feed. Mini pig: Merck gives about 30 mL (1 oz) every 4–6 hours | Every 2 hours, nights too |
| **4–14 days** | Tight, shiny skin; active between feeds | Pig milk replacer, pan fed; first creep | About 40–50 mL a feed, building to 80–100 mL for a big piglet; less if it scours | Every 2–4 hours |
| **2–4 weeks** | Rooting and starting to nibble dry feed | Milk replacer, creep feed, water | Milk by the label. Hand-reared intake varies: about 10–30% of body weight a day | 4–6 milk feeds a day |
| **4–6 weeks** | Eating some dry feed every day | Milk plus creep or starter pellets | Milk by the label; fresh dry feed always out for farm piglets | 3–4 milk feeds a day |
| **6–8 weeks** | Eating pellets well | Starter pellets; milk tapering off | Cut milk back a little at a time over 1–2 weeks | Drop one milk feed at a time |
| **8 weeks and up** | Weaned and growing fast | Starter or grower pellets, water, small extras | Farm pig: free choice. Mini pig: by the label, about 2–3% of body weight a day | Mini pig: 2–3 meals a day |