

Swine Skillathon Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is another name for the "blind gut"?**
 - A. Cecum**
 - B. Duodenum**
 - C. Colon**
 - D. Rectum**
- 2. What key factor of the diet must be increased prior to parturition in the sow?**
 - A. Fat**
 - B. Carbohydrates**
 - C. Fiber**
 - D. Protein**
- 3. What is the percent daily value of vitamin B-6?**
 - A. 25%**
 - B. 37%**
 - C. 40%**
 - D. 50%**
- 4. Where did the Duroc breed originate?**
 - A. California**
 - B. New York/New Jersey**
 - C. Ohio**
 - D. Texas**
- 5. What physiological role does oxytocin play in pigs?**
 - A. Stimulates appetite**
 - B. Aids in digestion**
 - C. Facilitates parturition and milk let-down**
 - D. Enhances muscle growth**
- 6. How does the market generally perceive pork compared to other meats?**
 - A. Less expensive**
 - B. More nutritious**
 - C. Higher in demand**
 - D. More versatile**

- 7. If a market hog sells for \$100, how much check-off money would the producer have to pay to the National Pork Board?**
- A. 20 cents**
 - B. 30 cents**
 - C. 40 cents**
 - D. 50 cents**
- 8. What is the average heart rate of a pig?**
- A. 40-60 beats per minute**
 - B. 60-80 beats per minute**
 - C. 80-100 beats per minute**
 - D. 100-120 beats per minute**
- 9. What are two management practices that can enhance product safety?**
- A. Correct injection techniques and regular feeding schedules**
 - B. Correct injection techniques and observance of withdrawal times**
 - C. Implementation of biosecurity measures and efficient waste management**
 - D. Frequent health checks and proper housing conditions**
- 10. During what specific period does a sow have high nutrient requirements for lactation?**
- A. Before Parturition**
 - B. Gestation**
 - C. Post-Weaning**
 - D. Peak Lactation**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. A**
- 2. C**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. C**
- 6. A**
- 7. C**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. D**

SAMPLE

Explanations

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1. What is another name for the "blind gut"?

- A. Cecum**
- B. Duodenum**
- C. Colon**
- D. Rectum**

The term "blind gut" refers specifically to the cecum, which is the first part of the large intestine. This anatomical structure is called the "blind" gut because it has no outlet on one side; it receives material from the ileum (the last part of the small intestine) but does not connect to any further segment of the digestive tract on the other end. Instead, it's where the material is collected before it enters the colon. Understanding the cecum's role in digestion, particularly in fermentation processes in herbivorous animals, highlights its unique function compared to other parts of the digestive system. In contrast, the other options represent different sections of the digestive tract: the duodenum is the first section of the small intestine involved in digestion; the colon is responsible for the absorption of water and the formation of feces; and the rectum serves as the final segment of the digestive tract that stores feces before excretion. None of these have the same "blind" characteristic, making the cecum the only accurate answer to the question.

2. What key factor of the diet must be increased prior to parturition in the sow?

- A. Fat**
- B. Carbohydrates**
- C. Fiber**
- D. Protein**

Prior to parturition in sows, it is important to increase the fiber content in their diet. This is due to several reasons related to the physiological needs of the sow as she approaches the time of giving birth. Increasing fiber helps to enhance gut health and function, which can be particularly beneficial during the last stages of gestation. Adequate fiber can stimulate digestive processes and ensure that the sow's gastrointestinal tract remains healthy and efficient. This is crucial as the sow's body is preparing for the significant demands of lactation following birth. Moreover, sufficient fiber can help prevent common issues such as constipation and ensure a smoother transition into the birthing process. It also aids in promoting satiety, helping sows maintain a healthy body condition as they approach parturition. This combination of factors makes fiber an essential component of a sow's diet during this critical time.

3. What is the percent daily value of vitamin B-6?

- A. 25%
- B. 37%**
- C. 40%
- D. 50%

The percent daily value of vitamin B-6 is commonly represented as 37% based on a standard reference intake. The daily value determines how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet, which is typically based on a 2,000-calorie diet. Vitamin B-6 is important for various bodily functions, including the metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, as well as the creation of neurotransmitters and the formation of red blood cells. The value of 37% indicates that one serving of the food product in question provides a significant portion of the recommended daily intake of vitamin B-6 for an average adult. Understanding this percentage helps individuals manage their nutrient intake effectively, ensuring they meet their dietary requirements for overall health.

4. Where did the Duroc breed originate?

- A. California
- B. New York/New Jersey**
- C. Ohio
- D. Texas

The Duroc breed originated in the New York and New Jersey area during the early 19th century. This breed was developed from a mix of various red pigs, and it was primarily raised for its excellent growth rate, feed efficiency, and quality of meat. The geographical origin in the northeastern United States is significant because it highlights the historical breeding practices in that region, which focused on creating a hardy and productive breed. The Duroc has since become one of the most popular breeds in the United States, known for its desirable traits in commercial pork production. This background solidifies the choice of New York/New Jersey as the correct answer.

5. What physiological role does oxytocin play in pigs?

- A. Stimulates appetite
- B. Aids in digestion
- C. Facilitates parturition and milk let-down**
- D. Enhances muscle growth

Oxytocin plays a crucial role in reproductive physiology, particularly in the context of parturition (the process of giving birth) and lactation (milk production). In pigs, when a sow is ready to give birth, oxytocin is released, which stimulates uterine contractions necessary for delivering the piglets. This hormonal trigger is essential for the timing and progression of labor. Additionally, oxytocin is vital for the milk let-down reflex, allowing the sow to release milk in response to her piglets' suckling. This mechanism ensures that the piglets can access the nourishment they need for healthy growth and development immediately after birth. While oxytocin is involved in various other physiological processes, including bonding and social behaviors, its most significant and well-documented functions in pigs are related to parturition and the facilitation of nursing. This underscores the importance of oxytocin in the reproductive health and offspring survival in swine.

6. How does the market generally perceive pork compared to other meats?

- A. Less expensive**
- B. More nutritious**
- C. Higher in demand**
- D. More versatile**

The market generally perceives pork as less expensive compared to other meats, such as beef and lamb. This perception is rooted in several factors, including production costs, supply dynamics, and consumer preferences. Pork tends to have lower production costs due to its shorter production cycle and efficient feed conversion rate, which contributes to its lower market price. As a result, consumers often find pork to be a budget-friendly option while shopping for meat. Several other factors might influence perceptions of other meats: for instance, while some may consider chicken to be cheaper in certain markets, pork generally provides a cost-effective alternative in various regions. Additionally, perceptions of nutrition, demand, and versatility are influenced by cultural and regional factors, but the pricing aspect is a significant factor in consumer choice and market behavior.

7. If a market hog sells for \$100, how much check-off money would the producer have to pay to the National Pork Board?

- A. 20 cents**
- B. 30 cents**
- C. 40 cents**
- D. 50 cents**

To determine the amount of check-off money a producer would pay to the National Pork Board when selling a market hog for \$100, it is necessary to understand the current check-off rate, which is set at 0.40%. This means that for every \$100 sale, the producer is required to pay 40 cents as check-off money to support programs for research, promotion, and education within the pork industry. Thus, if a market hog sells for \$100, the check-off fee would indeed be 40 cents. This amount is collected uniformly from producers and is crucial for funding initiatives that benefit the entire pork industry, making it the correct answer.

8. What is the average heart rate of a pig?

- A. 40-60 beats per minute**
- B. 60-80 beats per minute**
- C. 80-100 beats per minute**
- D. 100-120 beats per minute**

The average heart rate of a pig typically falls within the range of 60-80 beats per minute. This range is consistent with the normal physiological parameters for swine, which are crucial for understanding pig health and assessing their condition. Monitoring the heart rate is an important aspect of veterinary care and husbandry, as deviations from this norm may indicate stress, illness, or other health issues. Knowing the average heart rate helps in making informed decisions about the care and management of pigs.

9. What are two management practices that can enhance product safety?

- A. Correct injection techniques and regular feeding schedules**
- B. Correct injection techniques and observance of withdrawal times**
- C. Implementation of biosecurity measures and efficient waste management**
- D. Frequent health checks and proper housing conditions**

The selection of correct injection techniques and observance of withdrawal times is essential for enhancing product safety in swine management. Correct injection techniques ensure that vaccines and medications are delivered precisely and safely, minimizing the risk of injury or infection at the injection site. This ensures the health of the animal and the safety of the product that comes from it. Observance of withdrawal times is equally critical because it ensures that any medications administered to the animals are completely out of their systems before they are processed for food. This practice prevents residues from entering the food supply, thereby protecting consumer health and maintaining product safety standards. While the other options mention important management practices, they do not directly address the critical aspects of product safety in the same specific way as the chosen answer. For instance, regular feeding schedules can help ensure proper growth and health but do not inherently address product safety as clearly as managing injections and adhering to withdrawal times.

10. During what specific period does a sow have high nutrient requirements for lactation?

- A. Before Parturition**
- B. Gestation**
- C. Post-Weaning**
- D. Peak Lactation**

A sow has high nutrient requirements during peak lactation due to the intense physiological demands placed on her body as she produces milk for her piglets. During this phase, which typically occurs around two to three weeks after giving birth, the need for energy, protein, and essential nutrients significantly increases. The sow's body must support both her own health and her ability to provide adequate nutrition to her growing offspring. If nutrient needs are not met during this critical time, it can lead to health issues for the sow and inadequate milk supply for the piglets, potentially affecting their growth and survival rates. While nutrient requirements are also important during gestation and before parturition to ensure a healthy litter and successful delivery, the peak demand for nutrients is specifically during lactation when the sow is actively feeding her litter. After weaning, though the sow's nutrient requirements shift again, they are not as heightened as during peak lactation when milk production is at its most intense level.