

The 2016 piglets are here.



The photo of many pigs was taken a few minutes after I opened the trailer and let the 120 little pigs into their new home.

They started to dig and play immediately. The shed behind them is cozy with heat lamps for added warmth.

These pigs were born into a “confinement” operation. This group of 120 will have totally different lives than the pigs that remained behind.

They are cross bred pigs. Cross breeding is common in all animals raised for meat. Hybrids are generally healthier. They have what is called, “hybrid vigor.”

Although the exact breeding of these pigs is a trade secret, by observation I believe they are mostly Yorkshire, Duroc, and probably Berkshire. Yorkshires are an old British breed known for white color and large size. Durocs are an American breed, developed in Ohio and Indiana during the 1800s. Durocs are red. Berkshires are another old British breed with dark markings.

I brought the piglets home in the stock trailer shown in the upper left. I will leave the trailer open to them for at least a week. They will play in and out of the trailer during that time. In the Fall, I will need to load them again. The pigs, who will weigh as much as 500 pounds by then, will walk into the trailer without any stress or pressure. They will remember it as a calm and relaxing place.

Gabriela took the photo of the single pig.

Even in pigs, some are just cuter than others. Tom

