

Eighth grader launches 'squealing' fun business.

After a long day of school and basketball practice, Patrick Peterson returns home and pulls on rubber boots to care for his babies.

All 13 of them.

The Gothenburg eighth grader raises Yorkshire pigs he sells to other 4-H'ers and crossbred pigs as a commercial venture.

"I like pigs," Patrick announces.

Perhaps some of his fondness for the creatures is because he's grown up with them. His father, uncle and grandfather have been in the business for many years and now feed pigs for a large swine producer from Sumner.

"I've always been in a pig barn," Patrick said.

Patrick bought Charlene, a white purebred Yorkshire, last April when he was 12 and showed her in 4-H last summer.

"They're known as good mothers and I wanted that in other sows," he said.

Passion for pigs

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 14 March 2013 13:16 -

Patrick then bred Charlene, through artificial insemination.

On Valentine's Day, Charlene delivered her first litter of 13 piglets.

Patrick said the youngsters were put on a pellet feed that contains dried milk to help wean them from their mother and to help in the transition of their digestive system to solid foods.

Weaning Charlene's piglets will occur later this week, he said.

Some of the pigs from Charlene's litters have and will be sold along with other commercial crossbred pigs that Patrick and his younger brother, Evan, are raising to help other 4-H'ers and FFA'ers to learn about and show swine.

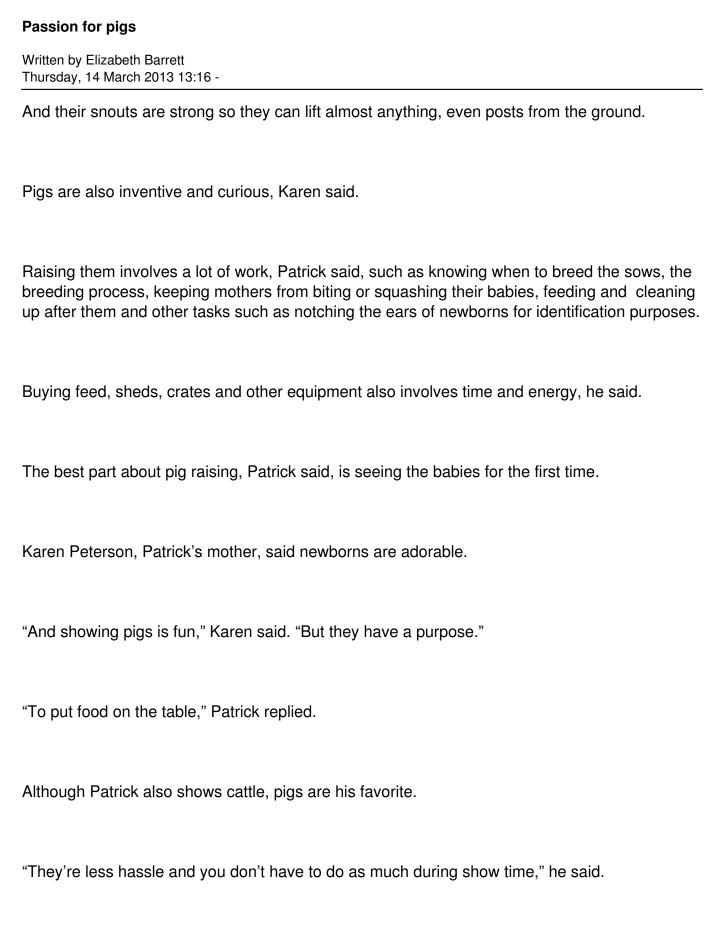
Karen Peterson, Patrick's mother, said the project is designed to help other kids buy pigs at a reasonable price.

Patrick said pigs are funny, just like cats and dogs and even humans.



"They each have their own personality, even if they have 12 other brother and sisters," he said.

Another interesting fact Patrick shared is that pigs are smart.



Patrick is also a junior leader for the Tail Twisters 4-H Club, an organization co-founded by his grandfather, Larry Peterson.

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Through the club, he shows other swine enthusiasts how to work with their animals, herd them and how to get them ready for show.

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