Evidence for wild swine (or pigs) becoming first domesticated occurs in the Middle East and possibly China at about 9,000 years ago. Swine are not native to the United States and were first brought to Florida by Spanish explorers in 1539.

Female pigs are called sows if they have produced a litter (usually 8-10 baby pigs called piglets) and gilts if they have not. Male pigs are called boars if they can produce offspring (are fertile) and barrows if they are neutered so they can’t.

For additional information about the safe care and handling of swine, go to the Clover Safe note at: http://ucanr.org/cloversafe.

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