

4-H Swine Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1618

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Resource

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/livestock>

- » Swine Litter Record (4H1342)

Curricula — Other States

- » Beef, Sheep and Swine Selection and Evaluation (4-H 103R) (The Ohio State University Extension) <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2277>
- » 4-H Swine Project Health Supplement (4H369K) (University of Wisconsin Extension) <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/pubs/showdoc.cfm?documentid=30501>
- » Swine Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects (4-H Circular 134R) <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2525>

National 4-H Curricula

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>

- » Swine
 - The Incredible Pig – Swine 1 (08065)
 - Putting the Oink in Pig – Swine 2 (08066)
 - Going Whole Hog – Swine 3 (08067)
 - Swine Helper's Guide – (08068)

Other Resources

- » The 10 Youth PQA Plus Good Production Practices (GPPs) Key Learning Objectives http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/youthpqaplus/YPQA_GPPs.pdf
- » Youth PQA Plus manual <http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/YouthPQAPlus/YPQAManual.pdf>

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The 4-H swine project helps you learn about swine breeds, health care, production, management, showmanship, marketing and careers in the swine industry.

- » Learn principles of animal science and gain life skills, like responsibility, by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more head of livestock.
- » Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- » Learn nutritive value of swine products and promote their use.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Learn breed names.
- » Identify swine body parts.
- » Learn how to judge swine.
- » Manage a swine production budget.
- » Learn how to feed and water your pig.
- » Identify how a healthy pig looks and acts.
- » Name and describe pork meat cuts.
- » Discover pork by-products.
- » Conduct a pork cooking and tasting experiment.
- » Prepare to show your swine at the local fair.
- » Network with potential buyers.
- » Recognize buyers of your swine project.
- » Develop and keep records on your swine project.

Learning More:

- » Learn differences in preparing pork cuts by cooking and tasting.
- » Learn pork quality standards.
- » Explore swine breed characteristics.
- » Understand how to keep swine health records.
- » Explore various swine diseases.
- » Understand swine management practices.
- » Analyze and make decisions on how to solve swine management issues.
- » Formulate a swine ration.
- » Plan and conduct a pork promotional activity.
- » Explore the digestive system of a pig.
- » Identify leanness of a swine carcass.
- » Learn world cultural beliefs about swine.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Help a younger 4-H'er explore the swine project.
- » Organize a judging clinic.
- » Plan and conduct a swine showmanship clinic for younger members.
- » Arrange questions and hold a swine quiz bowl.
- » Plan swine breeding.
- » Research state or national swine organizations.
- » Learn about swine genetics.
- » Interview agencies about environmental issues.
- » Explore farrow-to-finish facilities.
- » Learn how to manage baby pigs.
- » Balance a swine ration.
- » Compare qualities in carcasses.
- » Explore international swine markets.



FOCUS ON SWINE

Science

- » Explore genetic traits for successful breeding.
- » Learn about the anatomy of a swine's gastrointestinal system.
- » Understand differences in environmental needs throughout the pig's lifespan.
- » Practice good management techniques and complete PQA (Pork Quality Assurance) Plus Certification.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer your baby pig for an Agriculture in the Classroom program at school.
- » Participate in a local food drive project donating to food pantries.
- » Volunteer to help at the county livestock judging event at the swine station.
- » Lead other 4-H members in participating in local pork producers events.
- » Teach others how to safely handle swine at a PQA session.
- » Prior to your county fair, lead a swine showmanship and grooming session.

Communication

- » Design a poster on parts of the swine.
- » Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons.
- » Give a tail-docking demonstration.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.
- » Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- » Compare feed tags from different companies.
- » Visit a local meat locker or local grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging.
- » Learn how to evaluate meat cuts – quality grade and yield grade – and learn how these affect taste and cost.
- » Job shadow a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- » Attend a swine show and listen to a judge give oral reasons, and witness the differences in judging hogs.
- » Participate in a judging team.
- » Tour a hog operation.
- » Research swine by-products.
- » Consider showing in your county fair swine show.

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