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Requirements for this Project

1. Purchase the Swine Resource Handbook (this book) and use in conjunction with your respective Project/Record Book.
2. Complete your respective Project/Record Book every year a market hog or swine breeding project is taken.
3. Make sure your project entry form is completed and turned in to the county office on time.
4. Contact a local veterinarian for health papers if your county requires them.
5. Be sure to review the rules entitled in your county fair premium book if you plan on participating at your county fair. Regulations vary from county to county.
6. Keep project animals in your continual care and possession or on your designated ownership farm.
7. Sell, don’t take home your market hog after exhibiting at a place where a junior livestock sale was conducted.

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Pork Carcass Evaluation ............... 4-4
Pork Muscle Quality .................. 4-16
Pork Quality Standards ............... 4-18

Chapter 5

Pork Products ................. 5-1
Wholesale, Retail and Food Service Cuts ............... 5-1
By-Products from Hogs .......... 5-4

Chapter 6

Nutritional Value ............... 6-1
Nutritional Value of Pork ......... 6-2
How Pork Compares to Other Meats .......... 6-3

Chapter 7

Digestive System ............... 7-1

Chapter 8

Nutrition ............... 8-1

Chapter 9

Feeding the Developing Breeding Gilt .......... 8-14
Feeding the Gestating Sow .......... 8-14
Critical Points of Gestation ............... 8-16
Feeding the Lactating Sow .......... 8-17
Feeding Starter Pigs .......... 8-19
Ration Considerations .......... 8-24
Nutrition Chapter References .......... 8-25
Chapter 9
Diseases & Their Control ............................................. 9-1
Infectious Diseases ................................................. 9-1
Internal Parasites .................................................... 9-10
External Parasites .................................................... 9-14
Herd Health Management Tips .................................... 9-14

Chapter 10
Ear Notching ............................................................. 10-1
Universal Ear Notching System .................................... 10-2

Chapter 11
Space Requirements for My Market Hog ........................................ 11-1
Feeder and Waterer Space ........................................... 11-1
Building Floor Space ................................................. 11-1
Shape or Design of Pen .............................................. 11-1
Manure Pattern or "Toilet Training" .................................. 11-2
Feed and Watering Equipment ...................................... 11-2
Environment ............................................................. 11-4
Manure Disposal ....................................................... 11-6
Water Quality ............................................................ 11-7

Chapter 12
Showing Your 4-H Market Hog ......................................... 12-1
Fitting and Showing .................................................... 12-1
At the Show ............................................................. 12-3
Show Ring Ethics ....................................................... 12-6
Tips for Exhibiting at the County Fair .............................. 12-7

Chapter 13
Selling the Project Animal ............................................ 13-1
Writing a Thank-You Note ............................................ 13-1

Chapter 14
Working Safely with Swine ........................................... 14-1

Chapter 15
Selection of Breeding Stock ........................................... 15-1
Swine Breeding Projects ............................................. 15-1
Selection of Breeding Stock ......................................... 15-4
The Components of the Female Reproductive Tract ............. 15-8
Boar Selection ........................................................... 15-12
The Components of the Male Reproductive Tract ............... 15-14

Chapter 16
Selecting Breeding Stock Based on Records ..................... 16-1

Chapter 17
Genetics ................................................................. 17-1
Examples of Crossbreeding Systems ............................... 17-3
Abnormalities ......................................................... 17-4

Chapter 18
Breeding Management ................................................ 18-1
Heat Detection in Gilts and Sows .................................... 18-4
Artificial Insemination (AI) ........................................ 18-4
Care of Liquid Semen ................................................. 18-6
Estrous "Heat" Synchronization ...................................... 18-6

Chapter 19
Environment for Sows ................................................ 19-1
Space Requirement .................................................... 19-1
Cages, Stalls or Pens? ............................................... 19-3

Chapter 20
Care of the Sow During Farrowing and Lactation .............. 20-1
Farrowing and Lactation ............................................. 20-2
Standardize Litters .................................................... 20-4

Chapter 21
Baby Pig Management ............................................... 21-1
Processing Pigs ....................................................... 21-1
Preweaning and Weaning Management ........................... 21-10
Summary ............................................................... 21-11

Chapter 22
Nursery Environment ............................................... 22-1
Temperature ............................................................ 22-1
Space ................................................................. 22-1
Nursery Facilities ...................................................... 22-2

Chapter 23
Dealing with the General Public and the Media .................. 23-1

Chapter 24
Caring for Animals .................................................... 24-1
Goals and Objectives ................................................ 24-1
Privileges, Responsibilities, and Rewards ........................ 24-1
Animal Well-being ................................................ 24-2
Animal Health ....................................................... 24-2
Quality Assurance and the Livestock Industry .................. 24-4
Care That You Are Giving Your Animals ........................ 24-5
Suggestions for Proper Injection of Animal Drugs .............. 24-7
Medication Label ..................................................... 24-11
Medication Insert ..................................................... 24-12
Parts of a Feed Tag ................................................ 24-14
Quality Assurance Medication Label/Treatment Record Activity ........................................ 24-16
How to Read a Feed Tag ........................................... 24-18
Show Ring Ethics ....................................................... 24-20
Ohio Farm Animal Care Commission ................................ 24-23

Chapter 25
Careers in Animal Science ........................................... 25-1
Production-Management .......................................... 25-1
Agribusiness ........................................................... 25-1
Extension and Government Agencies ............................ 25-2
Careers in the Swine Industry ...................................... 25-2
Research and Teaching ............................................. 25-3
Preparing for a Career ............................................. 25-3
Your Career Decision ............................................... 25-3
Explore the Opportunities .......................................... 25-4

Glossary ................................................................. 1

Swine Resources ........................................................ 1
Livestock Show Ethics & Quality Assurance Educational Materials ........................................ 3
Ohio 4-H Publications ............................................... 5
Cooperative Curriculum ........................................... 6
4-H Publications ..................................................... 6
Web Addresses ......................................................... 8
Symbol II ............................................................... 8
Chapter 24
Caring for Animals ........................................ 24-1
  Goals and Objectives ........................................ 24-1
  Privileges, Responsibilities, and Rewards .................. 24-1
  Animal Well-being ........................................... 24-2
  Animal Health .................................................. 24-2
  Quality Assurance and the Livestock Industry .............. 24-4
  Care That You Are Giving
  Your Animals .................................................. 24-5
  Suggestions for Proper Injection of Animal Drugs ........... 24-7
  Medication Label ............................................ 24-11
  Medication Insert ........................................... 24-12
  Parts of a Tag .................................................. 24-14
  Quality Assurance Medication Label/ Treatment Record Activity .......... 24-16
  How to Read a Tag ............................................. 24-18
  Show Ring Ethics ............................................. 24-20
  Ohio Farm Animal Care Commission ....................... 24-23

Chapter 25
Careers in Animal Science .................................. 25-1
  Production-Management .................................... 25-1
  Agribusiness .................................................... 25-1
  Extension and Government Agencies ......................... 25-2
  Careers in the Swine Industry .............................. 25-2
  Research and Teaching ....................................... 25-3
  Preparing for a Career ........................................ 25-3
  Your Career Decision ......................................... 25-3
  Explore the Opportunities .................................... 25-4

Glossary
................................................................. 1

Swine Resources
.......................................................... 1
  Livestock Show Ethics & Quality Assurance Educational Materials .......... 3
  Ohio 4-H Publications ......................................... 5
  Cooperative Curriculum ....................................... 6
  4-H Publications .............................................. 6
  Web Addresses .................................................. 6
  Symbol II ......................................................... 8
Swine Project Opportunities

Swine projects are excellent for 4-H members because pigs are trainable and young people can work with them easily. Advantages of the swine project include:

1. Small initial investment;
2. Quick turnover of return;
3. Small space requirements;
4. Training in selection, feeding, management;
5. Relatively inexpensive housing and equipment for the beginner;
6. Possibility of expanding the project into a profitable enterprise;
7. Understanding of animal needs and welfare.

Benefits to a 4-H'er

1. Selection in Judging. From the time you select your feeder pig or breeding gilt to the time of showing, you will be learning what characteristics to look for in a modern pig.
2. Record Keeping. Part of the requirement for a swine project is record keeping. By keeping records, you will learn costs of feed and equipment, perhaps learn about bank loans, and hopefully establish a bank account for your education.
3. Nutrition. You will learn the nutrient requirements of swine and how to balance a diet—the diet for the fastest, most economical gain.
4. Health. Learning about swine diseases and parasites and their control is a part of your training in project lessons.
5. Competition. You will benefit from learning to fit and show your project, to win or lose gracefully.
6. Ownership Pride. Owning and caring for pigs gives you a feeling of pride and satisfaction.
7. Professional and Social Development. Having a pig project will bring you into contact with successful swine breeders and producers, project leaders, and other 4-H members.
8. Consumer Awareness. Raising a market animal will help you better understand how meat enters our food chain.

Additional Learning Experiences

1. Be part of a meat judging team.
2. Participate in a livestock judging contest or be a member of a county team.
3. Attend livestock project seminars.
4. Demonstrate fitting and showing.
5. Attend other county hog shows.
6. Attend your State Fair.
7. Visit a swine operation.
8. Visit a feed mill.
9. Visit a local veterinarian.
10. Visit a packing plant.
11. Visit a grocery store to study the different ways pork is sold.
12. Learn how to use a backfat probe.
13. Learn the various breeds of swine.
14. Attend or complete a program on Quality Assurance.

Subjects for 4-H Club Talk

- Why I chose a pig project.
- What I have learned in my pig project.
- Useful by-products of swine.
- The importance of the swine industry.
- Swine diseases.

To Parents

Behind most successful club members are parents who are truly enthusiastic about the projects their children are taking. These parents offer supervision, assistance, and encouragement to the 4-H'er as she or he works through a project. And this pays off—in an exciting learning experience and sometimes even in winning honors and prizes at the county and state fairs. If you are willing to help in these ways, it will make a difference.

However, be aware that while parental support is clearly important, it is equally important that parents not go too far with it. That is, as a parent of a 4-H'er undertaking a project, you should assist and supervise to a reasonable extent; help out as much as is necessary, but do not do the various chores and requirements called for by the project. These are for the 4-H'er to do.

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Introduction

As people directly concerned with youth development, it is the responsibility of every 4-H advisor and agent to help each member who wants a swine project (and has financing and suitable facilities) to secure one. Keep in mind that people like you, in such positions, have exceptional influence with youth, and your encouragement and help lead not only to completed projects, but contribute as well to the development of responsible citizens.

Chapter 1

To the 4-H Advisor

After you have made the decision to take a market and or breeding project, it is important that you know what type of pig you are looking for, how to feed it, diseases it may have, management techniques, and many other important concepts.

By teaching you these principles through information and experience, this project will make it possible for you to produce a high-quality, lean, juicy end product—pork that the consumer wants to buy. To have a successful project you must be willing to study and review the information contained in this handbook and apply it.

To the Member

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**Introduction**

- How to prepare a hog for show day.
- Animal welfare. (Well being)

**Teamwork for the Common Goal**
The purpose of all project work is to enhance the education, experience, and development of young people, a purpose that is not realized without the involvement of several people working as a team. The successful completion of the swine project depends upon the combined efforts of parents, experts, 4-H leaders and you. All have responsibilities.

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