

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Swine Project Guidelines

Project Superintendents:

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Project Social Media: N/A

Project Objectives & Life Skills

- The goal of the 4-H swine project is to help youth learn about swine breeds, health care, feed management, breeding, production, management, showmanship, marketing and careers in the swine industry.
- Head
 - Keeping records
 - Goal Setting
 - Planning/organizing
 - Critical thinking
- Heart
 - Social Skills
 - Concern for others
 - Nurturing relationships
 - Cooperation
- Hands
 - Marketable Skills
 - Self-motivation
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership
- Health
 - Disease prevention
 - Personal safety
 - Managing feelings
 - Self-responsibility

**note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Project Snapshot - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/236/65883/MI-4-HSwineSnapshot.pdf>

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Swine

Guidelines:

Prior to Fair

- Swine exhibitors must be 8 years of age by January 1st of the current year.
- Youth exhibitors must attend 2 countywide meetings to participate in the Kalamazoo County Fair. Members 14 and under must have an adult family member present during meetings.
- Exhibitors are allowed to show 2 market hogs. Swine members who are 16 years of age and older, who have exhibited in the swine project the previous year at the Kalamazoo County Fair, are eligible to exhibit up to four individual market animals; providing space is available. Space will be determined by the Superintendents; a lotto system will be used to decide which exhibitors may exhibit four market animals. This will be determined in July after the fair enrollment deadline. Please consider this when purchasing pigs in the spring.
- All animals exhibited must be in the possession of the exhibitor by May 1 of the current year. Each exhibitor may identify up to five (5) project animals.
- To comply with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the swine identification form, found on page 5, and photos of pigs with ear tags showing in ears, must be emailed or texted to the project superintendent's no later than May 1st of the current year.
- If the swine identification form is not received by May 1st of the current year, the 4-H member will not be eligible to compete for Champion at the current year's fair. If the 4-H member still does not turn these items in prior to July 1st of the current year, the 4-H member is not eligible to bring swine to the current years' fair.
- Kalamazoo County 4-H swine project is a terminal show and sale.
- Animals may be market barrows or gilts. Gilts may be shown provided they are sold in the livestock sale.
- Swine may be purebred, grade or crossbred, but must be farrowed between January 20 and March 1 of the current year.
- All market hogs that come to the Kalamazoo County Fair must have been given the Swine Influenza vaccine plus booster prior to July 15th.
- Swine that have been fed Ractopamine (Paylean, Explode, XXL, etc) will **NOT** be allowed at the fair. Each exhibitor must verify their pigs have not been fed Ractopamine.
- [Youth for the Quality Care of Animals](#) (YQCA) must be completed annually by every swine exhibitor.
 - Face to face YQCA classes will be held a minimum of 3 times per programming year.
 - Youth may complete either the face-to-face session or the web based class.
 - Pre-registration for the face-to-face session is required.
 - YQCA certificates must be turned into the 4-H office no later than July 1 of each year.

At the Fair

- All swine will be unloaded into the show arena and will be weighed to determine the weight class for judging and official weight for the 4-H livestock auction. The final weight will be determined when the swine crosses the scales, the first time. There will be no re-weights!
- Any market swine weighing less than 200 lbs. are ineligible to show and will be sold through the 4-H livestock auction as a roaster.
- The Kalamazoo County 4-H swine show is terminal; all swine less than 200 lbs. will go through

the 4-H livestock auction and will go to a market or slaughter facility.

- All exhibitors must participate in showmanship, unless excused by superintendents.
- The trucking of animals will be handled by LSA.
- Barn tear down will take place the last Saturday night of the fair after loading out. All members or household members must be present and stay until the barn is packed up. If this does not take place a fee of 10% of the 4-Her's swine sale check will be taken out. This fee will be put into the 4-H swine project's account. All members or household members **MUST** check in and out with a swine superintendent. If you can't tear down for religious reasons you need to get with a swine superintendent by the last swine meeting. They will give you another assignment.

Fitting and Showmanship Guidelines

- **Exhibitor Class Entry:**

The class the 4-Her will enter (Junior 8-11, Intermediate 12-15, or Senior 16 and over) is determined by their 4-H age. Age of the 4-Her as of January 1 of current year.

- **Appearance Of The Exhibitor:**

The exhibitor should be neat and clean. No hats or T-shirts with any kind of printing on them are allowed. A plain colored T-shirt is allowed, but a collared shirt is recommended. Showman should wear clean jeans or pants; no shorts are allowed. Leather footwear should be worn for your protection. No open toe, open heel or any kind of athletic footwear should be worn. No gum, chewing tobacco, or phones are allowed in the show ring.

- **Appearance Of The Pig:**

The pig should be thoroughly washed, including the feet and ears (do not get water into pig's ears) with a mild soap such as Orvus, Castile, or similar non-detergent soaps. Animals should be healthy and free from internal and external parasites. Pig clipping is allowed, a minimum of 1/2 inch clipping, no shaving. **NO clipping allowed at fair. Exhibitors may not apply any skincare products for the show, only water is allowed on show day.**

- **Show Ring Procedure:**

- Enter the show ring promptly with the pig under control at all times. Showing your pig at its best advantage takes precedence over all other things.
- Two things you must know:
 - where your pig is
 - where the judge is.
- Other things to keep in mind
 - When driving your pig, have your cane or whip in one hand, a small brush in your pocket, and have one hand free to open gates.
 - Your pig may be driven by gently tapping him on the shoulder or neck. Tap the pig behind the front flanks or on the side to move him forward. **NEVER** hit the pig on the back, rump, or snout. **NEVER** place your hand on the pig. **NEVER** shove, knee, or kick your pig to make him move.
 - Keep the pig between you and the judge, taking care not to get between the pig and the judge. Keeping your pig in the judge's view and about 10-15 feet away from the judge keeps the pig within a good distance from the judge.

- Keep your pigs walking at a slow pace. Pigs look better at a walk than while standing still. If your pig should take off and run, do not run after him. Watch where it goes and walk up to it slowly.

Swine Market Journal and Science

A completed [4-H market journal](#) is a requirement for the sale of your swine project. It needs to be turned in on Saturday to still exhibit judging. The market journal must be presented in a 3-ring binder or portfolio. Loose pages will not be accepted.

Youth may also enter an optional notebook or educational exhibit. This should demonstrate increased learning from year to year. Special awards are given to the top educational displays each year.

Information Given and Idea Expressed

- Theme – Swine related topic which will educate the public.
- Simplicity – Keep the message brief and direct, limited to one idea.
- Originality – Freshness of idea, use of independent thought or constructive imagination.

Attractiveness of Swine Notebook

- Dynamic, eye-catching – Will the exhibit cause viewers to notice it and stop? Does it keep their interest?
- Neat – Clean, easy to read.

Construction

- Durable – Project should be able to withstand a week at the fair.
- Completed and on time – Project needs to be finished and presented to judges on Saturday of Still Project Judging.

Knowledge of Project

- 4-Her's ability – Will be determined by age and years in the project. What did you learn from this project?
- Judges Opinion – Given by discretion of the judge.

Swine Project Registration Form

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Club _____

Registration must be emailed or texted to the Superintendent by May 1st of the current year. A photo of each pig with 4-Her and ear tag with number showing MUST be sent with registration. Each member may tag up to five pigs; family tagging is allowed.

Description must include: special markings, color, ears erect or droopy, and tails docked or not.

Kzoo Co. Tag # _____ State ID# _____ Sex _____

Description: _____

Kzoo Co. Tag # _____ State ID# _____ Sex _____

Description: _____

Kzoo Co. Tag # _____ State ID# _____ Sex _____

Description: _____

Kzoo Co. Tag # _____ State ID# _____ Sex _____

Description: _____

Kzoo Co. Tag # _____ State ID# _____ Sex _____

Description: _____

My pigs were: _____ Purchased _____ Raised

Farm Name/Family Name where purchased or raised: _____

Farm's Complete Address: _____

Farm's Contact Phone Number: _____