

**Date: February 24, 2025**

**To: All 4-H Swine Members, Leaders and Parents**

**From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator - 4-H Youth Development**

**Re: 2025 Swine Project Information and Updates**

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2025 fair season within the swine department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

**NEW for 2025:**

- Anyone is allowed to prepare animals for presentation for show. However, it is expected that the youth exhibitor **will actively participate** in the grooming of their project animal.
- Skill-a-thon and interview will be combined into one evaluation class.
- Minimum weight for hogs was raised from 225 lbs. to **230 lbs.** This is for both carcass and market classes. Any under weight hogs will be sent home.
- We have removed the **Home Born & Raised** class due to lack of participation.

**Reminders:**

- **Countywide Tagging:** All swine will be tagged with a county tag at the countywide tagging events on **Tuesday, June 10 or Wednesday, June 11**, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds in barn 53. A NUES or 840 ID tag will be required for swine to exhibit at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure their hog has official ID and the fair will no longer be providing NUES tags.
- The St. Joseph County Grange Fair is a non-terminal fair. If a member chooses to take their swine animal home and it is NOT the Grand/Reserve Grand Barrow or Gilt, they may do so with the completion of the Animal Removal Authorization Form. This must be given to the Swine Superintendent, Kevin Yeager, by 9:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 15, 2025.** Anything submitted after this deadline will not be removed from the sale bill.
- **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.
- Each swine pen will use only shavings to bed with. Straw, bark, and sawdust are not permitted. Use of anything other than dry shavings could result in yellow/red tagging.
- Hogs weighing less than 230 lbs. or more than 320 lbs. are ineligible for exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at weigh-in.
- From Saturday, September 13 through Sunday, September 21 **ALL leaders and members** are responsible to clean up after their hogs in and around the wash racks. Each 4-H Club will be responsible for one or more wash rack pen(s) for the entire week of fair. Upon inspection, if the wash rack pen assigned to a club is NOT kept clean, the entire club will be held responsible and a yellow tag may be given to each swine member of that club.
- **Clipping Pigs:** All Pigs that are clipped must have at least 3/8 inch hair.
- **Painting pigs** is NOT allowed.

**(continued on page 2)**



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**Important dates, deadlines, and events**

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Countywide tagging and registration	Tuesday, June 10 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. or Wednesday, June 11 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four market animals can be registered per member (any combination of gilts and barrows). Only two animals may be shown at the fair. If selected, one additional animal can be shown in the Carcass Contest</li> <li>• Animals can be cross-registered within the immediate family.</li> </ul>
Carcass Contest Hog Entries Due	Sign-up at tagging dates in June	
Live Carcass Weigh-in	Saturday, September 6 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farigrounds</li> </ul>
Fair Check-in and Weigh-In	Friday, September 12 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, September 12 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 230 - 320 lbs weight requirement for animals.</li> <li>• All hogs will be weighed at the time of unloading. No re-weighing.</li> <li>• Any swine not within the weight range will be sent home at weigh-in.</li> </ul>
Evaluation	Sunday, September 14 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members are <b>required to complete the evaluation</b> to be eligible to show their animals at the fair.</li> </ul>
4-H Market Swine Show	Monday, September 15, 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member meeting before the show at 9:00 a.m.</li> <li>• Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Market Gilts, Market Barrows, Cloverbuds, Grand Drive Gilts, Grand Drive Barrows</li> </ul>
4-H Market Livestock Sale	Thursday, September 18 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Sale order: Beef Cattle, Dairy Market Seers, Gallon of Milk, Dairy Feeder Steers, Hogs, Lambs</li> </ul>
Animal Loading and Barn Clean out	Sunday, September 21, 5:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members must help clean and put away the pens once pigs are shipped out.</li> </ul>