

# Wood County 4-H Swine Project Overview



Helpful information for your hog project.

\*\*The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide** and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Wood County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

## Swine Project Overview

There are two swine projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here's a brief summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
139	Market Hog	Raise and show a Market Hog to a minimum weight of 210 lbs. (at fair weigh-in)
140	Swine Breeding	Raise and show a Breeding Gilt

## Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your Swine project:

- **Swine Project Handbook** (\$15.50) - Designed to be used for all years of your swine projects
- **Market Hog Project and Record Book OR Swine Breeding Project and Record Book** (\$8) - Obtain and keep for the resource information it contains. Note: do not use for your annual record keeping (with the exception of the first year).
- **Wood County Livestock Project Record Insert** (free) - Download this document and use as your records for your project. You may also purchase one from the Extension Office for \$4. Obtain a new one each year. \*You will need to bring this completed document to 4-H Project Interview Judging.

In Summary: Obtain the first two books listed above and keep and use them for all years you are taking a Swine Project. Each year, download a new Livestock Record Insert and use it to keep your annual project records.

Note to those with Food Animal (Market) Projects: as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Wood County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: \* = Mandatory**

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than March 15	<a href="https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in">https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in</a>	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
Skill-a-thon	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	3

**Activities that will take place prior to the Wood County Fair**

The following 4-H activities are described below.

**4-H Enrollment**

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

**Project Interview**

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Judging Hints**

- Arrive at the Junior Fair Building with your project book and record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Complete the top of a judging interview sheet. Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends, and RELAX!
- If you are unable to attend the specified project interview judging day in July at the Junior Fair Building, your advisor may judge the project and provide a grade to the Extension Office by the required date.
- \*Please note\* To be eligible for awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, honorable mention, and premier livestock interviewer) you must be judged on the day your project is assigned at the Junior Fair Building.



**Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors**

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Interview Judging Days and Livestock Shows.

- Livestock Interview Judging and Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve and nice blue jeans (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts or sleeveless tops).
- \*\*Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed. This rule was adopted by the 4-H Committee and Junior Fair Board.

**Skill-a-thon**

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on swine and then at 4-H Project Interview Judging, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 2 levels: juniors (8-13 years old) and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Swine Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview Judging. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Swine project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your project. It is not *expected*, but *highly encouraged* that you participate in the Skill-a-thon.
- A Swine Skill-a-thon Study Guide is available to assist your learning. The Study Guide can be found on the Wood County 4-H web site:  
[https://wood.osu.edu/sites/wood/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/4H/skillathon/swineskillstudy17.pdf](https://wood.osu.edu/sites/wood/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/skillathon/swineskillstudy17.pdf)
- Online practice quizzes:  
<https://wood.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/livestock-information/animal-science-virtual-learning-lab>
- Additional information for the Skill-a-thon can be found in your Swine Resource Handbook.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at 4-H Spirit Night in October.

**Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!****Getting Started**

- Your 4-H Advisor and/or Extension Office can provide a list of possible sources of animals.
- It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting.



- Create a relationship with a veterinarian in your area. Verify that they are willing and able to see your animal(s) should the need arise and share contact information so that you are prepared.
- Make sure pen size is adequate. 6'x 6' minimum per head.
- Straw or wood shavings can be used for bedding. Concrete floor is best because hogs like to root and can be destructive to stone or dirt floors.
- Make sure building has good ventilation and ample amount of shade from direct sun. **HOGS WILL SUNBURN EASILY!!**
- Supply CLEAN water often.
- Fresh feed can be offered in a self-feeder or fed by hand.
  - A hog should consume approximately 6 lb. of feed per day.
  - They should have an average daily gain of 2 lb.
- Do not switch feed all at once. Use a gradual method of introducing new feed. Check with breeder or local feed store nutritionist for feed recommendations.

### Working With Your Hog

- Begin when you take possession of your hog.
- You may use a whip, length of PVC pipe, or cane to drive your hog.
- Start out walking in a small, confined area and as the hog(s) get used to you, gradually start walking them in a larger space.
- Work 15-20 minutes daily with your hog(s) to help build stamina.
- Never hit the hog on the loin (back) or the ham (butt). When needed tap them on their sides.
- Be cautious with excess use of whip or cane especially with white hogs as they can leave marks.
- When temperatures are warm you can begin bathing you hog. Avoid getting water in their ears! If the hog is very warm, just put water on their nose to avoid sudden cold-water shock which can lead to death of animal.





**IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAIR PARTICIPATION: \* = mandatory**

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than March 15	<a href="https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in">https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in</a>	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
*Own Animal	May 1		5 & 9
*Quality Assurance	No later than June 1	With 4-H Advisor or at a county training	5
*Register with Fair	No later than June 1	FairEntry online website See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	10
Sign-up for Showmanship	No later than June 1	FairEntry online website See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	8
Turn in Drug Use Notification Form	Fair Weigh-In (for market animals only)	See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	10
*Barn Meeting	Saturday (day before fair begins)		11
*Fair Weigh-In	Saturday (day before fair begins)		11
*Animal Show			8-9, 11
Showmanship Show			11
*Clean Pen	Last day of fair	Wood County Fairgrounds	6

See WOOD COUNTY FAIR Website

**Project Requirement for Exhibition at the Wood County Fair**

Participation is an opportunity available to you because you are a 4-H member. Exhibition at the Wood County Fair is not mandatory to fulfill the commitments of taking your 4-H project, but it is highly recommended. If you are interested in exhibiting a swine project at the Wood County Fair, you need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirements include:

- You must be enrolled in 4-H (or FFA), no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, in the project you want to exhibit.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.
- You must own your animal(s) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.



- You must register your animals in FairEntry online by the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Complete a Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) online by the Fair Weigh-In on Saturday (prior to the fair start day).
- All Junior Fair Livestock Rules apply. Swine identification will be three pictures of each pig enrolled in FairEntry. The pictures are one of each side (two total side pictures) and a head shot clearly showing the ear notches. All pictures will be required to be uploaded to FairEntry at the time exhibitor is entering fair classes.
  - No one animal(s) may be enrolled by more than one 4-H member, except for siblings (full, half or step), who may enter the same animal(s) separately in FairEntry.
  - Exhibitors entering in the Wood County Born and Raised market hog contest must identify those animals by uploading a receipt in FairEntry from the breeder where it was purchased, but it does not need to include the amount paid.
- Exhibitors may show a maximum of 6 hogs, any combination of market hogs and gilts for a total of 6 hogs. Gilts can only be entered as either market or breeding, not both.
- Exhibitor pen assignments will be determined by 4-H/FFA Advisors. Club level pen assignments will be delivered to Advisors around the middle of July. Advisors will assign specific pens to their respective exhibitors within their allocation and submit the assignments to the Swine Department. Fair officials will then be able to communicate directly with Advisors as the need arises during fair week and will use the submitted assignments to track pigs going on the truck.
- Health Requirements for the Swine Department are found at the front of the fair book.
- The fair veterinarian is the only person(s) who may possess and administer controlled substances in the swine barn.
- All hogs must be free of performance enhancing drugs during the swine show.
- Ractopamine/Paylean is now allowed at the Wood County Fair.
- Physical tampering of hogs to improve show performance is strictly prohibited and could include forfeiture of premium monies or expulsion from the show or future shows.
- Exhibitors are responsible for daily care of their projects, including, but not limited to feeding, watering, cleaning pens and manure management (all manure must be dumped in appropriate areas). Failure to maintain a healthy and humane environment may result in disciplinary action, which could include forfeiture of premium monies or expulsion from the show or future shows. REMINDER: Exhibitors must provide their own waterers.
- Any acts determined to be cruel or inhumane may result in immediate expulsion from the show and may result in additional punishment for future years.
- Water is the only acceptable topical substance to be used on show day. Example: oils, powders, or paints are unacceptable. If a substance is found, the hog will be disqualified from the show.
  - Sprayers will be available for use by exhibitors once they enter the holding area.
  - Only exhibitors and show personnel will be allowed into the holding area.
- Pens must be cleaned out on the last day of fair or no premium (this includes tack pens). Pen mats must be picked up and are to be hung on the sides of the pens.



- All swine must weigh 210 lbs. or heavier to be eligible for premiums.
  - a. Hogs may be re-weighed only if their weight is less than 210 lbs. Reweighing must take place immediately and will be the final weight.
  - b. Hogs weighing less than 210 lbs. will show in an exhibition class but will not be eligible for grand champion competition or the premium sale.
  - c. The maximum market weight is 290 lbs.
- Exhibitors may exhibit any breed with an established registry in the United States (Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Landrace, Poland China, Spot, Tamworth and Yorkshire) or Crossbreds.
  - a. There will be no minimum requirement for a breed to be offered. All breeds will be offered for both breeding and market classes.
- Purebred registration papers for purebred barrows and gilts are required. They MUST be presented during fair weigh-in or pigs will show as crossbreds. Registration papers and breed characteristics will be evaluated during the fair weigh-in process.
  - a. Ownership information on pedigree(s) must match the name of the exhibitor at the Wood County Fair. Farm names, failing to explicitly list the exhibitor, are not acceptable for establishing proof of ownership. If John Doe is showing at the fair, John Doe must be listed as an owner on the pedigree.
    - i. Example: Doe Family Farms – fails to explicitly establish John Doe as an owner and is not acceptable.
    - ii. Example: Doe Family Farms: John Doe, Jane Doe and Julie Doe, explicitly establishes John as an owner and is acceptable.
  - b. Ear notches on pedigree(s) must match the pig being exhibited.
  - c. Any pigs failing to meet pedigree or breed characteristic requirements (according to their respective breed association) will show as crossbreds.
  - d. Swine Committee decisions related to pedigree and breed characteristic requirements are considered final.
  - e. Purebred paperwork must show ownership date of no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of current year.
- Champions, Reserve Champions, third, fourth and fifth overall, will be selected for all breeds, and overall champions.
  - a. The 3 highest placing hogs per class will be eligible for top 5 honors for breeds with more than one class.
    - i. If divisions are offered, the top 5 for that breed will be selected from the top 5 within each respective division.
  - b. Only Breed Champions and Reserve Breed Champions will be eligible for Overall Top 5 honors.
- This is a partial-terminal show. Grand champion overall and reserve grand champion overall market hogs will be harvested. All other market hogs will either:
  - a. Sell through premium sale and be harvested via the Fair Board provided truck on Saturday night or Sunday morning or \*self-transported custom harvest using a slaughter verification form (leave same time as retained ownership)





- b. Sell directly to market via the Fair Board provided truck on Saturday night or Sunday morning or \*self-transported custom harvest using a slaughter verification form (leave same time as retained ownership)
- c. Remove from fairgrounds the morning after the show starting at 6:30 am and ending at 8:30 am and retain ownership (must complete a retained ownership form and be released by the swine committee chair or designate)
- Breeding gilts are not eligible for premium sale but may be consigned to market or retained and removed at the same time as retained market hogs.

#### **SHOWMANSHIP:**

- Sign up in FairEntry by June 1 deadline. If in doubt, sign up, as fair sign up will not be allowed.
- Showmanship will be divided by showman age as of January 1st of current year.
- All exhibitors must show their own hog in showmanship.
- Age divisions are: 16-18, 14-15, 12-13, 10-11, and 8-9 years old.
- Winners from 14-15 and 16-18 age divisions will compete to represent the Swine Department in Showmanship Sweepstakes. All other division winners will compete for overall junior showman.

#### **BREEDING GILTS:**

- Breeding gilts must be farrowed on or after December 1 of the prior year.
- Purebred breeding gilts will show by age within their respective breed.
- Crossbred breeding gilts will show by weight.
- Exhibitors must determine if gilts are market or breeding projects when they are entered in FairEntry. Gilts cannot be entered in both project areas; exhibitors must choose one or the other area at the time of FairEntry enrollment. Changes will not be allowed after the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

#### **MARKET HOGS:**

- Purebred market hogs will show by weight only (barrows and gilts together).
- Crossbred market hogs will show by sex and weight (barrows and gilts show separately).

#### **WOOD COUNTY BORN AND RAISED:**

- County Born and Raised must upload a receipt in FairEntry from the breeder where it was purchased, but it does not need to include the amount paid.
- Before the grand drives, we will show for county born and raised breeding and market hogs. These hogs will be shown by weight and division if the numbers require the need for divisions. There will be a top five (5) picked for county born and raised.





#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- In instances where a packer may assess a fee for reasons related to added slaughter procedures, the fee will be incurred by the exhibitor. Warning: Shaved pigs have a higher-than-average chance of incurring added slaughter charges.
  - a. Hogs should not be clipped shorter than ½ inch.
- Anyone wishing to relocate animals in the barn, (even within their own club) must first seek approval from the Junior or Senior Fair Swine Committee.
- The protest procedure is described elsewhere in the Fair Book. Anyone suspecting foul play of any kind should refer to that area and follow the outlined steps to file a protest.

#### **Duration of the Project**

- Market hogs must be owned by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Most exhibitors will have their projects purchased between April 1 and May 1. Therefore, the hogs should be born anywhere between the middle of January and the middle of February.
- Weigh hogs periodically during the summer. The weight range for the Wood County Fair is 210 lb.-290 lb.
- Closer to the fair, weighing is important, so you know if you need to adjust the amount of feed you are feeding your hogs for them to make weight.
- Study for the Skill-a-thon!
- Make sure you take beginning pictures of your hogs and ending pictures of your hogs for your project record book for interview judging.
- Keep ALL records of feed used and all medications given (if any).

#### **Preparing Your Hog to Show**

- Keep pens very clean leading up to the fair. This will help to keep the pigs clean as well.
- You can clip the hair on your pigs if you want, but it MUST have a minimum length of 1/2 inch short.

#### **Things to Pack for Fair**

- Feed and feed pan
- Water source: 3' x 6" PVC pipe with a nipple; attach the pipe to the side of the pen with zipties
- Wood shavings are preferred bedding
- Show box or tote for equipment/supplies
- Bottle of liquid soap
- Whip/Cane
- Brush



- Show clothing attire per dress code: Collared shirt with no logos, pants with no holes, closed toed shoes preferably leather (no tennis shoes).
- On show day you will want to wash you hog(s) close to show time, so they are clean and well presented to the judge.

### **Fair Entries and Fair Rules**

Each exhibitor is responsible for creating a fair entry for every animal that you plan to bring to the fair. Registering in 4-HOnline does not register you for fair. You register for fair in the FairEntry online program (with instruction from the Junior Fair Coordinator) by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Instruction on this will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is very important to attend meetings). Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the fair entry process.

When you choose to become a Junior Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general fair rules and the department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Wood County Fair website or in the Fair Book under Junior Fair Rules, Swine.

You should also be familiar with Ohio Revised Code Sections 901.70, 901.71, 901.72, 901.73, 901.74, 901.75, 901.76, 901.99 and 2925.94. These govern all livestock shows in the state of Ohio.

It is important to note that at the fair, the only people permitted to care for, fit, clip, or groom your animal are your immediate family members, 4-H Advisors, or other members of your club and assistance is limited to explanation and minimal demonstration (ORC 901.19.31).

### **Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF)**

If you are exhibiting a Market animal you are required, by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to submit a DUNF immediately prior to the Fair. This form requires you to declare the use of any medication that has been given to your animal. An online link will be sent to you by email to use for completing your form. You are not eligible to exhibit a market animal until this form is submitted to ODA.

### **Activities that will take place at the Fair**

The following Fair related activities are described below: Arrival/departure, Barn Meeting, Weigh-in, Classes Posted, Showmanship and Show, and Junior Fair Livestock Sale.

### **Arrival & Departure**

Check the Fair Schedule and/or ask your Advisor to confirm the window of time you must arrive with your animal to the fairgrounds. Upon arrival, find you assigned pen and unload your hogs efficiently, so as not to create a line. There are Barn Superintendents in the Barn on arrival day to answer questions.

Move in will be Saturday, (day before the fair begins), starting at 8:00 am and ending at 2:30 pm. **ALL** hogs must be in place by 2:30 pm Saturday (before the fair begins).



If you are not going to sell your hog through the Junior Fair Livestock Sale; check the time that animals are released at the end of Fair week; meaning this is the time you can re-load and take your animal home. Load out will be the morning after the show starting at 6:30 am and ending at 8:30 am.

### **Barn Meeting**

Confirm the Fair Schedule for the time of the Barn Meeting. At 2:45 pm, on Saturday (day before the fair begins), there will be a barn meeting covering the week's events, the weigh-in process and what to expect for the week.

### **Weigh-In**

Weigh-in will take place on Saturday (move-in day) in the afternoon in the show ring area of the Pavilion. You MUST bring your hog(s) to the scales at the correct time to be eligible to show. There will be Barn Superintendents in the barn to direct and help you get to the scales, but you MUST be present to get your hogs weighed.

### **Classes Posted**

Once all hogs are weighed, classes will be created by dividing the Gilts and Barrows in approximately equal size classes based on their weights. These classes will be posted on the Swine Barn bulletin board. It is your responsibility to review the class posting for accuracy. Check to see that the gender, hog ear tag number, and weight are correct. If you have questions about the class posting, contact the Junior Fair Coordinator immediately for assistance.

### **Showmanship and Show Classes**

There are 3 different types of classes within the Swine Show:

1. Showmanship Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the showmanship skills of the Exhibitor (you!). These classes are divided by the age of the exhibitor (age 16-18, 14-15, 12-13, 10-11, 8-9 years old). These classes will be posted in the Swine Barn. Check the posting for accuracy. If there is an error on the class listing or if you need to drop from Showmanship, notify the Junior Fair Coordinator immediately. Participation in your Showmanship class is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
2. Market Gilt and Market Barrow Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the conformation of the hog. These classes are divided by the weight of the hog. Following weigh-in, these classes will be posted in the Swine Barn. Check the posting to see which Class you are in. It is required to participate in showing your hog to be eligible for awards and to be eligible to sell your hog in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale.
3. Breeding Gilt Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the conformation of the hog. These classes are divided by the breed of the hog. Following weigh-in, these classes will be posted in



the Swine Barn. Check the posting to see which class you are in. It is required to participate in showing your hog to be eligible for awards.

The Swine Show will begin with Showmanship Classes, followed by Breeding Gilts, Market Classes and Grand Champion Drives. Check the Barn Bulletin Board and listen for announcements on Show Day for any updates.

### **Champion Project Award Qualifications**

- More details to come.

### **Junior Fair Livestock Sale**

- Make sure you are signed up for the online Livestock Showcase and Sale in FairEntry by June 1st. Refer to the sale section of Fair Book to ensure all steps have been completed.

### **Finishing your Swine project**

When the project year is concluded its time to thank the people that have helped you with your project. It's a great idea to send thank you notes to:

- The buyer(s) of your animal if you participated in the Junior Fair Sale.
- Your 4-H Advisors.
- Other folks who helped you with your project (helped clip your hog for example).
- The sponsors of any awards, ribbons, banners, or other recognition you received.

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<https://www.woodcounty-fair.com/>

Guide Credit: Christy Leeds, 4-H Extension Educator & Assistant Professor – Union County, Ohio