

# 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
140BR	Breeding Swine	Raise and show a Breeding Gilt to a minimum weight of 210 lbs. (at fair weigh-in)
140MA	Market Hog	Raise and show a Market Hog to a minimum weight of 210 lbs. (at fair weigh-in)

## Project Literature

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

- **Swine Resource Handbook** (\$28) - Designed to be used for all years of your swine projects
- **Swine Project and Record Book** (\$12) - 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.
- Optional Supplement – **Beef, Sheep, and Swine Selection and Evaluation** (\$12) – This optional resource is for beginners who want to learn more about selecting and evaluating livestock. Purchase only once and refer to it when selecting projects.

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)
<b>*Enroll in 4-H</b>	No later than March 15	<a href="https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in">https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in</a>	2
<b>*4-H Project Interview Judging</b>	Thursday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
<b>Skill-a-thon</b>	Thursday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	3

**Activities that will take place in order to complete your 4-H swine project.**

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 4-H Project Interview Judging**

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 Study Resources:
  - <https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/swine>
- 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 your 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 the animal.



### Wood County Junior Fair Participation

All Wood County Junior Fair Swine information can be found here: <https://www.woodcounty-fair.com/swine> or in the Wood County Fair Book (printed annually each spring.)

### Project Requirement for Exhibition at the Wood County Junior 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 (additional mandatory requirements can be found online):

- 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 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 required date set by Junior Fair.
- Health Requirements can be found under the Junior Fair Rules & Guidelines section in the Wood County Fair Book.

### 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 ½ inch short.

### Things to Pack for Fair (may not be a complete list)



- 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 (no straw at fair)
- 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).

Should you have any questions about rules, please contact the Fair Board Swine Committee.

---

\*\*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.

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

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

