

Swine Project Guide

Helpful information for your Swine project (Richwood version)

There are 2 swine projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member:

#	Title	Description
139	Market Hog	Raise and show a market hog
140	Swine Breeding	** this project can NOT be exhibited at the Richwood Fair, however; 4-Hers who want to exhibit breeding swine at the Ohio State Fair need to enroll in this project to be eligible to exhibit there. **

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**, (\$8.) Obtain and keep for the resource information it contains Note: do not use for your annual record keeping.
- **Union County Livestock Project Record Book** (free) Download this document and use as your Record book for your project. Keep a new one each year.

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 book and use it to keep your annual project records.

Note to those with Food Animal 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 Union County Livestock Record Book to keep this information.

Participation in Richwood Junior Fair

If you are interested in exhibiting a swine project at the Richwood Fair,

You need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirement include:

- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of July 1st.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meetings, doing a demonstration, etc.
- You must own your animal(s) by June 1st, 2023
- You must register your animals (submit photos and info) online by the deadline of June 8th.
- In coordination with your 4-H Advisor you must submit a Fair entry card by the Fair entry deadline of August 1st.

Market Hog Classes

The Richwood Fair has classes for both market gilts(females) and market barrows (castrated males). You can show a maximum of 3 single hogs, with a maximum of 2 per gender.

For both Market Gilts and Barrows the Champion and Reserve Champion animals are terminal, meaning they must go to market.

Market gilts and barrows are weighed on the first day of the fair and classes are divided by weight.

Additional Requirements for market hogs

●Repeat: You must register your hogs(s) online by June 6. You can register a maximum of 6.

Getting Started

- 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!!**
- Good supply of CLEAN water.
- Fresh feed can be offered in a self-feeder or fed by hand.
 - A hog should consume approximately 6# of feed per day.
 - They should have an average daily gain of 2#.
- 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.

Duration of the Project

- Market hogs must be owned by June 1st. Most people will have their projects purchased by late April through the middle of May.
- Weigh hogs periodically during the summer. The weight range for the Richwood Fair is 210#-285#.
- 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 skillathon!
- Make sure you take beginning pictures of your hogs and ending pictures of your hogs for your feed record book for the skillathon.
- Keep ALL records of feed used and all medications given (if any).

Working With Your Hog

- Start when you get your hog.
- You may use a whip 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.

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.

Things to Pack for Fair

- Feed/ Water pans/buckets
- 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

- 4-H Advisor coordinate the submission of Fair entry cards. Discussion of and completion of Fair entry cards will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is very important to attend meetings). It is your responsibility to communicate with your 4-H Advisor about what you want to enter in the Fair and the details of your entry.
- Richwood Junior Fair entries are due to the Fair Board on August 1st. Therefore: completing entry cards will take place in July. Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the Fair entry process.
- When you choose to become a Jr 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 Richwood Fair website or in the fair paper under Jr Fair Rules.
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, 4H 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, Skillathon, Showmanship and Show, Jr Fair 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 your 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.

If you are not going to sell your hog through the Jr 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.

Barn Meeting

Check the Fair Schedule for the time of the Barn Meeting. Usually, a Barn Meeting for all Exhibitors will be held on Wednesday morning of the Fair, prior to weigh in.

Weigh-In

Check the Fair Schedule, and listen at the Barn meeting, for the weigh in time for hogs. 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. Your picture will also be taken with your hog during weigh in.

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 Jr Fair Board office immediately for assistance.

Showmanship and Show Classes

There are 2 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 therefore divided by the age of the exhibitor. These classes will be posted in the Swine Barn. Check the posting for accuracy. 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 Jr Fair Livestock Sale.

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

Skillathon

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 at the fair, you will go into the Skillathon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are typically 3 levels: juniors (8-10 years old), intermediates (11-13 years old), and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn outstanding ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Swine Skillathon is an activity that takes place at the Fair. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Swine project. The goal of the Skillathon is to facilitate learning about your Swine project and practice other life skills (interviewing for example).

- It is *expected* that you participate in the Swine Skillathon.
- A Swine Skillathon Study Guide is available which outlines what each topic and station in the Skillathon will be about. The Study Guide can be found on the Union County 4-H web site <https://union.osu.edu/program-areas/4-H-youth-development/study-guides-skillathon-information>
- Information for the Swine Skillathon can be found in your Swine Resource Handbook or is attached to the Study Guide
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who do well in the Skillathon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes.

Premier Exhibitor Award Qualifications

- Premier Exhibitor is an award given to 1 Exhibitor per specie which recognizes the individual which has the best overall Combination of Skillathon score (40%), Showmanship (40%), market class placing (20%).
- To be eligible an exhibitor must; show a market animal project, participate in Skillathon, and participate in Showmanship.

Jr Fair Livestock Sale

The Richwood Fair Jr Fair Livestock Sale is held on Monday, the last day of the Fair.

Exhibitors with market animals are eligible to sell ONE animal through the Jr Fair Sale, if they have met eligibility criteria (shown their animal, animal is within correct weight range, turned in Sale Designation form on time, etc).

During the Swine Show: Sale Designation Forms will be made available to all Exhibitors. If you want to sell a hog through the Jr Fair Sale, you must complete the Sale Designation Form, indicating which hog you want to place in the Jr Fair Sale, and turn in the Form by the end of the Swine Show. You MUST be present during the Jr Fair Sale on Monday in order to sell your hog.

A Sale Catalog (list of animals for sale) will be created and posted. It is generally posted in the Barn on Sunday of the Fair. Check the posted Catalog to see where you are in the Sale order so you can be ready.

Once your animal is sold through the Sale; the Sale Committee will handle loading and transporting your animal on behalf of the buyer. Your responsibility is to keep your animal watered and comfortable until it is loaded, and to clean your pen once the animal is loaded.

Extra Animals;

Many exhibitors will have an "extra" animal or 2, because you can only sell one animal through the Jr Fair Livestock Sale. It is your responsibility to decide and make arrangements for your extra animal(s). Options usually include:

- take the animal home
- sell the animal to the Re-sale bidder arranged by the Sale Committee. To do this you will complete a form, in the Jr Fair Office. The market price being offered will be posted there.
- sell the animal privately. You would be entirely responsible for loading, transportation and all other aspects of the sale if you sell your extra animals privately

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 of your animal if you participated in the Jr 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