



## Swine Project Brief

### Learning Objectives

- Practice the life skills of decision making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing and learning to learn.
- Understand the swine industry
- Recognize proper management and care of swine.
- Enhance showmanship skills
- Understand desirable carcass characteristics
- Keep records on your swine project
- Understand proper grooming and exhibiting techniques for swine
- Complete the Show Me Quality Assurance Program
- Identify swine selection characteristics

### Fair Projects (building)

- Educational poster on pig body parts
- Chart explaining various swine breeds
- Selection process of pigs
- Educational poster about common swine parasites and their lifecycles
- Diagram displaying what food comes from which pig body parts
- Poster display of nutrients a pig needs
- Describe ideal breeding characteristics
- Swine show kit

### Demonstration Ideas

- How to judge a pig
- Cure a ham
- How to read a feed tag
- How to vaccinate a pig
- How to ear notch
- Understanding grooming techniques
- How to show a pig based on showmanship skills
- Cooking with pork
- How to keep records
- How to select a good ham

### Field Trips

- Veterinary clinic
- Meat processor
- Meat packing industry
- Swine farm

### Ideas for Speech Topics

- Swine diseases
- Swine by-products
- Health of eating pork
- Swine breeds
- History of swine production
- Raising a pig

### Critical Thinking

- Name at least one breed of swine and describe it.
- What is one characteristic to look for when selecting an "ideal" pig and explain it.
- What part of the pig does bacon come from?
- Name at least one by-product from swine explain its function.
- Name one parasite that affects swine and explain its lifecycle.
- What is one disease a pig may develop and what are its effects?
- How much minimum floor space should a pig weighing 40 to 100 lbs have?
- What are two "bad" places to tap a pig when showing and why?
- How does carcass quality affect marketing?
- What is PSE and how does it affect meat quality?

### Community Service

- Volunteer at a veterinary clinic
- Hold a swine showmanship clinic
- Help at a local swine farm
- Bring a pig to a petting zoo

### Science & Technology

How have you used science and technology in this project area?

#### Examples:

- Understand the gestation period of swine
- Describe how the horse and swine digestive are similar to humans.
- Understand the life cycle of hog louse
- Identify the parts of a pig

## Show Me Character

**Trustworthiness** - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- daily feeding, watering of animals (promise keeping)
- adheres to possession deadlines (honesty)
- adheres to withdrawal times on drugs and dewormer
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs

**Respect** - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- proper handling of animals, treat humanely
- proper care of animals
- listens to and follows advice of advisors
- recognizes that animal projects are dependent on 4-H'er and provides daily feed and water

**Responsibility** - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- daily feeding and watering (even on the busy, difficult days)
- beyond providing the daily needs of the animal in giving additional time and attention to produce a winner
- adheres to deadlines for entry forms and for arrival at livestock shows
- never gives up in the show ring (perseverance)

**Fairness** - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- feed only approved livestock rations
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs
- accepts winning or losing with grace
- conduct in the show ring follows recommended procedure fitting and grooming of animals follows recommended procedures

**Caring** - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- daily feeding and watering
- provides clean barn/stall for animal
- treats animal humanely at all times

**Citizenship** - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- accepting instructions
- winning and losing with grace
- helping others at stock shows
- teaching younger members
- treating animals humanely
- ensuring that your meat animal is safe for consumption

## Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Health/Physical Education** – consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health)
- **Communication Arts** – participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Mathematics** – data analysis, probability and statistics
- **Science** – characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** – economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

## Resources

### 181 Swine

Y620 4-H Project Record  
LG783 Learning by Doing

Swine Resources Handbook order #134R from Ohio at 614-292-1607 or [pubs@ag.osu.edu](mailto:pubs@ag.osu.edu)

Livestock Judging Manual

<http://4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/livestockjudgingmanual.pdf>  
(PDF 640 KB)

Missouri Show Me Quality Assurance

<http://4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/#quality>

## To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone at 1-800-292-0969  
For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or [www.4-hmall.org/](http://www.4-hmall.org/)