



# 4-H SWINE PROJECT



## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Give a tail docking demonstration

### Citizenship

- Volunteer your baby pig for ag-in-the-classroom at school
- Participate in a “food-for-life” project donating to food pantries
- Volunteer to help at the county livestock judging event at the swine station

### Leadership

- Lead other 4-H members in participating in local pork producer events
- Teach others how to safely handle swine at a FSQA session
- Lead a swine showmanship and grooming session prior to your county fair

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER

## Are You Into It?

In the 4-H swine project you can learn about breeds, health care, production, management, showmanship, marketing and careers.

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of livestock
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Learn nutritive value of swine products and promote their use

## Here’s what you can do all year!

<b>Starting Out</b> Basic / Level 1	<b>Learning More</b> Intermediate / Level 2	<b>Expanding Horizons</b> Advanced / Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn breed names and descriptions</li> <li>• Identify swine body parts</li> <li>• Learn how to judge swine</li> <li>• Plan a facility to keep swine safe and healthy</li> <li>• Learn how to feed and water your pig</li> <li>• Identify how a normal pig looks and acts</li> <li>• Name and describe pork meat cuts</li> <li>• Discover pork by-products</li> <li>• Conduct a pork cooking and tasting experiment</li> <li>• Prepare to show your swine at the fair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn differences in preparing pork cuts by cooking and tasting</li> <li>• Explore normal pig characteristics</li> <li>• Discover agriculture careers</li> <li>• Outline a pig health care plan</li> <li>• Understand swine management practices</li> <li>• Analyze and make decisions on how to solve swine issues</li> <li>• Formulate a swine ration</li> <li>• Plan and conduct a pork promotional activity</li> <li>• Help others learn each of the baby pig management practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Adopt” a younger person and help him or her explore the swine project</li> <li>• Organize a judging clinic</li> <li>• Plan and conduct a swine showmanship clinic for younger members</li> <li>• Arrange questions and hold a swine quiz bowl</li> <li>• Plan swine breeding</li> <li>• Research state or national swine organizations</li> <li>• Learn about swine genetics</li> <li>• Interview agencies about environmental issues</li> </ul>



## Take Swine further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Swine:

- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration
- Compare feed tags from different companies
- Visit a local meat locker or local grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging
- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts, quality grade, yield grade and how these affect taste and cost
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Attend a swine show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging hogs
- Participate in a judging team
- Tour a hog operation
- Research swine by-products
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and take the swine track, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair swine show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. [www.iastate.edu](http://www.iastate.edu)

## Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa 4-H Swine <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine">www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine</a></li> <li>• National 4-H Swine <a href="http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-swine/">http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-swine/</a></li> <li>• The Incredible Pig Level 1 (4H 721A)</li> <li>• Hamming It Up Level 2 (4H 721B)</li> <li>• Going Whole Hog Level 3 (4H 721C)</li> <li>• Swine Leader Guide (4H 721 LDR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa Pork Industry Center <a href="http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/">http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/</a></li> <li>• Iowa Pork Producer's Association <a href="http://www.iowapork.org">www.iowapork.org</a></li> <li>• National Pork Board <a href="http://www.pork.org">www.pork.org</a></li> <li>• Iowa State Animal Science <a href="http://www.ans.iastate.edu/">www.ans.iastate.edu/</a></li> <li>• Iowa State Swine Teaching Farm <a href="http://www.ans.iastate.edu/centers/swine/?pg=visit">www.ans.iastate.edu/centers/swine/?pg=visit</a></li> <li>• National Swine Registry <a href="http://www.nationalswine.com">www.nationalswine.com</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Animals -Record Worksheet (4H-228JR) -Project Worksheet (4H-228WS)</li> <li>• Breeding Animals -Record Worksheet (4H-229JR) -Project Worksheet (4H-229WS)</li> <li>• County Swine ID Report (4H 106F)</li> </ul>

### Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H swine show
  - Market Hog
  - Pen of three
  - Breeding Gilt
  - Showmanship
  - Derby show
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a swine-related topic
  - Nutritive value of pork
  - Pork meat cuts and proper preparation
  - Feeding rations
  - Importance of reading feed labels
  - Preventative vaccinations
  - Photos of different swine breeds
  - Daily routine in caring for animals
  - Grooming techniques
  - Best care techniques for newborns
  - Hog by-products
  - Impact of local foods on local economy
  - Pros and cons of a farrow to finish operation vs. grower operation
  - Bio-security measures for livestock farmers
  - Research where the pork checkoff dollars are used
  - Selection and how to judge a market hog or breeding gilt
  - How to register an animal with the National Swine Registry
  - Proper exercising techniques for show pigs
  - Caring for pigs in hot weather
  - Appropriate animal handling techniques
  - Explain how to read pig ear notches