



SWINE PROJECT GUIDEBOOK



Species-Chair:

Nicolette Brown * nbrown7@mhc.net * 231-883-9523

Assistant Species-Chair:

IMPORTANT DATES		IMPORTANT INFO	
Registration	February 1 st	Minimum Weight @ Fair	225 lbs
Birth Date	After January 1 st , 2021	Maximum Weight @ Fair	315lbs
Possession	May 1 st	Record Book	Required
Tagging	TBD	Thank You Note	Required

General Requirements

- ◆ Participating youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Member Guidebook. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, etc.
- ◆ To participate in a 4-H market swine project, youth must attain the age of eight (8) or older by January 1st of that calendar year.
- ◆ Registration is due to the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Auction Committee no later than the February council meeting.
 - Each 4-H member must complete their own individual registration form.
 - A club registration form must be filled out by the club leader and turned in at the February Livestock Council meeting.
 - On the club registration form, leaders must identify which pigs are being housed together. Pigs that are raised on the same property will be housed together at the fair. (NOTE: Pigs do not need to be housed in the same pen at home, but must be in pens next to or very near each other)
- ◆ Each 4-H market swine participant may tag an extra hog, for a cost of \$10.00 to be paid on tagging day. The extra hog may only be used within the family that purchased the hog and only one (1) market hog may be brought to the fair per 4-H member. Bring your best pig!
- ◆ Youth are required to complete a project record book depicting their experience from beginning to end of the project. It is recommended that youth weigh and photograph their project at time of purchase.

Animal Requirements

- ◆ Hogs can be a barrow or gilt
- ◆ Hogs must be born after January 1st so that it is not more than seven (7) months of age by fair time. For the Northwestern Michigan Fair, hogs should be born mid to late January.
- ◆ Hogs must be in possession or under the care of the 4-H member on or before May 1st.
- ◆ Tagging:
 - All market swine must be tagged with a USDA 840id tag.
 - All pigs must be hauled to the fairgrounds in May (dates to be determined each year) for tagging or tag verification.
- ◆ Weight Requirements:
 - To enter a market class, hogs must weigh between 225 and 315 pounds
 - Members who have swine that weigh less than 225 or more than 315 pounds at weigh-in will still participate in 4-H Showmanship, but will NOT participate in 4-H market or the livestock auction
 - Members will be expected to remove the animal from the fairgrounds at the end of fair week or make arrangements with the Livestock Council to send it on the slaughter truck for a specified fee
 - No "For Sale" signs can be posted and the member CANNOT sell the hog via private treaty while at the fair
- ◆ Vaccinations:
 - Hogs must receive an initial shot and booster that includes: Microplasma, Influenza, Erysipelas, and Circovirus.
 - Most hogs are vaccinated by the breeder. If so, be sure to have the breeder fill out their portion of the Swine Health Record.
 - If the breeder does not vaccinate, the 4-H member will have to purchase their own vaccinations.
 - Give the initial shot and the booster may be given 21-28 days later.
 - Vaccinations MUST be completed before May 31st
 - The 4-H member will then fill out the Swine Health Record
 - Be sure to follow all instructions on the manufacturer's label
- ◆ Deworming:
 - Follow all directions on the label
 - Be sure to pay close attention to the date of worming and the withdrawal time
 - Note the date given and brand on the Swine Health Record

Fair Week Requirements

- ◆ Weigh-in takes place while unloading at the fair.
 - The Swine Health Record must be filled out, signed, and presented in order to unload at the fair.
 - Youth must be present at time of unloading to care for the swine. If not possible, then another responsible person must be present in addition to the driver of the vehicle/trailer.
- ◆ Youth are responsible for providing enough feed to care for their hog throughout the entire week. No feed, feed bags, or supplies are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at the campsite).

- ◆ Youth are responsible for feeding, watering, and caring for their animal the entire week.
- ◆ Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean all week.
- ◆ Show Requirements:
 - Members with a registered breed are required to be shown in the appropriate showmanship class.
 - Youth are required to show in the appropriate showmanship and market classes in order to auction their pig
 - The body of your hog may be clipped to ½ inch or longer. DO NOT shave your pig.
- ◆ At the end of fair youth are responsible for emptying and cleaning their pen

Helpful Info

- ◆ Cost:
 - Most swine will cost between \$200 and \$400
- ◆ Housing: Swine must:
 - Be kept out of drafts
 - Be sheltered from weather
 - Have room to move
 - Have proper bedding (straw or sawdust)
- ◆ Nutrition:
 - Fresh water at all times. Ensure that it does not freeze if the weather gets cold
 - Swine should be fed a 14-18% protein grain mixture
 - Swine should be fed 2 times a day
 - If possible, weigh swine to watch their weight and adjust feed as needed
- ◆ Health:
 - Observe daily: Note any difference in behavior (not eating, not getting up, coughing, sluggish, etc) or any difference in appearance (bloating, runny nose, mucus eyes, etc). Changes in behavior or appearance usually indicate something is wrong; seek help or advise from a veterinarian immediately
 - Wash your swine several times before coming to fair and clip them just before coming to fair.
 - ALWAYS start with the legs so that the swine can get used to the cool water; putting cold water on their body first can cause them to go into shock
 - DO NOT shave
 - Keep pen clean and dry (especially with light colored swine)
 - Keep fly strips in the barn and pen, high enough so the swine and children cannot reach them
- ◆ Training:
 - Start slow: Begin by just watching and talking to your swine
 - After you have had the swine for a couple of weeks, and with a parents help, start taking the swine out of the pen and walking them. A short time at first, then gradually add more time.
- ◆ Fair Week Show Attire:
 - Clean pants or jeans (free of rips or holes)
 - Button up shirt or polo (tucked in and free from logos or writing)

- Protective boots or leather shoes
- Cane or whip, Spray/water bottle, Small pocket brush
- ◆ Fair Week Barn Essentials:
 - Wheelbarrow, rake, shovel, and broom
 - Board for sitting on in the pen
 - Nothing should be left on the board when the youth is not present
 - Boards cannot be used for storage space
 - Members are responsible for keeping their club area free of trash
 - Be sure pens stay clean and dry throughout the day, every day while at fair

Cloverbuds

- ◆ 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1st of the current year)
- ◆ Cloverbuds must still register by the February deadline
- ◆ Cloverbuds may NOT bring their own pig to fair. Cloverbuds should make arrangements to borrow another 4-H member's hog for Cloverbud Showmanship.
- ◆ For safety, Cloverbuds must have an adult in the show ring with them.

Resources

- ◆ Livestock Council's website: www.northwestmichiganlivestock.org
- ◆ *Swine Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects*, Ohio State University; 4-H Circular 134R
- ◆ Swine Learning Lab Kit, Ohio State University – Can be borrowed from MSU Extension Office
- ◆ *Storey's Guide to Raising Pigs*, Kelly Kober, 3rd Edition
- ◆ Resources and Educational workshops offered by MSU Extension/4-H