



# Swine Barn Newsletter



## Welcome to the 2022 Swine Barn

### REMINDERS:

February 7, 2022 – NWMI 4-H Livestock Council Meeting and Swine Registration Due Date

March 7, 2022 – NWMI 4-H Livestock Council Meeting

April 4, 2022 – NWMI 4-H Livestock Council Meeting

May 1, 2022 – Possession Date

May 18, 2022 (6pm – 8pm) and May 22, 2022 (12pm – 3pm) – Tag Verification @ Fair Grounds

Minimum Weight @ Fair: 225 lbs.

Maximum Weight @ Fair: 315 lbs.

Welcome to the 2022 Swine Barn!

I would like to welcome all the 4-Hers to this year's barn and I hope this will be one of the best years ever!

### Reelection of Species Chair

My name is Nicki Brown and was re-elected as the Swine Species Chair in 2021 for a three-year term. It is a privilege to lead this barn for another three years and I thank all of you who put their faith in me and my family for three more years! I hope to bring a new flavor to the barn while honoring the traditions that were formed from those who came before us. My children have been in the swine barn for six years and our family has been in the 4-H program since 2013. We believe in the power of hard work that 4-H instills in our children and also allows them to

feel a part of an amazing community. My Assistant Species Chair is my husband Todd who will be a great asset to our program and will be very helpful this year in the barn.

Todd and I are grateful for the trust so many have given us in running this program and I know this will be a great year! Just so you are aware, Todd and I work on full transparency. If you have a question or concern, we expect you to come directly to us to sort it out. Our contact information is as follows:

#### **Nicki Brown**

Cell: 231-883-9523

Home: 231-930-4131

E-Mail: [swinebarn4H@gmail.com](mailto:swinebarn4H@gmail.com)

#### **Todd Brown**

Cell: 231-883-9528

Home: 231-930-4131

E-Mail: [bigheadbrown@gmail.com](mailto:bigheadbrown@gmail.com)



### Barn Superintendents

I am so glad I am able to welcome back our NWMI Fair Swine Barn Superintendents, Roger and Tara Steffes! Tara is the Swine Superintendent and Roger is the Assistant. Their expertise and knowledge will be welcomed and leaned upon again this year. We are so excited to have them back!

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This is their 5<sup>th</sup> year volunteering to oversee the swine barn. I asked them, "Why do you want to volunteer in the swine barn?"

"Why I wanted to volunteer with the swine barn for the 4H kids of the NWMF and I could only answer one way. Why wouldn't I? The 4H program & kids are amazing. The ones that have the passion for their livestock inspire me to keep up on my knowledge while the ones that are just starting or learning drive me to teach. I find that there is no better way to give back what the NWMF and the swine program has done in our lives along with the shaping of my daughter than to become an integral part of the program and share my passion for agricultural development and swine production with our youth. I believe that our future in agriculture and livestock production lies in our youth and a positive and passionate environment in which the youth grow and learn is important to keeping that alive. I am so proud and blessed to be a part in helping develop our youth and helping teach animal husbandry."

Tara Steffes

Cell: 231-883-5095

E-Mail: [trsteffes@chartermi.net](mailto:trsteffes@chartermi.net)

## Super Seniors and Cloverbuds for 2022

Just a reminder that this year the swine barn will be welcoming back the Super Seniors! I know this has been a question in the past in our barn because of capacity, but this year we will be bringing them back for 2021. We will also be allowing seven-year-old Cloverbuds to be able to bring their own project to the fair if census is below 225 at registration. Please register your Cloverbud by the February 7, 2022, swine registration date and you will be notified by the March Livestock Council Meeting if your seven-year-old will be allowed to bring their own project. We will also be continuing our Cloverbud buddy program where the clover buds can show other 4Hers swine projects.

## Communication for Swine Barn

Reminder, we have a barn e-mail for the swine barn communications. This email can be passed along to new species chairs each term. The e-mail is [swinebarn4H@gmail.com](mailto:swinebarn4H@gmail.com)

Please know, I usually work on my 4H work on Sunday afternoon, if it is an EMERGENT issue, please feel free to call or text throughout the week.

## Reminder on USDA 840 Tag

Reminder regarding the changes from last year on the USDA 840 Tag on your swine project. Please reach out to your breeder asking them to tag your project before possession. The MDARD will no longer provide bulk orders of official Identification tags for fairs or exhibitions. The individual (4Her) or owner of the animal will need to acquire the official identification for the animals.

If your breeder is unable to tag your swine, click on the following link for instruction on how to acquire a Premises Identification Number and then be able purchase you USDA 840 tags:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/pork/swine-exhibition>

If you have any questions on this process, please reach out and we will help navigate with you.

## CHANGES TO THE SWINE GUIDEBOOK

Please look over the Swine Guidebook:  
[www.northwestlivestockcouncil.org/swine](http://www.northwestlivestockcouncil.org/swine)

If you have any questions regarding the Guidebook, please feel free to reach out!

