



Swine Barn Newsletter



Welcome to the 2021 Barn

REMINDERS:

March 1, 2021 – Virtual NWMI 4-H Livestock Council Meeting

May 1, 2021 – Possession Date
TBD – First Weigh In and Tag Verification

Minimum Weight @ Fair: 225 lbs.

Maximum Weight @ Fair: 315 lbs.

Welcome to the 2021 Swine Barn! I know this year will be unlike our normal but hopefully not as restrictive as 2020. 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!

Change of Command

With the many changes we have been facing in this past year, we will also be having a change in command. My name is Nicki Brown and was elected as the new Swine Species Chair for the 2021 year. I am extremely ready for this endeavor and 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 five 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: nbrown7@mhc.net

Todd Brown
Cell: 231-883-9528
Home: 231-930-4131
E-Mail: 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 this year. We are so excited to have them back! This is their 4th 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

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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

Super Seniors is Back

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.

USDA 840 Tag

I just wanted to update you about changes with the National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES) tags for swine in the State of Michigan. 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.

Our solution? Contact your breeder to ask if they are willing to tag your swine for you!

4-H KIDS! Contact your Breeder, ask them if they are able to tag your swine(s) before your possession of them. 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>

Breeder Information Needed by March 1

This year we will be working with all of you to obtain your breeder information. This information will be used to send out the new USDA 840 Tagging rules and also allow them to report their tagging of NWMI Fair Swine to us. Every swine 4Her will need to click on the following link, give the name, phone number, address and e-mail if applicable of their breeder. This will need to be done by Monday, March 1, 2021. If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly. Click on the following link to fill out the form:

<https://forms.gle/E8HoqFoFbh1ay4qiz>



CHANGES TO THE SWINE GUIDEBOOK

Please look over the Swine Guidebook:
www.northwestlivestockcouncil.org/swine

We have new requirements this year regarding parents and 4-Hers responsibilities for volunteering in the barn and also the tagging verification and beginning weigh-ins for swine this year.

