2025 SWINE PROJECT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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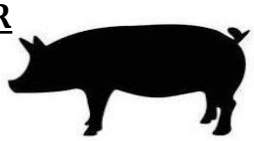

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IMPORTANT DATES			IMPORTANT INFO	
Registration	February 3, 2025		Minimum Weight @ Fair	225 lbs
Birth Date	After January 1, 2025		Maximum Weight @ Fair	315lbs
Possession	May 1, 2025		Record Book (Both Market and show only)	Required Due: 9/8/25
Tagging	Virtual Online Form Due by May 15, 2025		Thank You Note	Required Due: 10/6/25

Participating 4-H youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Policies & Procedures books and the Premium Book of the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, record book and thank you letter requirements, etc.

I. Registration Requirements

A. 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 and be registered with 4-H Online 2.0
B. All Swine Participants (Market, Show only and Cloverbuds) MUST complete the online registration via the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's website NO LATER THAN midnight the first Monday of February.
C. Optional: Each 4-H market swine participant may register an extra hog for $10, to be paid to the Northwestern Michigan Livestock Council by the first Monday of June of the program year. The extra hog may only be used within the family that purchased the hog and only one (1) market swine may be brought to the fair per 4-H member. The swine that weighs is the swine that stays!!!
D. To participate in the 4-H livestock shows and auction at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements listed in the Northwestern Michigan Fair's Premium Book.
E. To participate in the 4-H livestock auction at the fair, youth must register and compete in the appropriate showmanship AND market classes.

II. Animal Requirements

A. Tagging:
1. All market swine must be tagged with a USDA 840 ID tag from the breeder.
2. Virtual tagging checks will be completed by May 15th.
3. Swine must be born after January 1st so that it is about seven (7) months of age by fair time. For the Northwestern Michigan Fair, swine should be born mid to late January.
4. Swine must be in possession or under the care of the 4-H member on or before May 1st.
5. Swine can be a barrow or gilt

B. Vaccinations:
1. Swine must receive vaccination against the following diseases following vaccine manufacturer's label:
    a) Circovirus
    b) Erysipelas
    c) Influenza
    d) Mycoplasma pneumoniae
2. Most swine are partially vaccinated by the breeder:
    a) **Be sure to have the breeder fill out their portion of the Swine Health Record.**
3. If the breeder does not vaccinate, or partially vaccinated, the 4-H member will have to purchase their own vaccinations.
    a) Request your veterinarian to vaccinate your swine project for all needed vaccines.
    b) If you choose to vaccinate the swine yourself, be sure to follow all instructions on the manufacturer's label
    c) Circovirus, Erysipelas, and Mycoplasma have single dose options.
    d) Influenza requires an initial vaccination followed by a booster vaccination 21 days later.
4. Check the dose timing prior to slaughter (i.e. the withdrawal date) for vaccinations, most are 21 days prior to slaughter. Complete your vaccination series by June 15th to ensure adequate withdrawal time before slaughter.
5. The 4-H member must complete the Swine Health Record for all vaccinations provided to the swine.

C. Deworming:
1. Follow all directions on the label
2. Be sure to pay close attention to the date of worming and the withdrawal time
3. Note the date given and brand on the Swine Health Record

D. Weight Requirements:
1. To enter a market class, swine must weigh between 225 and 315 pounds
2. Members who have swine that weigh less than 225 or more than 315 pounds at final weigh-in will still participate in 4-H Showmanship, but will NOT participate in 4-H market or the livestock auction

3. 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
4. No “For Sale” signs can be posted, and the members CANNOT sell the hog via private treaty while on the fairgrounds.

III. Fair Week Requirements

A. General Requirements:
1. Weigh-in takes place while unloading at the fair.
2. Youth must be present or must have made prior arrangements with the species chair for someone else to weigh their animal.
3. A Swine Health Record must be filled out, signed, and presented to the Barn Superintendent in order to unload at the fair.
4. No feed, feed bags, or supplies are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at the campsite).
5. Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean all week.
6. Sawdust needs to be conserved. Morning cleanings will be a complete change of sawdust and must be completed before 9:00 a.m. Afternoon cleaning will be spot cleans and will be performed before 5:00 p.m. each afternoon.

B. Animal Care Requirements:
1. Youth are responsible for providing enough grain and hay to care for their hog throughout the entire week.
2. Youth are responsible for feeding, watering, and caring for their animal the **entire** week.
3. Administration of ANYTHING other than grain/feed, hay, or water MUST be cleared through the Livestock Council Species Chair, the Fair Superintendent, AND the Fair Veterinarian. Documentation must be signed and the Species Chair and/or Superintendent MUST be present during administration.
    a) This includes, but IS NOT LIMITED TO: Electrolyte replacements (Gatorade, Pedialyte, electrolyte powders, etc); Medications (Aspirin, Pepto Bismol, Antibiotics, etc); etc.
    b) Failure to follow this policy WILL result in disqualification and removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock Shows held at the fair.

C. Show Day Policies:
1. **Failure to comply with these policies WILL result in disqualification from the show.**
2. The swine barn will close 2 hours prior to the start of the first show.
3. During barn closure times, only the 4-H’er and ONE (1) support person of their choice may enter the barn and/or wash rack areas.
4. The 4-H’er and their support person may fit and prepare the hog for show.
5. The body of your hog may be clipped to ½ inch or longer. DO NOT shave your pig.

D. Fair End Responsibilities:
    1. Completely clean and scrape down pens
    2. Bars on the pens need to be scrubbed and wiped down.
    3. When ready to leave, youth must be checked out by a barn volunteer.

IV. After Fair Requirements

A. Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project.

    o **Examples:** Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.

B. A Thank you and 5 x 7 Auction photo must be given to your buyer and a hard copy of the thank you note is due at the October Livestock council meeting.

C. Failure to submit a completed, hard copy record book at the September 4-H Livestock Council meeting and/or a Thank you at the October 4-H Livestock Council Meeting of the WILL result in suspension from the 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NWMI Fair the following year.
    1. Suspended youth who complete their record book and/or thank you note and submit it to the 4-H Livestock Council by the November meeting that same year will again be eligible to register for 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NWMI Fair the following year.

V. Important Information & Tips for a Successful Swine Project

A. Fair Week Show Attire:
    1. Clean pants or jeans (free of rips or holes)
    2. Button up shirt or polo (tucked in and free from logos or writing)
    3. Protective boots or leather shoes
    4. Cane or whip, Spray/water bottle, small pocket brush

B. Fair Week Barn Essentials:
    1. Wheelbarrow, rake, shovel, and broom
    2. Board for sitting on in the pen
        a) Nothing should be left on the board when the youth is not present
        b) Boards cannot be used for storage space
    3. Members are responsible for keeping their club area free of trash
    4. Be sure pens stay clean and dry throughout the day, every day while at fair

VI. Cloverbuds

A. 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1st of the current year)
    1. Cloverbuds must still register by the February deadline
    2. Cloverbuds ages 5 & 6, may NOT bring their own pig to the fair.

B. 7-year-old Cloverbuds MAY be allowed to bring their own pig to the fair.
    1. Determination will be based on registration numbers after the February registration deadline
    2. If the number of market pigs is less than 225 at registration, 7-year-old Cloverbuds will have the OPTION to bring their own pig
    3. Participants will be notified of the determination no later than March 1st
    4. 7-year-old Cloverbuds MUST be supervised, assisted, and escorted at all times when their pig is out of its pen by a parent, guardian, or current Gold Volunteer.
    5. 7-year-old Cloverbuds must follow all barn rules listed above including tagging, animal care, and fair week requirements
    6. 7-year-old Cloverbuds may NOT market their pig at the fair and must make arrangements to haul it from the fairgrounds on the last Sunday of the fair

C. Cloverbuds (that do not bring their own hog to fair as above) should make arrangements to borrow another 4-H member's hog for Cloverbud Showmanship.

D. For safety, Cloverbuds must have a parent, guardian, 4-H Gold Volunteer OR species chair approved 4-H teen mentor in the show ring with them.

E. Cloverbuds will be paired with a 4-H teen mentor during fair week by the species chair.

VII. Volunteers

A. Barn Duty
    1. Barn Duty will be assigned by species chair to each 4-H group for 2 (two), one-hour sessions each during fair week.
    2. Leader or designated adult must be present to oversee 4-H'ers the entire time.

B. Showmanship and Market Show Set Up and Take Down
    1. After barns close the night before a show, 4-H'ers 15 and older will be expected to help set up show ring, holding pens, and chutes.
    2. After the show ends, 4-H'ers 15 and older will be expected to help show ring, holding pen and chutes tear down.
    3. Sign in and out with the Species Chair and/or Barn Superintendent is required.

C. Parents
    a. Parents of 4-H'ers in the swine barn will be expected to sign up for a minimum of 2 (two) positions during shows and/or fair week. These positions are the following, but not limited to:

i. Running swine boards for unloading, show days, picture day, and auction, along with trucking morning.
ii. Announcing over the PA system in the barn for shows and auction day
iii. Releasing pens as numbers are called
iv. Arena workers to help guide 4-H'ers and swine in and out of the arena and help with boards in the arena if needed.
v. Gate attendant for front and back gate during shows and auction
vi. Escorting 4-H'ers back to pens and securing gates

b. Parent Volunteer Sign Ups will be released via Google Drive by August 1st.

F. 4-H Teen Mentors

a. 4-H'ers will have the option to sign up for mentoring of Cloverbuds during fair week.
b. The 4-H'ers will be paired with a swine Cloverbud and allow them to shadow them throughout the week and be at the Cloverbud show.
c. Mentoring is important to help our youngest swine kids to be a part of all aspects of the barn.