



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

Citizenship/ Leadership

- 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 with the swine classes at the county livestock judging event.

Communication

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

Are you Into It?

In the 4-H swine project you can learn about breeds, health care, production, etc.

You will be able to:

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more animals
- 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!

Starting Out Basic

- Learn breed names and descriptions
- Identify swine body parts
- Learn how to judge swine
- Plan a facility to keep swine safe and healthy
- Learn how to feed and water your pig
- Identify how a normal pig looks and acts
- Name and describe pork cuts
- Discover pork by-products
- Conduct a pork cooking and tasting experiment

Learning More Intermediate

- Learn differences in preparing pork cuts by cooking and tasting
- Explore normal pig characteristics
- Outline a pig health care plan
- Understand swine management practices
- Analyze and make decisions on how to solve swine issues

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- “Adopt” a younger person and help him or her explore the swine project
- Arrange questions and hold a swine quiz bowl
- Plan and conduct a swine showmanship clinic for younger member
- Interview agencies about environmental issues
- Research state or national swine organizations

Healthy Living

- Keep a record of how long and how often you groom, walk, and clean up after your hog
- Learn about the role pork can play in MyPlate
- Learn different cuts of meat

Science

- Learn about the digestive system of your hog
- Keep a record of your hog's food intake and weight to determine a Average Daily Gain and use this information to help you plan and adjust your feed ration



Expand Your Experiences in the Swine project!

- 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, yield 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
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair swine show or the Florida State Fair
- Contact your county UF Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida to explore those majors: ufl.edu
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests: florida4h.org/

Project Sharing Ideas

Consider an exhibit, notebook, or display showing what you've learned in a swine-related topic like:

- Nutritive value of pork
- Pork 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

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county office or you can order directly

Available at National 4-H:

www.4-hmall.org

- Swine 1: The Incredible Pig
- Swine 2: Putting the Oink in the Pig
- Swine 3: Going Whole Hog

Available at IFAS bookstore or EDIS:

ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu or

edis.ifas.ufl.edu/

- 4-H Project Guide: Swine Nutrition
- Best Practice Checklist for Management of a Swine Show for Youth
- 4-H Livestock Judging Handbook • Hog & Ham Project Book

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.

Participate in the Florida Hog & Ham Program.

Attend livestock shows and events at the county or state level.

Attend other statewide events.

Check them all out at florida4h.org & animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/

Record Keeping

Learning to take food records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H lifeskill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Available at EDIS

edis.ifas.ufl.edu

- Livestock Breeding Record Book
- Livestock Market Breeding Book

Project Report Forms can be found at florida4h.org

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER