

# Swine Project

Monthly Lesson Plan  
April 2022

## Upcoming Deadlines

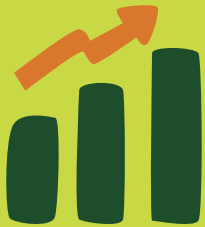
- ✓ **April 18th or 19th** – MQA (Meat Quality Assurance) Training (Fairgrounds)
- ✓ **April 27th** – MQA (Bennett High School)
- ✓ **Beginning of April** – Market Tags will be available to pick up at 4-H Office (currently backordered will notify as soon as they arrive)
- ✓ **May 1st** – Market swine owned, tagged, and ID on 4HOnline deadline



## Project Progress

*Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month.*

- E Record Books:** Update their "Equipment/Supplies Inventory" (p. 3) & "Animal Inventory" and/or "Animal Purchase" pages (p. 4&6)
- Hands On:** Members should begin training their animal to respond positively to their show tool and find which tool (pipe, whip etc) their hog prefers.
- Knowledge:** Members should review basic swine healthcare (Swine Resource Handbook Ch. 9 or our Vet Chat video):
- Other:** Brainstorm a topic for their Swine educational poster and/or demonstration.
- Other:** Update your calendar with 2022 Animal Project Dates



Selecting a Show Tool



Vet Chat Video



## Opportunities

*See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events*

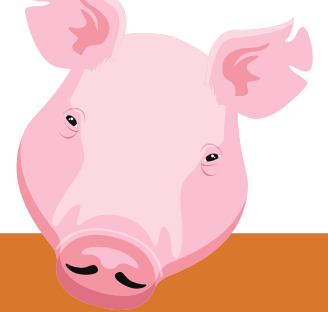
- **April 4th** – Market Animal Selection Webinar
- **April 12th** – Record book workshop
- **April 30th** – ADCO Speech & Demonstration Contest



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# Swine Project



April 2022

## Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

### Group: TLC for Pigs

- Lead members to evaluate the health of a group of swine and consider how to maintain good health.

### Individual: Learning the Parts

- Members can complete this worksheet activity reviewing swine anatomy and the ideal pig.



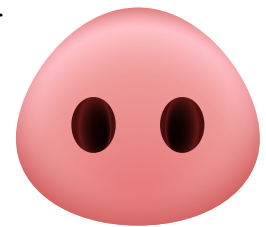
## Fun Fact

Forty-six piglets were used to play the role of Wilbur in the 2006 movie *Charlotte's Web*.



## Timely Tips to Share

Snaring a pig by the nose can prevent them from moving which can help make administering medications or tagging swine safer and easier.



## Resources



The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Swine Project Webpage:  
<http://adams4h.org/4-h-swine-project/>

- 2022 Animal Project Save the Dates
- Swine Resource Handbook (Ohio State)
- E Record Books
- Fourcast Newsletter Signup
- Project Tipsheets

Fairgrounds Livestock Scale – can always be used by 4-H members with appointment. Contact Kenzie to schedule a time.



**4-H Agent** – Kenzie Kimmel  
303-637-8109 / [kkimmel@adcogov.org](mailto:kkimmel@adcogov.org)



**4-H Swine Superintendent** –  
Kyle Scott – [kscott14@msn.com](mailto:kscott14@msn.com)



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# Management and Health

## TLC for Pigs

**I**n second person, tell why this is an excellent activity to develop both the life skill and the project skill listed. Briefly describe what youth will experience. A swine project group is most successful with the assistance of the helper and other project members. On site visits of swine project facilities can be the best learning experience. Many factors related to feed, facilities, health and the overall condition of the animal result in a successful project and consumer product. The status of a swine project must be evaluated on a daily basis, either by the project member or helper. One must consider all the factors to make the best decision.

**Swine Skill:** Keeping animals healthy  
**Life Skill:** Decision making  
**What Youth Will Do:** Constant supervision of a swine project is the key to success. Many factors contribute to a healthy pig and project. Utilize the Swine Project Checklist to evaluate your situation.  
**Success Indicator:** Identifies the factors that keep animals healthy.  
**Target Audience:** Youth Swine Project Members  
**Time Involved:** 1 hour  
**Suggested Group Size:** Teams of 2-4  
**Materials Needed:** Swine Project Checklist, Clip board, Pencil

## Getting Started

**I**n teams of two to four project members, complete an on site visit of several swine project members facilities with live animals. Utilize the Swine Project Checklist to evaluate all the factors.



### Swine Project Checklist

Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Water

- Supply
- Clean

#### Feed

- Type (suitable for weight & condition of pig)

#### Shelter

- Clean
- Dry
- Warm (bedding)

#### Pen

- Safe
- Size
- Clean (no mudholes)
- Secure

#### Project "The Pig"

- Hair Coat
- Full Stomach
- Walk
- Swollen joints
- Cuts
- Normal back carriage
- Eyes
- Nose
- Rectum (free of scours, dry and not red)
- Cough or sneezing

#### Parasite

- Internal Parasites
- Lice
- Mange
- Flies

#### Hooves

- Length
- Shape (corrective trimming needed)



## Talking it over

### Share What They Did

- Q. What factors were the easiest to decide on?
- Q. What factors are the most important in the environment of the swine project?
- Q. How many areas on your checklist were missing positive results?

### Process What's Important

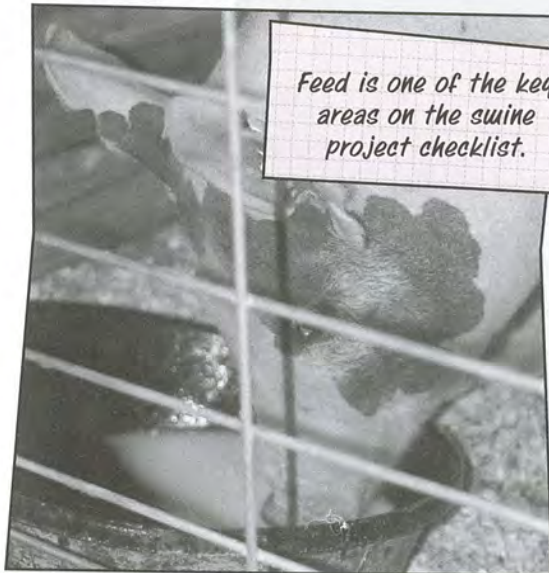
- Q. Why is it important to consider several points or factors before making a decision?
- Q. What part does your heart or "gut feeling" play in making decisions?

### Generalize to Their Life

- Q. What other overall health decisions have you had to make in your life?
- Q. What made you decide? How did you decide?
- Q. Why is gathering all the information important before you make a decision?
- Q. Why is it important to take time to make a decision?

### Apply What They Learned

- Q. How will you change your decision making process in the future?
- Q. What factors are important to you in making a decision?
- Q. How will you manage your swine project differently in the future?



*Feed is one of the key areas on the swine project checklist.*



## Healthy Pigs

Clean, fresh water and nutritious food are essential for the pig. The goal is to have good nutrition and care each day in order for the animal to have optimal condition at show time. It is not humane to allow your animal to be too thin or too fat and try to correct it days before the show. Feed additives alter the metabolism of the animal and may affect the way the animal handles stress. Stress can result from weight management, showing and loading. Animals should be checked daily for signs of injury or illness. Always treat the animal immediately for any problems. If in doubt always seek advice from a veterinarian.

When visiting someone else's swine facility respect their rules. Biosecurity precautions include:

- wash hands with soap and water before and after visit.
- park vehicles on paved surfaces
- avoid unnecessary contact with animals and facilities.
- wear clean rubber boots; clean and disinfect them.
- clean and disinfect all equipment
- wear clean overalls; disinfect after visit



## More challenges

### 1. Do the Sunscreen experiment.

The purpose of this activity is to show how sunscreen and other topical medications can be absorbed through the skin of livestock.

#### Materials needed:

- red and blue food coloring
- 2 glasses or clear plastic cups
- several celery sticks with leaves
- knife

#### Steps:

- Cut the bottom of each celery stick
- Place several drops of red coloring in one glass and several drops of blue coloring in the other glass. Put several celery stalks in each glass.
- Wait two hours and observe what happens.
- Split the celery stalks to observe the water transport system. Also observe the leaves. Explain to the project members that sunscreens and any other medications applied to the skin of livestock can be absorbed by the body. They must be used with care and only according to label instructions.

Source: Quality Counts: Quality Assurance, Character Education, Texas Cooperative Extension

**Did you know...** Putting flavored gelatin mix or instant drink mix in your water at home a few days before the show, and then using it at the show to mask the taste of different water may encourage your animals to drink normal amounts of water.

# Learning the Parts

**Activity:** Identify swine body parts.  
**Swine Skill:** Selecting swine  
**Life Skill:** Learning to learn through games  
**Success Indicator:** Completes the pig parts crossword puzzle.

**L**earning the parts of a pig is an important first step to being able to choose top quality pigs, give oral reasons in judging and communicate with others in the swine industry. Doing a

pig parts crossword puzzle is a fun way to get acquainted with the parts, but you may have to do more to memorize all of them.

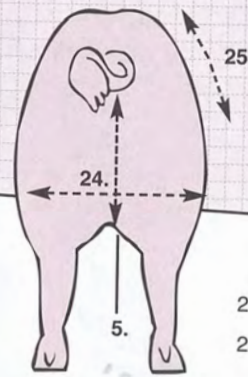
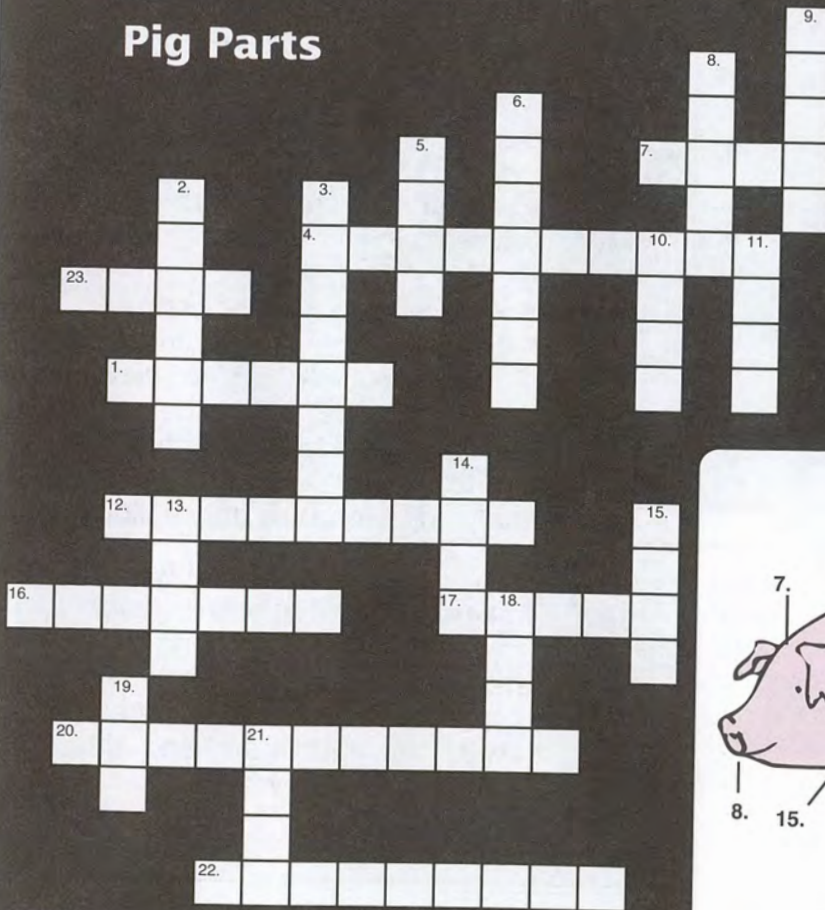
## Your Challenge

**C**omplete the crossword puzzle below. Match the number at the beginning of each puzzle column to the number on the pig diagrams shown to the right. Now, identify the part name for the list of parts and fill in the puzzle boxes with the correct name and spelling. A list of pig body parts is provided. You may not need to use all of them.

### List of parts:

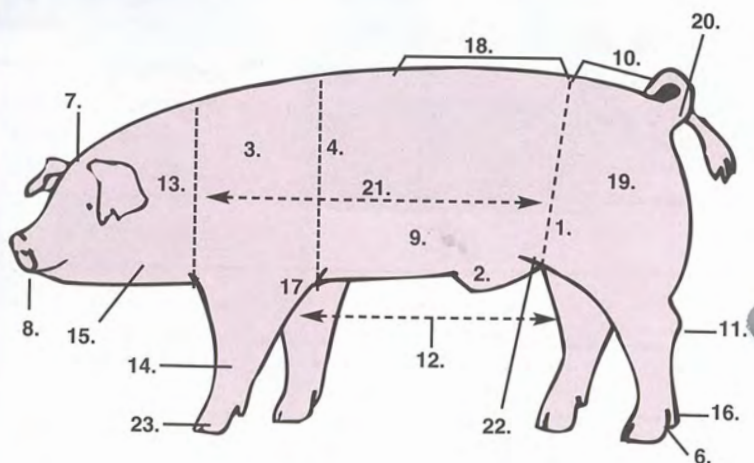
- |            |            |              |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| Back       | Hock       | Seam         |
| Belly      | Jowl       | Sheath       |
| Cheek      | Knee       | Shoulder     |
| Dewclaw    | Loin       | Side         |
| Elbow      | Neck       | Snout        |
| Foreflank  | Pastern    | Stifle       |
| Foreleg    | Poll       | Tail setting |
| Ham        | Rear flank | Toes         |
| Heartgirth | Rump       | Underline    |

### Pig Parts



**Bonus:**

24. \_\_\_\_\_  
 25. \_\_\_\_\_



# Talking it over

## Share What You Did

- Describe the most difficult thing about learning the parts? The easiest?
- What new parts did you learn?

## Process What's Important

How do you think a farmer learns to recognize his animals? A doctor the parts of the body? An actor a script?

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## Generalize to Your Life

When else have you used a game to help you learn something?

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## Apply What You Learned

How will knowing the way you learn best help you in other situations?

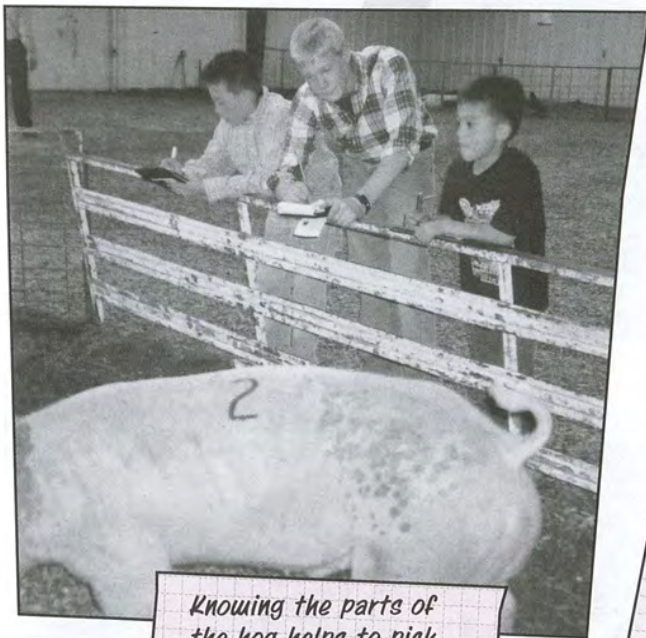
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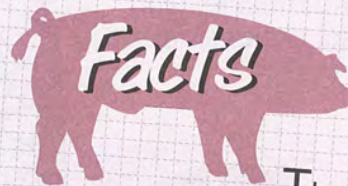
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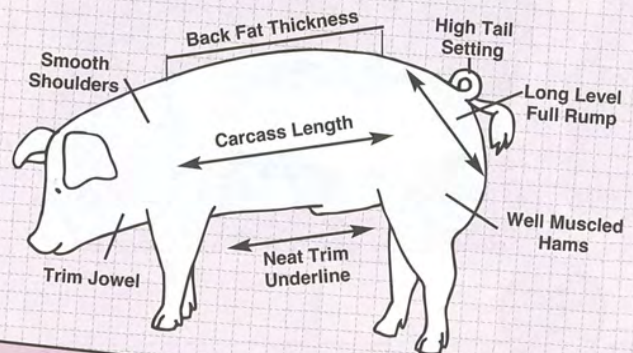


Knowing the parts of the hog helps to pick the best pig.



## Ideal Pig

The ideal pig is deep at the heart and long sided. It walks and stands wide and is larger than the average pig of the same age. It is well-muscled, showing natural thickness over the top, and has a plump, thick ham. The ideal pig walks free and easy with good slope to its front pasterns. It is nearly level across the top and has a level rump with a high tail setting.



## More challenges

1. With a friend, correctly identify and locate at least 20 parts on a live pig. Then ask someone who raises pigs how the different parts should look on a good pig.

2. Play at least two of the "pig parts" games described in your *Swine Helper's Guide*.