

Swine Project

Monthly Lesson Plan
January 2023

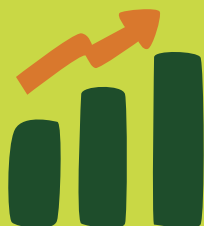
Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ **February 1st** - Re-enrollment deadline
- ✓ **April 1st** - New member enrollment deadline
- ✓ **May 1st** - Market swine Ownership deadline



Project Progress

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



- E Record Books:** Download the 2023 Livestock Recordbook
- Hands On:** Members should identify and meet their club swine project leader as well as other swine projects members at their next meeting.
- Knowledge:** Members should review and learn the common swine breeds to help them make decisions on which breed or breed cross they would like to buy in the spring (Swine Resource Handbook pg. 3-3)
- Other:** Update their calendar with 2023 Animal Project Dates

2023 Animal Project Dates



Opportunities

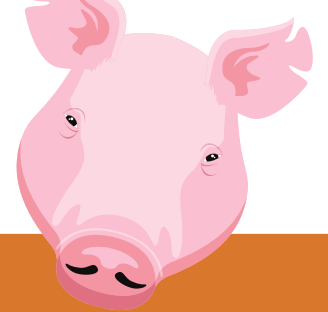
See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events

- **January 17-18** - National Western Stock Show - swine shows
- **February 8th** - Project 101 Virtual





Swine Project



January 2023

Attached Activities

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

Group: "Selecting a project pig "

- Educate members on what to look for when selecting their market project hog.

Individual: "Naming the Breed"

- Members can complete this worksheet at home to help learn pig breeds and which breed or crosses they may want for their project animal.

for more Swine project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Swine Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office



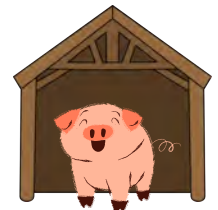
Fun Fact

Pigs have an exceptional sense of smell and are able to find rare truffles as deep as 3 feet underground.



Timely Tips to Share

Make sure breeding swine have access to a wind break of some kind to reduce exposure. Wind breaks can be provided by bales, or permanent installation barns or sheds.



Resources



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

- 2023 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.



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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Selection and Judging

Selecting a Project Pig

Many farmers buy feeder pigs because they don't have the facilities, desire, capital or labor to raise their own. 4-H members often purchase feeder pigs for their projects for some of the same reasons. Buying quality feeder pigs at competitive prices is a swine producer's main goal. Being able to do this takes knowledge, skill and practice. Knowing how to select high quality pigs will help youth maintain a profitable project.

Swine Skill:	Selecting quality feeder pigs.
Life Skill:	Making decisions
Success Indicator:	Selects and purchases a pig for a 4-H project.
Time Involved:	2-3 hours
Suggested group size:	5-15
Materials needed:	None

The activities suggested will help youth carefully examine project pigs before making a purchase. Several key questions have been included in the "Talking It Over" section to help youth learn more about making good decisions.

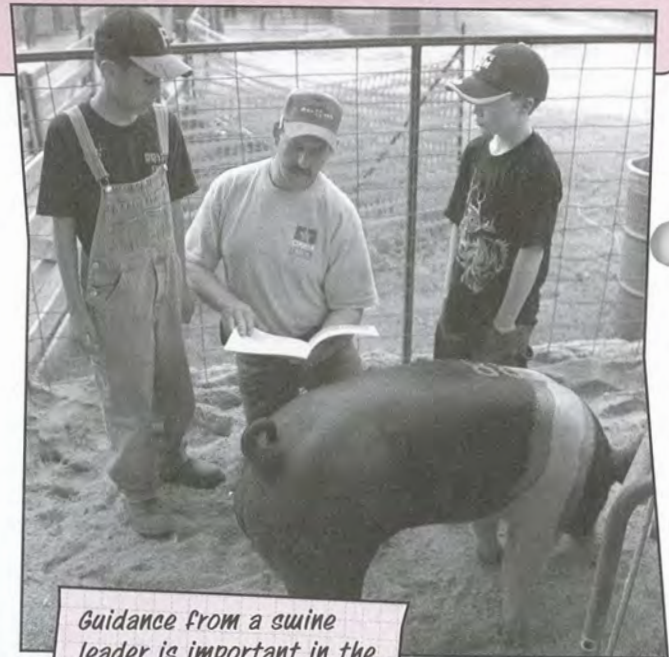
Getting Started

Load up your swine club members and visit a local swine producer two to three months before the first project pig sale in your state. Take along someone who has a good "eye" for selecting young pigs. Also try to borrow a camcorder to take and video the "example" pigs that you see.

Your Challenge

Ask the owner if your group can look at a group of 20-30 feeder pigs weighing 80-100 lbs. As they look through the group of project pigs, have them compare them to the "ideal" feeder pig shown in this activity. See if they can find a pig that looks similar to that pig. Be sure to have them write down the ear notches or ear tags of the pigs (both good and bad) that you see. Ask the farmer if your group can come back right before he sells the pigs to see how they turn out. Once again, take the camcorder and get video footage to compare the way the pigs looked at the 80-100 pound stage.

The overall purpose of this activity is for youth to learn a process for good decision-making as well as to learn to select high quality feeder pigs. The questions in "Talking It Over" are possible discussion questions; feel free to add your own discussion questions as well.



Guidance from a swine leader is important in the selection and management of a pig project.





Talking it over

Share What They Did

- Q. What price range did you see people paying for a project pig?
- Q. What did you learn about buying feeder pigs?
- Q. What do you look for when selecting a feed pig?

Process What's Important

- Q. Why is it important to consider several points before making a decision?
- Q. Why is the price not always the most important factor to consider when making a purchase?
- Q. What part does your heart and "gut level" feeling have to do with making a decision?

Generalize to Their Life

- Q. When have you had to make decisions about purchasing things other than pigs?
- Q. What made you decide? How did you decide?
- Q. Why is gathering good information important before making a decision?
- Q. Why is taking time to decide important?

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?



Selecting a Pig Project

How much should you pay? First, find out the average price paid for pigs in your county fair sale last year. Then determine the feed cost to put 150–180 lbs. of gain on your pig. Subtract the feed cost and other estimated expenses from the average sale price at last year's fair. You now have a realistic figure you can pay for a project pig. You will need to rank several choices of pigs to buy so that you end up with the best pig you can afford to purchase.

Key Points to Selecting Project Pigs

- They must develop into a lean, muscular market hog at 250–270 lbs.
- A high quality feeder pig needs to show good muscle shape at 80–100 lbs.
- The heaviest muscled feeder pigs are often too early maturing to still be lean at 260 lbs.
- The frame size of a hog will dictate how heavy it can get without putting on excess fat. Simply put, bigger framed hogs stay leaner to heavier weights.
- Good "indicators" of frame size in feeder pigs are the length of their "face," the length of their cannon bones and their overall body length.
- Soundness of feet and legs *never* gets better with increases in age and weight. It is essential to start with a project pig that is structurally correct on its feet and legs.
- If possible, try to see pictures of the sire and dam of the pigs you are considering buying. Knowing how the parents look can often help you estimate how their offspring will turn out.
- Buy hogs from reputable breeders who are known for having a good herd health program.
- Make sure to buy hogs that come with health papers.



More challenges

1. Use the video tape footage you shot to give an illustrated talk to younger 4-H members about what factors to consider before buying a project pig.
2. Clip feeder pig sale reports from agricultural papers and magazines. Compare the reports to the range of process you found.
3. Ask the farmer you visited to learn about feeder pigs to furnish you with the carcass data from the pigs you studied at 80–100 lbs. Discuss as a group the range in backfat and loin eye size for these hogs.



Selection and Judging

Naming the Breed

Pigs come in different colors, shapes and sizes. Pigs that have similar colors, shapes and sizes are grouped together into breeds. In this activity, you will learn about the eight most popular breeds of pigs in the United States.

Activity: Match swine breed names with descriptions.
Swine Skill: Recognizing swine breeds
Life Skill: Recognizing differences
Success Indicator: Identifies eight swine breeds.

Breed Word Bank

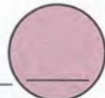
Berkshire
Chester White
Duroc
Hampshire
Landrace
Poland China
Spot
Yorkshire

Your Challenge

Look at the color photographs of the eight different swine breeds on the inside front cover of this guide. Read the descriptions of the breeds below. Match the correct name and letter to each swine breed photo. Find and tape a miniature picture in the small box of each breed with its description. Your helper can check your answers in the *Swine Helper's Guide*.

My favorite breed _____

1. Breed _____



Picture

These black bodied pigs have six white points, including their nose, tail and feet. They have erect short ears and dished snouts. Legend says this breed was discovered by Oliver Cromwell's Army at Reading (the county seat of the shire of Berks) in England over 300 years ago. They are known for providing hams and bacon of excellent flavor. They were first brought to America in 1823. This breed has had great influence on the swine industry. Much improvement has been made through testing and genetic evaluation to meet the demand for fast, efficient growth, reproductive efficiency, and leanness.

2. Breed _____



Picture

Known as the durable mother breed, these pigs have white bodies with long, droopy ears. This breed originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania. More than 60,000 animals are recorded by this breed's association each year. Because of their mothering ability, durability and soundness, they have maintained their popularity with pork producers.



3. Breed _____

Tape a picture of this breed here

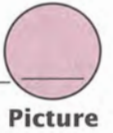


Picture

These red pigs with drooping ears are the second most recorded breed of swine in the United States and a major breed in many other countries. Their color can range from a very light golden, almost yellow, to a very dark red that approaches mahogany. The growth of the breed is in part due to characteristics such as the ability to produce large litters, longevity in the female line, lean gain efficiency, carcass yield and product quality as a terminal sire. Their advantage in muscle, combined with their rapid growth, has positioned the breed as an outstanding terminal sire choice.

4. Breed _____

Tape a picture of this breed here

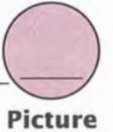


Picture

These black hogs have white belts across the shoulders, covering the front legs around the body. They have erect ears and are a heavily muscled. They are the third most recorded swine breed in the United States. They are leaders in leanness and muscle, with good carcass quality, minimal amounts of backfat and large loin eyes. Their ability to produce winning carcasses is unequalled, and they continue to set the standard by which all other terminal sires are evaluated. Hampshire females are known as great mothers and excellent pig raisers and have extra longevity in the sow herd.

5. Breed _____

Tape a picture of this breed here



Picture

These white pigs with large drooping ears are the fourth most recorded breed in the United States as well as a major breed in many other countries. Their purebred females are known for their ability to produce large litters over for an extended time. Boars are aggressive and sire large litters that combine growth, leanness and other desirable carcass traits. This, along with their outstanding maternal traits, have made them leaders in swine operations throughout the world.

6. Breed _____

Tape a picture of this breed here



Picture

The black and white bodied pigs may have a white nose, tail and feet. They have medium-sized, droopy ears and originated in the Miami Valley of Ohio in Butler and Warren counties. This breed stands as the embodiment of perfection in the swine industry.