



Animal Science 4-H Swine

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

In the 4-H swine project, you can select from a breeding animal or a market animal.

Breeding animals allow you to start your own herd while market animals produce meat products for people.

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning and caring for swine.
- Keep production and financial records on one or more head of livestock.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry.



Pass it on!

Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Teach someone the important traits in selecting breeding gilts.
- Create a poster showing the hog cuts and how to prepare them.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.

Citizenship

- Volunteer to do swine promotion presentations.
- Provide pork taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair weigh-in.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Know your swine breeds.
- Select your animal.
- Identify the parts of the animal and cuts of meat.
- Train your hog to drive.
- Feed your animal.
- Learn to show your animal.
- Groom your animal.
- Learn about all the different swine byproducts.
- Determine quality grades of swine.
- Recognize a healthy animal.

Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Ramp up your judging and meat-grading skills.
- Make ethical decisions.
- Understand the hog's digestive system.
- Identify common external parasites and other health issues.
- Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer it and how it relates to food safety.
- Learn the appropriate handling techniques and housing for swine.

Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Learn about EPDs; select a sire for your animals.
- Balance a swine ration and understand feed quality.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Identify and learn to treat common diseases.
- Evaluate hog carcasses and market your product.
- "Adopt" a younger person and help him/her explore the swine project.

Leadership

- Arrange a tour of your farm.
- Start a livestock judging team with help of an adult volunteer.
- Lead a swine grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.

Entrepreneurship

- Market pork products to the people in your local area.
- Interview agencies about environmental issues.

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
NDSU is an equal opportunity institution

Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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Here are other opportunities to explore swine:

- Learn about PQA certification.
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- Visit a local meat locker or local grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging.
- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts and about quality grade and yield grade, and how these affect taste and cost.
- Compare feed tags from different companies.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Attend a livestock show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging livestock species.
- Exhibit at or attend local, regional, state or national swine shows and conferences.
- Attend livestock camp at North Dakota 4-H Camp.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your county fair's swine show or at the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University to explore those majors (www.ndsu.edu).



Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H swine show
 - ⇒ Breeding gilt
 - ⇒ Market hog
 - ⇒ Showmanship
 - ⇒ PQA certification
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a swine-related topic:
 - ⇒ Nutritive value of swine
 - ⇒ Hog meat cuts and proper preparation
 - ⇒ Feeding rations
 - ⇒ Preventive vaccinations
 - ⇒ Photos of different swine breeds
 - ⇒ Daily routine in caring for animals
 - ⇒ Grooming techniques
 - ⇒ Developing a foundation swine herd
 - ⇒ Best care techniques for newborns
 - ⇒ Swine byproducts
 - ⇒ Impact of local foods on the local economy
 - ⇒ Display of feeds or ration contents or analysis
 - ⇒ How to ear notch
 - ⇒ Research how pork check-off dollars are used
 - ⇒ Video on clipping a hog

4-H Resources

- [National 4-H Curriculum](#)
 - The Incredible Pig
 - Putting the Oink in Pig
 - Going Whole Hog
 - Swine Helper's Guide
- [Swine Learning Lab Kit —Educational Trunk](#)
- [Educational Video/DVD Check-out](#)
- [4-H Swine Showmanship Video](#)

Other Resources

- National Pork Producers Council
www.nppc.org
- ND Pork Council
www.ndpork.org
- www.showpig.com
- National Swine Registry
www.nationalswine.com/NJSA
- NDSU Swine Research
www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsu_ag/livestock/swine

Recordkeeping

- [4-H Swine Breeding Project Record](#)
- [4-H Market Animal Project Record](#)

Contests

- [State 4-H/FFA Livestock Contest](#)

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