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.

Here’s what you can do all year!

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<th>Starting Out</th>
<th>Learning More</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons</th>
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<td>Basic/Level 1</td>
<td>Intermediate/Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Know your swine breeds.</td>
<td>- Ramp up your judging and meat-grading skills.</td>
<td>- Learn about EPDs; select a sire for your animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Select your animal.</td>
<td>- Make ethical decisions.</td>
<td>- Balance a swine ration and understand feed quality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identify the parts of the animal and cuts of meat.</td>
<td>- Understand the hog’s digestive system.</td>
<td>- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.</td>
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<td>- Train your hog to drive.</td>
<td>- Identify common external parasites and other health issues.</td>
<td>- Identify and learn to treat common diseases.</td>
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<td>- Feed your animal.</td>
<td>- Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer it and how it relates to food safety.</td>
<td>- Evaluate hog carcasses and market your product.</td>
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<td>- Learn to show your animal.</td>
<td>- Learn the appropriate handling techniques and housing for swine.</td>
<td>“Adopt” a younger person and help him/her explore the swine project.</td>
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<td>- Groom your animal.</td>
<td>- Determine quality grades of swine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Learn about all the different swine byproducts.</td>
<td>- Recognize a healthy animal.</td>
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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.

**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.

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

Recordkeeping

- 4-H Swine Breeding Project Record
- 4-H Market Animal Project Record

Contests

- State 4-H/FFA Livestock Contest

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