



# 4-H SWINE PROJECT



In 4-H market and breeding swine projects members can learn about selecting and raising large livestock project animal. Youth learn about record keeping, nutrition, health, project management and judging.

- Members learn about the proper care of swine including nutrition, housing, ventilation, medicine, grooming, and ethics.
- Members gain consumer vs. producer awareness
- 4-H members learn time management
- Members learn how to respect others during competitive events

### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Learn how to identify swine breeds
- Practice safety and sanitation
- Learn show ring preparation and ethics
- Learn how to select a show pig
- Members learn how to write auction buyer letters
- Learn swine terminology

### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Explore Pork Quality Assurance (PQA)
- Learn how to chart rate of gain
- Discover the proper way to cook pork
- Practice packing a show box
- Learn how to read labels on swine feed
- Understand the many uses of swine by-products

### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn how to give oral and written reasons on swine conformation
- Explore careers in animal science and the pork industry
- Design a breeding system
- Learn how to judge swine breeding projects
- Demonstrate how to process a new litter of piglets

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

## 4-H Thrive!

### Help Youth:

#### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

#### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

#### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

**Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

**Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

**Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek

#### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Become a member of a meat judging team
- Develop and create a science display on swine
- Research the nutritional needs of swine compared to other large livestock
- Create an educational video of your swine project to share with others

## Healthy Living

- Create a display on how to properly cook pork
- Discuss proper attire when working with large livestock
- Compare the nutrition facts of pork to other food products

## Citizenship

- Prepare educational displays for the fair
- Explore ethical standards when handling swine
- Encourage your project group to have an international pork potluck, to learn

## Leadership

- Recruit younger members into the swine project
- Become involved as a junior or teen leader
- Write articles for your club and county newsletters about supporting 4-H livestock auctions

## Resources

- California Pork Producers Association  
[www.calpork.com](http://www.calpork.com)
- National Swine Registry  
[www.nationalswine.com](http://www.nationalswine.com)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov)
- Texas 4-H Swine <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/FinalSwineExplore2018.pdf>
- Utah 4-H Swine Selection <https://extension.usu.edu/davis/files/Swine-selection.pdf>

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p><b>4-H Food Fairs</b>– Enter an item with pork as the special ingredient</p> <p><b>Local Fairs</b>- Participate in showmanship and market classes</p> <p><b>Visit a farrowing operation</b> and assist with ear notching, needle teeth removal, tail docking and castration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National 4-H Swine Curriculum <a href="https://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/swine/">https://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/swine/</a></li> </ul>	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p>



## University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources