



# 4-H Swine Project



## Step It Up!

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

### Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer your baby pig for ag-in-the-classroom at school
- Participate in a “food-for-life” project donating to food pantries
- Volunteer to help with the swine classes at the county livestock judging event.

### Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Give a pig processing demonstration

## Are you Into It?

In the 4-H swine project you can learn about breeds, health care, production, etc.

You will be able to:

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more animals
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Learn nutritive value of swine products and promote their use

## Here’s what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic

- Learn breed names and descriptions
- Identify swine body parts
- Learn how to judge swine
- Plan a facility to keep swine safe and healthy
- Learn how to feed and water your pig
- Identify how a normal pig looks and acts
- Name and describe pork cuts
- Discover pork by-products
- Conduct a pork cooking and tasting experiment

### Learning More Intermediate

- Learn differences in preparing pork cuts by cooking and tasting
- Explore normal pig characteristics
- Outline a pig health care plan
- Understand swine management practices
- Analyze and make decisions on how to solve swine issues

### Expanding Horizons Advanced

- “Adopt” a younger person and help him or her explore the swine project
- Arrange questions and hold a swine quiz bowl
- Plan and conduct a swine showmanship clinic for younger member
- Interview agencies about environmental issues
- Research state or national swine organizations

### Healthy Living

- Keep a record of how long and how often you groom, walk, and clean up after your hog
- Learn about the role pork can play in MyPlate
- Learn different cuts of meat

### Science

- Learn about the digestive system of your hog
- Keep a record of your hog's food intake and weight to determine a Average Daily Gain and use this information to help you plan and adjust your feed ration



## Expand Your Experiences in the Swine project!

- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration
- Compare feed tags from different companies
- Visit a local meat locker or local grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging
- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts, quality, yield and how these affect taste and cost
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Attend a swine show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging hogs
- Participate in a judging team
- Tour a hog operation
- Research swine by-products
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair swine show or the Florida State Fair
- Contact your county UF Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida to explore those majors: [ufl.edu](http://ufl.edu)
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests: [florida4h.org/](http://florida4h.org/)

### Project Sharing Ideas

Consider an exhibit, notebook, or display showing what you've learned in a swine-related topic like:

- Nutritive value of pork
- Pork cuts and proper preparation
- Feeding rations
- Importance of reading feed labels
- Preventative vaccinations
- Photos of different swine breeds
- Daily routine in caring for animals
- Grooming techniques

## Resources

### 4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county office or you can order directly

**Available at National 4-H:**

[www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org)

- Swine 1: The Incredible Pig
- Swine 2: Putting the Oink in the Pig
- Swine 3: Going Whole Hog

**Available at IFAS bookstore or EDIS:**

[ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu](http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu) or

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/)

- 4-H Project Guide: Swine Nutrition
- Best Practice Checklist for Management of a Swine Show for Youth
- 4-H Livestock Judging Handbook • Hog & Ham Project Book

### Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.

Participate in the Florida Hog & Ham Program.

Attend livestock shows and events at the county or state level.

Attend other statewide events.

Check them all out at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org) & [animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/](http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/)

### Record Keeping

Learning to take food records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H lifeskill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Available at EDIS

[edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

- Livestock Breeding Record Book
- Livestock Market Breeding Book

Project Report Forms can be found at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

### Awards and Recognition

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org) or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)  
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER