



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Swine Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate in aspects of the project with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, managing, and marketing of swine. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

## Starting Out Beginner

*Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging! There is so much to learn!*

Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends.

Volunteer at your county show.

Develop visual presentations to learn about topics like animal health, then share them with your club and competitively.

## Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join your livestock or meats judging teams.

Buy a market or breeding hog and present it at your county, district, and state shows.

Explore complex topics for visual presentations such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Document project activities and goals in your record book.

## Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Expand your learning to multiple species with the livestock bowl.

Showcase your skills in the Swine Premier Exhibitor competition.

Share your project experience with beginners.

Use your project record book to review average daily gains, costs, and other project milestones.

## 4-H Thrive

### Positive Youth Development

#### Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

#### Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

#### Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

#### Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

#### Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

#### Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

**Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution.**

## Expand your experiences!



## Resources

1. *4-H Animal Lines*. MSU Extension Newsletter
2. *Animal Identification Process for Mississippi Junior Livestock Shows*. MSU Extension Publication P3385
3. *Guide to Determine What Weight Show Pig to Buy*. MSU Extension Publication P2516
4. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
5. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy: Proper Drug Use*. MSU Extension Publication P3689
6. *Leadership Opportunities in the 4-H Livestock Program*. MSU Extension Publication P2837
7. *Mississippi Livestock Quality Assurance Program for Youth Producers*. MSU Publication P2526
8. *Swine Showmanship*. MSU Extension Publication. P2212
9. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003
10. *4-H Livestock Judging Manual*. MSU Extension Publication P2289
11. *4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl: How to Get Involved!* MSU Extension Publication P3467

### Connections & Events

**For Juniors**  
Project Achievement  
Day Contests

**For Seniors**  
Club Congress Contests  
Premier Exhibitor  
Contest  
National Dairy Judging  
National 4-H Dairy  
Conference

**For Juniors & Seniors**  
State Dairy Judging  
Dairy Cattle Princess &  
Sweetheart Contests

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Contact your local  
Extension office to  
learn more.

### Curriculum

**Level 1 Book: The Incredible Pig.**  
**National 4-H Curriculum.**

**Level 2 Book: Putting the Oink in Pig.**  
**National 4-H Curriculum.**

**Level 3 Book: Going Whole Hog.** **National 4-H Curriculum.**

**Swine Helper's Guide.**  
**National 4-H Curriculum.**

### 4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals.

Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition.

Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Dairy Cattle Project record books.





## Activity Suggestions

Service and Leadership projects related to the Swine Project:

- Volunteer at your county and district shows
- Organize a fundraising event to purchase pork products to donate to a local food bank or soup kitchen.
- Mentor younger 4-H youth interested in showing pigs
- Provide safe pork handling instructional handouts at local grocery stores

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Judging:

- National Livestock Judging, Sr.
- State and National Meats Judging, Sr.
- State and District Livestock Judging, Jr. & Sr.

Visual Presentation:

- Swine Visual Presentation at Club Congress, Sr.
- Swine Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Swine Shows: Showmanship, Breeding, and Market Classes, Jr. & Sr.
- Livestock Bowl, Sr.
- Pork Cookout Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- State Record Book Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- Swine Premier Exhibitor Contest, Sr.

