



Introduction to the NH 4-H Swine Project Fact Sheet

The 4-H Swine project is an exciting, rewarding and educational experience for 4-H members. Raising pigs requires little room, expense, equipment and even time. A market hog project can be completed in as little as four months, where a swine breeding project may go on for a few years.

The words “swine”, “hogs”, and “pigs” refer to animals in the porcine family. The term swine is used to refer to the porcine family in a general way and the term pig is used to refer to a young animal. “Hog” is generally used when referring to an animal that is at or near market weight, which is 200-300 pounds. The term “barrow” refers to a neutered male and “gilt” means young female. A “sow” is a female pig which has had a litter of piglets (baby pigs). The term farrowing refers to the act of a sow giving birth and the term feeder pig refers to a young pig 30-40 pounds.

The goal of the 4-H swine project is to encourage integrity, sportsmanship, cooperation and communication while learning about pigs. There are two general 4-H project areas a 4-H member can pursue, the market hog program started with feeder pigs, and the swine breeding program started with either a purebred or crossbred gilt or sow. A gilt may be selected from a feeder pig and later mated and cared for through gestation and farrowing for the next year’s program.

Required Participant Age: 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year

Required Animal Age: A market hog program is started with feeder pigs(s) weighing between 40-50 pounds, approximately 4 months of age. A swine breeding program is started with a pig six months old and older.

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination (recommended vet administered) 30 days and not more than one year prior to the date of the show. All swine must originate from non-quarantined, Brucellosis and Pseudorabies Free herds and be clinically free from all other infectious and communicable diseases. A pig must be at least 4 months old to go to a 4-H event or Fair.

Required Animal Identification: Permanent Identification required. Tattoo or Ear Notch.

Forms

4-H Online Animal Registration/ Intent to Show Form: Must be complete with animal information and all verification

Due Date: June 1st to your County Extension Office

Lease Form (when applicable): Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures.

Due Date: June 1st to your County Extension Office

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals: If a 4-H member's only project animal dies, is critically ill to the point of being "unusable", or is deemed unsafe for the 4-H member to use as a project, after having been properly listed on their approval form, the County 4-H staff member may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new Animal Intent to Show form is to be submitted. In this instance, the replacement animal can be shown at all fairs (except Eastern States).

Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals: Upon the recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events ***including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H,*** must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. Always check with individual fair regulations for their requirements as some may require veterinarian certification.

Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. All 4-H project animals must be at least four months of age by show day to be shown, exhibited or brought to any 4-H event. For instance, a piglet born on April 31 could not be vaccinated until July 31 and couldn't be exhibited or brought to a 4-H event before August 31. Always check the fair book for the deadlines for the show you plan to participate in. Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. Always check the fair book for additional health requirements.

Resources

- [4-H Swine Project Guide-](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002334_Rep3429.pdf)
http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002334_Rep3429.pdf
- [4-H Breeding Swine Project Reference Guide-](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002336_Rep3431.pdf)
http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002336_Rep3431.pdf
- [Iowa State University Swine Judging Handout-](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002337_Rep3432.pdf)
http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002337_Rep3432.pdf
- [Youth Pork Quality Assurance Program-](http://www.pork.org/Certification/2344/youthPqaPlus.aspx#.USJw92cobLw)
<http://www.pork.org/Certification/2344/youthPqaPlus.aspx#.USJw92cobLw>

For more information, contact Mary Davis, State 4-H Animal and Agricultural Science Program Coordinator at (603)862-2188 or Mary.Davis@unh.edu

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