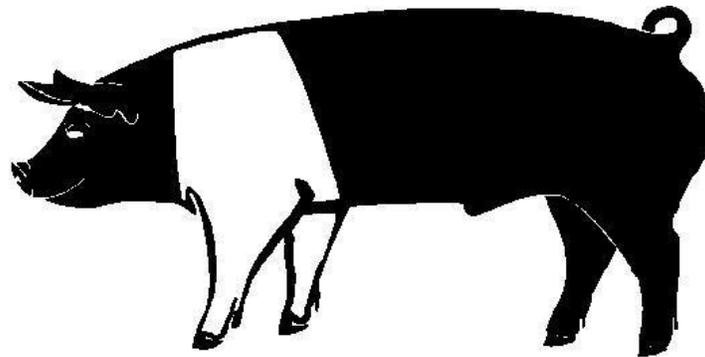




# **New Hampshire Guide 4-H Swine Program**



**UNH Cooperative Extension  
4-H Youth Development**

**Durham, NH 03824**

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<http://extension.unh.edu/4-HYouth-Family/Animal-Science-Home-Page>

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## Introduction

The primary purpose of this manual is to serve as a guide for 4-H leaders and members involved in the 4-H Swine Project in New Hampshire. We hope that the recommendations in the manual will be useful in giving guidance to all 4-H Swine leaders, parents and members. The New Hampshire 4-H Swine Curriculum Committee has reviewed this manual.

This manual may be used as a teaching tool for 4-H leaders as they help in preparing members to participate in competitive activities. This manual can be a valuable tool in giving direction to education programs carried on in 4-H Club meetings.

The 4-H Swine program encourages young people to develop self- confidence, discipline and a feeling of self-worth. The swine serves as a tool in the growth of each individual. The 4-H Swine shows should complement the basic objectives of 4-H work and the overall development of the boy or girl. Building, self-esteem and self- confidence are the key parts of this objective.

## Purpose of the 4-H Swine Project

All 4-H projects are designed for youth to gain knowledge and practice skills that revolve around a topic of interest to them. In addition, the 4-H youth development program is designed so that youth:

- Develop and practice skills in goal setting, self-responsibility, teamwork and leadership.
- Develop communication skills and an appreciation of learning.
- Develop integrity, sportsmanship, decision making ability and public presentation skills.
- Care about and serve others through work and their communities.
- Learn about swine breeds and identifying a sound animal that will be a good producer.
- Demonstration abilities in swine care and management, feeding care, handling and fitting.
- Understand the role of scientific research and swine husbandry.
- Explore career opportunities within the animal sciences.

There are many things that need to be done once you decide to enter a 4-H Swine show. The first decision involves selecting your animals for show. Be selective. Look for animals in your herd that are strong, healthy, correct in conformation and in good condition. Healthy animals are better able to withstand the stress of travel and the show.

Read the show rules carefully, fill out the entry form completely, and send it to the specified person before the deadline. If you have questions about the show, contact the show officials. It is a good idea to keep a copy of your entry so that you have a record of the animals entered and their classes. Check the health regulations for the show and work with your veterinarian to make sure they are met.

## **4-H PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:**

### **Required Participant Age:**

Youth must be between the ages of 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year and an active enrolled 4-H member to participate in the New Hampshire Swine Project.

### **Dress Code:**

Exhibitors need to wear appropriate clothes to show their animals, including proper footwear. 4-H members must wear close-toe shoes during any 4-H livestock event and while on fair property. The New Hampshire Dress code must be followed at all 4-H shows. 4-H Swine exhibitors uniform includes, white collared shirt and white or khaki pants. Exhibitors should be neat and clean including shirt tucked in, wearing a belt and hair pulled back out of their face. 4-H members must wear a 4-H emblem patch or pin over their left pocket area. A pin can be worn on the shirt collar.

## **SWINE GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **Required Animal Identification:**

All NH 4-H livestock **must** have permanent identification either ear tags or notches. If the original tag has been removed then your swine must be re-tagged and your county office must be notified of the new tag number.

### **Required Vaccination:**

It is mandatory that all swine who participate in any 4-H Show, event, or activity have a Rabies vaccine 30 days and not more than one year prior to that date. All 4-H swine must be at least 3 months of age to participate in a 4-H show, event or activity. Vaccines are recommended to be administered by a veterinarian. Always check the rules of the fair or event that you are planning on attending, as rules vary.

### **Forms:**

Intent to Show and Lease forms **must** be complete with animal information and with all signatures. *Forms can be found and filled out on the website (<http://extension.unh.edu>) and are due at your county UNH Cooperative Extension office by June 1<sup>st</sup>, of the current year.*

### **NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals:**

If a 4-H members **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 an Intent to Show Form, the Extension Field Specialist or 4-H Program Coordinator may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new Intent to

Show Form is to be submitted. In this instance, the replacement animal can be shown at all fairs (except Eastern States).

If a 4-H member's animal is unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their Intent to Show Form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may show the remaining animals on their Intent to Show Form. Should a county have a member who misses an appropriate deadline, due to their not owning an animal at the time of the deadline or their only project animal(s) is/are sick the county may make an exception for their county shows or events only. When a County makes the exception the youth's Intent to Show Form must be marked that these animals can be shown at their County Fair only.

### **SHOW INFORMATION:**

#### **Show Equipment:**

Show canes or blunted sticks not more than 1 inch in diameter and not more than 36" in length are permitted. No Paddles or whips permitted.

#### **General Fitting:**

Wash your pig a few times prior to the show. This will help get your pig used to the extra handling and will reduce scrubbing time at the show. It will also aid in making sure you have a clean, well-presented project to the public at the fair. Use caution when washing your pig. Cold water can be stressful. Wet your pig slowly beginning with the legs giving the animal time to adjust to the water temperature. Secondly, use great caution when washing around your pig's head to avoid getting water into the ears. This will make your pig carry his head in an unnatural manner. To wash your pig, begin with a good pre-rinse to soften hardened manure and dirt. Then, apply a mild soap, scrub the dirt free with a brush, and then rinse. The final rinse **MUST** remove ALL soap and dirt. Dandruff can result from soap residue. When you are finished, return your washed pig to a clean, well-bedded pen.

Bathing your swine with a mild shampoo prior to clipping helps keep clipper blades sharp. Ears, and tail should be clipped, making sure to leave a switch at the end of the tail.

#### **Preparing for showing**

Pigs will handle the fair better if they are comfortable around you. Spend some time getting to know your pig. Regularly work with your pig including exercising them and practice showing them. Have parents or friends serve as a judge as you practice your showmanship skills and get your pig accustomed to being handled. Provide some outside pen experience. This will give your pig additional exercise and will make it easier to move your pig in unfamiliar surroundings at the fairgrounds. Training a pig begins in advance of show time. The best way to do this is to begin walking the pig two weeks before show time, getting it used to you and your commands.

This exercise will tend to firm up its muscles and give it a better appearance. You also can practice giving the pig commands with a can or small stick.

Practice, Practice, Practice!!!! Practicing with your swine at home can result in better behaved animals in the ring. Let your animal become accustomed to other people. Have others run their hand over the back, sides and handle the ears, similar to what a judge would do in the show ring.

### **Transportation:**

Swine need to be protected from inclement weather. You can use a crate (depending on the size of the animal), truck or trailer, all will work for transporting your swine. Shavings or straw can be used as bedding to make the ride more comfortable. During the summer heat try to avoid hauling in the middle of the day. Always water your pigs before transporting them. You may want to wet bedding down when hauling on a hot day or add some ice blocks for the pigs. Make sure proper ventilation is provided. **Don't forget your health papers.** They are *required* before you can participate in any show or event.

### **Packing for the Show**

A tack box, especially one that locks, is a convenient way to carry the many small items that are needed at the show. Tack boxes can be made of wood or a tool box from a hardware store. To help you pack your tack box you can make a checklist of items suggested below.

#### **Item for your Tack Box:**

clippers	shampoo	short hose	wash bucket
towels (to dry animals)	baby wipes	brushes	paper towels
first aid items	fly spray	farm signs	stall decorations
Q-Tips	vaseline	hydrogen peroxide	old toothbrush
scissors			

#### **Other items needed for the Fair:**

bedding	grain	grain feeders	water buckets
pitchfork	rake	broom	pliers
hammer and nails	wheelbarrow	staple gun	extension cord
educational display			

### **Feed and Bedding:**

Some shows will have a supply of shavings/straw for sale or provide bedding. Check ahead of time for availability before you decide to bring your own. Exhibitors are expected to bring their own grain to all shows.

### **Arriving at the Show:**

Prior to unloading bring your registration and health papers and check-in with the show superintendent. Most shows require health checks before you unload. Your swine may have to be checked by the show veterinarian. The person checking the animals has the authority to dismiss them from the show if they are sick or appear to have a potential health problem. Once you have check in, unload and settle your swine into their pens. Make sure they have bedding and water. This will help them settle into their new surroundings. You may need to provide special care if you have been traveling far or if the weather is unpleasant.

Extra space may be available adjacent to your animal for your tack and equipment. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals throughout the show, including clean bedding, feed and fresh water, as needed. It usually takes swine a while to settle down into the show routine, especially if they have not been shown before.

### **Day of Show:**

Your swine should be bathed prior to the show. If the weather is cold or unpleasant, swine can be brushed and spot cleaned with a damp cloth, instead of bathing. Most swine will benefit from a final touch-up cleaning with a damp cloth just prior to going into the show ring. This is a good time to double check areas that are hard to keep clean, such as hooves, inside the ears, around the eyes and nose and under the tail. (At no time can you take a wet or damp swine into the show ring).

Walking your swine around the show ring area before the show starts helps them feel more relaxed when it is time for their class..

Be ready to enter the ring as soon as the class is called. Be prepared to know each animal's date of birth/age.

### **Showing your swine:**

Watch the class ahead of you to better understand the judge's procedure and preferred method of handling animals. When it is your turn to enter the ring, Watch the judge and at the same time be aware of what your swine is doing.

Train your pig at home prior to the show. Pigs are driven, not led with a halter. A driving tool such as a hog whip, hog stick or small cane is used to guide the pig in the show ring. Work with the pig so a light touch on the right side results in the pig moving to the left and a light tap on the left side turns the pig to the right. Exercise the pigs regularly to build stamina for the show ring. Carry a small rag or brush in your back pocket. If sawdust or dirt gets on the pig in the ring, quietly remove it.

**Keep the pig between you and the judge in the show ring at all times. Never block the judge's view of the pig.** Slowly guide the pig, keeping a 10- to 15 -foot distance from the judge. Move the pig so the judge has a clear view of its side, front and rear. Hold the driving tool in one hand, switching hands as necessary. Bend slightly at the waist and have repeated eye contact with the judge. keep your pig off of the fence, keep your pigs out of the corners, and on the move at all times. The more that you can be in the center of the ring, the more that the judge can get a good look at your hog. Feel free to use your free hand in your pig's face to move him out of a corner or get him off the rail, but NEVER use your knees. Your plan is try to anticipate when your hog will head for the fence and keep him from reaching it. Your

posture should be slightly crouched in a relaxed, casual position. Keep your eyes on the judge and always know where your judge is at all times. Eye contact with the judge is a very basic necessity to becoming a successful showman.

**Follow all of the judge's instructions.**

### **Fighting animals in the showing**

Do not move between fighting pigs. Occasionally pigs will start a fight in the ring. Stand back and allow a person with a hog board to break up the fight. Usually the fighting stops if the board separates the two pigs.

Move the pig away from corners and don't allow the pig to group with other pigs. If the judge asks for the pig to be penned, slowly move the pig to the desired pen. Open the gate, guide the pig into the pen, and latch the gate. Stand near the pig and wait for the judge's instructions. When asked to leave the pen, calmly move the pig out of the pen and close the gate.

The judge will ask the exhibitors questions about their animal. Do not draw the judge's attention away from the animal to you. Always remember **NOT** to block the judge's view.

Watch the judge closely and be aware of show procedures; first place winners in each class can be asked to return to the ring to compete for showmanship champion.

### **Fitting and Showmanship Class:**

Conformation of the animal is not considered in a fit and show class. The animal is evaluated on how it is groomed and shown. The secret of good show person is to control your animal in such a manner that the judge sees it at its best but never notices you. The judge looks for exhibitors that recognize the conformation weaknesses of their animals and show them effectively to overcome those weaknesses. You may also be asked questions about your swine and your swine knowledge in this class.

### **General Knowledge Quiz**

At some shows exhibitors are given a General Knowledge quiz. The quiz questions will be asked in a variety of formats (True/False, Multiple choice, Short Answer, Visuals.) Resources for these questions are the Ohio 4-H Swine Resource handbook and the National 4-H swine Curriculum books

### **Educational Display:**

Each 4-H member may bring an age appropriate educational poster or display to be placed at the stalls or in the tack area. This display might include posters about breeds, swine products, swine management or any other topic relating to swine. At most fairs there is room above the stalls to hang farms signs and ID signs for your animals. These signs could include, swine name, age, breed, color, and owners name or club. Please keep in mind that some swine like to climb and eat/nibble on everything, so be sure to hang them high enough to prevent this.

## **Herdsmanship:**

Most fairs offer this award for the cleanliness of your animals and area for the duration of the fair and your interaction with the public. The awards are based on the area where your animals are kept, your supplies (tack, buckets etc.) and management of the area in which your animals are penned during the fair. Exhibitors should be in the barn answering the public's questions and promoting 4-H and their project. Educational materials could be a poster, display or fabric to decorate the stalls or barn area. As a 4-H swine member you are to help educate the public about your project (animals). Educational information (**NO** personal information) such as breed information, events and safety are some topics that are interesting and helpful to the public.

### **Although every show is different, the following will make shows more enjoyable and worthwhile:**

- Cooperate with the show officials to the best of your ability.
- Learn the rules of the show and follow them.
- Be concerned about the comfort and health of your swine, keep your pens and animals neat and clean at all times. Provide adequate feed and water at all times.
- Be prepared and willing to answer questions from show visitors about your swine and swine in general.
- Handle your swine with dignity, pride and gentleness, both inside and outside of the show ring. Stay calm with troublesome animals; abusiveness will not be tolerated.
- Be courteous to the other exhibitors and the judge.
- Restrict conversation in the ring except to respond to the judge or show officials.
- Be gracious about accepting the judge's opinion.
- Show your animals the whole time you are in the ring, until the judge has given reasons and the class has been dismissed.
- If you have questions about the judging, wait until after the show is over to visit with the judge.
- Smile and enjoy yourself – it is part of program.
- **Remember that the placing's at a show are one judge's opinion** of how a certain group of animals compare with each other on a certain day. Placing of the same animals may be different at another show.

## **Fit and Show Judge:**

In the Fitting and Show class the judge will speak to each individual youth one-on-one and examine the cleanliness of the animal. At that time, give specific praise and constructive suggestions. The judge will ask you to move your animal and could ask general knowledge questions such as parts of the swine or questions about swine management. The judge will then place the class and give oral reasons on his/her places. Judges will award ribbons based on the Danish system.

## **Type Classes Judge:**

This could be the same person as the fit and show judge. In the confirmation/type classes, they are divided by breed then age. All animals that place first in their class might be asked to need to stay at ring side. The first place animals of each age class will return to the ring, and a

Champion of each breed will be chosen. Once the Breed champion is chosen the animal that placed second in the class will enter the ring and compete for Reserve Champion. Champion and Reserve Champion will only be chosen to those animals that received a blue Danish ribbon.

### **Market Class**

Market hogs will be weighted or taped by 4-H members the night of the arrival of the fair. The members will be supervised by the show superintendent. The show superintendent will then divide market classes at their discretion. Animals that are entered in the Market Class may NOT be entered in any other class with the exception of Fitting and Showmanship and Handling Classes

### **Confirmation Classes (Classes subject to change depending on show).**

#### **Recommended Type Classes for 4-H Swine Shows**

**\*\*Not all classes are offered at all shows, please check the show book for classes\*\***

**All youth must participate in a 4-H Fit & Show Class:**

#### **Fitting and Showmanship**

**Seniors – ages 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year**

**Intermediate – ages 12-13 as of January 1 of the current year**

**Junior – ages – 9-11 as of January 1 of the current year**

**Novice – age 8 or under 14 and their first year of showing as of January 1 of the current year**

### **Market Divisions**

**Feeder - up to 80 lbs**

**Market Hog-**

**This class will be divided by show superintendent depending on day of fair weight**

## **Champion Market Hog**

### **Breed classes (Divided by breed)**

(Berkshire, Duroc, Hampshire, Herford, Landrace, Yorkshire, Crossbred)

**Gilt - 4-8 months**

**Gilt - 8-12 months**

**Sow - (has farrowed at least 1 liter)**

### **Handling Class**

**Boars of any age are not allowed to be shown in 4-H**