



SWINE PROJECT AREA



In the swine project area, you can learn about breeds, health care, production, management, showmanship, marketing, and careers in the swine industry.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Learn the names of different breeds and their descriptions.
- Identify the parts of swine.
- Learn how to judge swine.
- Plan a facility that would keep swine safe and healthy.
- Learn how to feed and water your pick.
- Identify how a healthy pig looks and acts.
- Name and describe the cuts of meat of pork.
- Learn about pork by-products.
- Conduct a workshop for cooking pork.
- Prepare to show your swine at the fair.
- Learn the differences in preparing different cuts of pork by cooking and tasting.
- Explore common pig characteristics.
- Outline the health care plan for your pig.
- Understand swine management practices.
- Analyze and make decisions on how to solve swine issues.
- Formulate a swine ration.
- Plan and conduct a pork promotional activity.
- Help others learn each of the baby pig management practices.
- Assist a younger member in exploring the swine project area.
- Organize a judging clinic.
- Plan and conduct a swine showmanship clinic for younger project area members.
- Arrange questions and hold a swine quiz bowl.
- Research state and national swine organizations.
- Learn about swine genetics.
- Interview agencies about environmental issues related to the swine industry.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Make a poster on the parts of an animal.
- Participate in a judging contest, providing oral reasons.
- Give a demonstration of preparing your pig for a show.

Civic Engagement

- Volunteer your baby pig for an agriculture class at school.
- Participate in a service project donating to food pantries.
- Volunteer to help at your county livestock judging event.

Leadership

- Lead other swine project area members during a local pork producer event.
- Teach others how to handle swine safely.
- Lead a swine showmanship and grooming session before your county fair.

Entrepreneurship

- Sell local, home-grown pork products.
- Provide confinement cleaning services to local hog operations.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Apply for an in-depth hands-on learning experience on the Iowa State University campus during the three-day **Animal Science Roundup** late June. Youth in grades 8–12 are welcome to apply.
- **Livestock Quiz Bowl** is a team event for 4th–12th graders where they test their knowledge of beef, sheep, swine and meat goats. This event takes place each Spring on the Iowa State University campus.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Participate in your county or state swine show in market, breeding, or showmanship.
- Make an exhibit explaining the nutritive value of pork.
- Make a poster showing the cuts of meat and proper preparation.
- Make an exhibit explaining the importance of reading feed labels.
- Make a poster display of the different swine breeds with photos.
- Make a journal outlining your daily routine in caring for your animals.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Veterinarians** care for animal health by diagnosing, treating, and researching medical conditions and diseases.
- **Livestock judges** provide fair evaluations and advocate for the industry at various shows.
- **Lab assistants** take samples, perform tests, and record and analyze data.
- If you enjoy teaching others about livestock production, leading activities, and mentoring others, you may enjoy a career in **agricultural education**.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Students in **animal science** focus on the management of livestock species, as well as meat science, reproduction, genetics, and nutrition.
- If you enjoy sciences like microbiology and genetics, studying **biology** may interest you.
- Learn **veterinary technology** if you're interested in animal health, anatomy, and disease transmission.
- Study **zoology** if you enjoy working with wild animals in controlled environments and studying animal lifestyles.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.