

BUTTE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
4-H Swine Project Proficiency Program
A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Swine Project Proficiency Program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H Project. Your 4-H Project Leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 4-H Project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your 4-H Project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The [4-H Publications Catalog](#) lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The **4-H Educational Resources Lending Library** at the Butte County 4-H Office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeders' organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the 4-H Rabbit Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

Level 1 – Explorer You begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.

Level 2 – Producer You practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.

Level 3 – Consumer You become an experienced animal raiser.

Level 4 – Leader Allows you to show your own leadership potential.

Level 5 – Researcher You carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of your project.

As you work through the 4-H Project Proficiency Program, your 4-H Project Leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your 4-H Project Leader will notify the Community Club Leader. A 4-H Project Proficiency Program Pin and First Year Leg will be awarded for Level 1. Previous Year Leg will be returned when the next Level is awarded for Levels 2-5.

SWINE PROFICIENCY

Level 1 – Explorer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Describe the basic equipment necessary for the health, care, and safety of a pig on a daily basis.
- _____ 2. Name four breeds of pig including its typical color, pattern markings, and a characteristic o each. (i.e. length of snout, muscle mass, used as breeder of market animal)
- _____ 3. Describe what an ear notch looks like and its purpose. Read the notches on a live pig.
- _____ 4. Explain the difference between the following: gilt, barrow, sow, boar
- _____ 5. State the acceptable range of weight for a "Market Hog" at your local fairs (which reflects industry requirements).
- _____ 6. List at least six pieces of special equipment that are needed for caring for your pig.
- _____ 7. Identify the following parts from a diagram or live pig: eye, anus, rump, snout, jowl, rib, belly, leg, hind quarter, foot, ear.
- _____ 8. Define the meaning of five of the following terms: feeder animal, finish, market animal, farrow, litter, piglet.
- _____ 9. Describe the nutritional requirements of a pig and 3 major components of a daily feeding plan.
- _____ 10. Describe what you look for when selecting the "Ideal Pig".
- _____ 11. Demonstrate basic showmanship skills.
- _____ 12. State the normal temperature of a pig.
- _____ 13. State the normal average daily feed intake of a pig as it relates to body weight or "rate of gain". Keep a "Weight Record" of your pig for at least 60 days.
- _____ 14. Name at least 3 products, other than meat, that we get from pigs.
- _____ 15. Describe the pen or area where your pig lives and explain how it meets your pig's needs.
- _____ 16. Share one aspect of your project at a club meeting.
- _____ 17. Participate in a community service/citizenship activity related to the project.

- _____ 18. Attend a county, sectional, or state 4-H related event outside of your 4-H club.
- _____ 19. Describe or demonstrate how to sanitize your animal's equipment.

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD

SWINE PROFICIENCY

Level 2 – Producer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____

Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Name and describe six breeds of pig. State what each breed is commonly raised for.
- _____ 2. State the gestation period for a pig.
- _____ 3. Identify three of the following cuts of meat using a diagram or live pig: butt, picnic, loin, belly/side, ham.
- _____ 4. Develop a list of breeders or vets who specialize in pigs that are in your area. Share the list with the members in your project.
- _____ 5. Describe a problem you have/had in the past with your project and how you solved the problem.
- _____ 6. Participate in a 4-H event outside of your club at county, sectional or state level.
- _____ 7. Identify the parts of the reproductive system of the male and female pig using a diagram.
- _____ 8. State the meaning of: grade animal, sire, dam, purebred animal, creep feeding, and yield percentage. Tell why it is important to know these terms.
- _____ 9. Describe the importance of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, water, minerals, and vitamins in the diet of a hog. Explain the feed tag on a bag of feed.
- _____ 10. Visit an established breeder and learn how the animals are housed, fed, watered, cared for, bred; and what and how products are marketed. Share what you learned with your project or club.
- _____ 11. Describe three important factors in selecting an animal for breeding and describe the conditions important for the care of a pig for breeding and birthing.
- _____ 12. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials. At the end of the year calculate your profit or loss.
- _____ 13. Assist in organizing a club 4-H event. The focus here is on learning the process of organization.
- _____ 14. Name one internal and one external parasite found in swine, and describe the methods of treatment.

- _____ 15. Explain at least two courtesies expected for animal husbandry where you board your pig or while sharing pens at the fair.
- _____ 16. Name eight products (besides those identified in Level 1), other than meat, that we get from pigs.
- _____ 17. Create an Educational Poster depicting some aspect of your pig project and display it outside your project and club, for example: at the county fair.
- _____ 18. Participate in a community service activity with your swine project.

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SWINE PROFICIENCY

Level 3 – Consumer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Demonstrate to younger members in your project how to read and/or complete one of the management records required for raising hogs. (example: daily feed record, bill of sale, health record, breeding swine farrowing record, inventory, expense, weight record, carcass information, meat value or show record).
- _____ 2. Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and determine what this association has to offer you. Share this information with members in your project.
- _____ 3. Report on the history of your breed of hog.
- _____ 4. Describe how good selection can improve your swine stock. Explain in-breeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each. What important inheritable traits must be considered in breeding swine?
- _____ 5. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your meetings.
- _____ 6. Compare the pig's digestive system with that of ruminants.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate advanced record keeping skills. (this can be done within your Swine Project or for 4-H in general as it relates to record books).
- _____ 8. Prepare and give a speech outside of your project group.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications to your pig. Describe when you would use each method and why.
- _____ 10. Assist in organizing a county, sectional or state 4-H event. The focus here is on learning the process of organization.
- _____ 11. Keep a personal reference library of literature and WEB sites helpful to your project.
- _____ 12. Participate in or organize a community service activity related to your project.
- _____ 13. Describe three swine diseases their causes, symptoms, and methods of treatment and prevention
- _____ 14. Design an advertisement, web site, or marketing strategy for your pig or a pig by-product
- _____ 15. Explain what important care is needed for newborn pigs within the first three days?

- _____ 16. Complete one year as a Junior Leader in any project.
- _____ 17. Research and give a speech or demonstration on the pros and cons of using pigs in medical research.
- _____ 18. Continue building a reference library for your project and share this information with members of your project.

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SWINE PROFICIENCY

Level 4 – Leader

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Complete one year as Junior or Teen leader in this project.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- _____ 3. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for such an event.
- _____ 4. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- _____ 5. Develop your own special activity related to the Swine Project. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.
- _____ 6. Participate in planning a county, sectional or state 4-H event, e.g. a leadership conference.
- _____ 7. Be active in the project at the county-wide level, e.g. organize a county-wide event in your project or serve as county council Project Chairman for this project.
- _____ 8. Provide an advanced resource list that can be used by other members in the Swine Project. The idea is that you contribute to the county resources for others to use (e.g. CD, record keeping forms.).
- _____ 9. Design or improve some aspect related to the project (e.g. marketing, equipment or teaching materials.)
- _____ 10. Invite and introduce a speaker to assist the Swine Project in some way. Describe five things to consider when inviting, introducing and thanking a speaker.
- _____ 11. Explore some aspect of the project through the historical perspective.
- _____ 12. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Insemination vs. Natural Breeding when breeding swine.
- _____ 13. Talk about some possible career and/or educational related options that you may choose to explore in the future.
- _____ 14. Explore the science of the project, for example: medical, genetics, physiology, anatomy, diseases.
- _____ 15. Explore the economics, consumer impact, and ethical issues related to raising pigs.

- _____ 16. Plan a community service project for your club community, or county 4-H community.
- _____ 17. Complete one of the following: (1) If you had the opportunity to start your swine project all over again, what improvements could be made in reference to any aspect of your project? (2) What improvements would you like to make next year concerning your Swine Project?

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SWINE PROFICIENCY

Level 5 – Researcher

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Complete all requirements for Levels 1-4.
- _____ 2. Put on a judging contest of swine project members.
- _____ 3. Complete either alternative 1, 2, or 3 below:
 1. Have a breeding project involving at least four animals, and demonstrate knowledge of line breeding, breed characteristics, performance reports, marketing channels, artificial insemination, registration papers, breeding procedures, tagging, and ear notching.
 2. Have a feeding project of at least four animals and demonstrate knowledge of feeding market hogs vs. breeding hogs, feeding rations, rates of gain, marketing channels, general health, purebred vs. crossbred feeders, ability to figure expenses and needed selling price, knowledge of dressing percentage, grades, shrinkage, retail cut-out value, meat inspection and grading, brand inspection.
 3. Complete a research project involving some aspect of the swine industry such as breed associations and promotions, current legislative programs, current swine industry trends, commercial vs. purebred herd, career exploration, and current medical research projects.

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REQUIREMENTS:

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- Attend 80% of club and project meetings or meet requirements of a county-wide project.
- Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification.
- Records must include **Personal Development Report** and **Annual Project Report** form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.