

4-H

Swine Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Swine Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 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 project.

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

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Lassen County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our 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 breeder's 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 Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced animal raiser.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of the swine project, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

SWINE

Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Know the principles of selecting and buying a feeder pig.
- _____ 2. Learn and be able to describe desirable conformation in a market hog.
- _____ 3. Knowledge of different types of feeding (self, hand) and the advantages or disadvantages they have.
- _____ 4. Types of feed: starter, grower, and finisher and their appropriate use in feeding market hogs.
- _____ 5. Know how to calculate rate of gain.
- _____ 6. Know how to train your pig for showmanship.
- _____ 7. Be able to show parts of the pig and know the following terms swine producers use: barrow, gilt, boar, sow, farrow, castrate, needle teeth, wasty, weaner, ham, parturition, shote or shoat.
- _____ 8. Know housing and equipment needs. How important pen size, shelter and water are for the hog.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate how to care for your hogs in cold or hot weather.
- _____ 10. Knowledge of the importance of worming and a good brand of wormer to use.
- _____ 11. Give some examples of preventative measures in swine health care.
- _____ 12. Know how to control lice and manage mites.
- _____ 13. Identify 6 breeds of swine and their characteristics.
- _____ 14. Exhibit project animal and participate in showmanship.
- _____ 15. Give a demonstration on some phase of swine production at the project or club level.
- _____ 16. Keep records on cost and labor involved in caring for animals.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SWINE

Level II - Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

1. _____ Learn the principles of swine judging – Important points to consider when selecting breeding gilts, boars, and market animals.
2. _____ Know the difference of registered and grade animals, and the advantages of each.
3. _____ Explain the approved farrowing practices:
 - How to set up a farrowing pen
 - How to tell when gilt is in heat – describe different signs
 - Know the day of a heat cycle
 - Know the age to breed a gilt and start using a boar
4. _____ Explain how to remove needle teeth and explain why.
5. _____ Explain the reasoning for giving iron shots.
6. _____ Observe how to castrate.
7. _____ Know how to read an ear notch.
8. _____ Explain the symptoms of these swine diseases and be aware of treatment and vaccinations:
 - Erysipilas
 - Atrophic Rhinitis
 - Brucellosis
 - Pneumonia
 - Leptospirosis
9. _____ Learn about composition feeds.
10. _____ Know the different wholesale and retail cuts of pork and expected percentage of yield of cuts and carcass.
11. _____ Keep project records, production and breeding records.
12. _____ Complete an application for registration, transfer papers and breeding certificates for swine registry.
13. _____ Give a demonstration.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SWINE

Level III - Consumer

Date _____
Completed _____

1. Know hereditary defects (select animals free from the following abnormalities of a family history of such traits):
 - Cryptorchidism
 - Ruptures
 - Atresia anus
 - Myoclonica congenital (shakes)
 - Rectal prolapsed
 - Swirls
 - Hermaphroditism
 - Infantile vulva
2. Know the meaning of inbreeding, line breeding, out crossing in a purebred operation.
3. Know the advantages of crossbreeding.
3. Learn the use of feed additives.
4. Explain how to develop a health and vaccination program for your swine herd.
5. Explain the digestive system of a hog.
6. Use market and outlook information in adjusting production and marketing.
7. Learn effective procedures and methods of marketing.
8. Explain and demonstrate how to feed and manage the swine herd.
9. Feed, manage, and market hogs from a purebred and/or grade swine herd.
10. Feed and manage a sow and litter.
11. Keep production records.
12. Participate in carcass evaluation programs.
13. Take part in livestock judging contest.
14. Explore career opportunities in areas of livestock and meats.
15. Give a presentation on swine to a group other than 4-H.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SWINE
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- _____ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- _____ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- _____ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- _____ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SWINE
Level V - Researcher

Date
Completed

- _____ 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, and notching.
 - 2. Have a feeding project of at least four animals and demonstrate knowledge of feeding market hogs vs. boars, market hogs vs. gilts, feeding rations, rates of gain, marketing channels, general health, purebred vs. crossbred feeders, ability to figure expenses and needed selling price, knowledge of carcass yields, retail cut-out value, meat inspection and grading.
 - 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.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

*has completed the Swine Proficiency
in Lassen County.*

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

