

4-H

Swine Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **Swine Proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H swine 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 *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 your 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 Swine 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 swine.
- **Level II – “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising swine.
- **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 Swine, 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 and notify the 4-H office. You will be awarded your Proficiency Medal at the Annual 4-H Achievement and Awards Night.

Swine Proficiency

Level I - Explorer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Principles in selecting and buying market pigs. Know market weights and the age an animal should be to reach the desired weight.
- _____ 2. Learn and be able to describe desirable conformation in a market hog.
- _____ 3. To feed, fit, and exhibit market pigs.
 - Different types of feeding equipment. Advantages and disadvantages of each.
 - Types of feeds: starter, grower, & finisher & their appropriate use in feeding market animals.
 - Know how many pounds a day an average pig should gain.
 - Know how to handle a pig.
 - How to train for show and showmanship techniques.
- _____ 4. Parts of the pig and terms swine producers use:
Barrow, gilt, boar, sow, farrow, castrate, needle teeth, wasty, weaner, ham, stifle, depth of loin.
- _____ 5. Housing and equipment needs.
 - Importance of pen size, shelter & water facilities
 - How to care for your pigs when weather is hot or cold.
- _____ 6. Efficient management practices.
 - The importance of worming and what the withdrawal dates are for the product you are using.
 - Know good preventive measures in swine health care.
 - How to control lice and other external parasites.
- _____ 7. Safety Management Practices.
 - How to safely load a pig into a scale.
 - How to safely load and unload a pig from a trailer/truck.
- _____ 8. Identify six breeds of swine and their characteristics.
- _____ 9. Maintain accurate project records.
- _____ 10. Demonstrate how to fill out a fair entry form.
- _____ 11. Visit a breeder's farm or facility.
- _____ 12. Exhibit project animal – participate in showmanship.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council, June 2003
Developed by Kandee Stolesen, 4-H Project Leader*

Swine Proficiency

Level II - Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Principles in swine judging – Important points to consider when selecting breeding gilts, boars and market animals.
- _____ 2. Know the difference of registered or grade animals, and the advantages of each.
- _____ 3. Explain approved farrowing practices:
 - How to set up a farrowing pen.
 - How to tell when a 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. How to remove needle teeth – why?
 - Know the reasons for giving iron shots.
 - Observe how to castrate.
 - Know how to read an ear notch.
- _____ 5. Know the symptoms of these swine diseases and be aware of treatment and/or vaccination: Atrophic Rhinitis, Brucellosis, Pneumonia, Leptospirosis, PRRS.
- _____ 6. Learn about composition of feeds.
- _____ 7. Develop an understanding of markets and their operations.
- _____ 8. Know the different wholesale and retail cuts of pork.
- _____ 9. Keep project records, production or breeding records on your animals.
- _____ 10. Take part in a livestock judging event.
- _____ 11. Tour a purebred and/or commercial swine farm and learn how they feed, house and breed their animals.
- _____ 12. Tour an auction yard and observe their sales.
- _____ 13. Attend a swine show or judging field day.
- _____ 14. Complete application for registration, transfer papers and breeding certificates for Swine Registry.
- _____ 15. Learn about Drug Safety and Withdrawal Times:
 - How to Safely Give an Injection
 - Learn how to read and understand labels of the product you are administering to your animal.
 - Understand why you are giving the drug to your animal.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Level III - Consumer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.)
- _____ 2. Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
- _____ 3. Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
- _____ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in-breeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- _____ 5. Invite a guest speaker to one of your meetings and introduce them to the group.
- _____ 6. Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your animal species and how it differs from other species.
- _____ 7. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- _____ 8. Explain three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
- _____ 9. Give a talk on a secondary aspect or by-product of your project industry.
- _____ 10. Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
- _____ 12. State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your animal species.
- _____ 13. Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animal.
- _____ 14. Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
- _____ 15. Alone or with your group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Swine Proficiency Level IV - Leader

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Complete one year as junior or teen leader in this project.
- _____ 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 such an event.
- _____ 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. Assist younger members in learning a specific topic in the subject.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special project-related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Swine Proficiency

Level V - Researcher

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Carry through and report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)

- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following subjects. Orally summarize report at project meeting or other educational event.
 - Management of animal
 - Feeds, feeding and nutrition
 - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation
 - Markets and methods of marketing
 - Reproduction, breeding and genetics
 - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your project
 - Other

- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____ Proficiency
in _____ County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

NOTES

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