

University of California Cooperative Extension

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT GUIDE

SWINE

The purpose of the 4-H animal science program is to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of the young person. A secondary purpose is to teach 4-H members how to feed, fit, select and manage the animals they own. In the process of feeding and caring for an animal, 4-H members have the opportunity to develop many positive life skills.

The 4-H project leader can be of great assistance in developing the member's initiative, pride, and abilities as well as an appreciation toward animals. As a leader you will find a host of "tools" to use in developing the members skills; some of these are:

- ✦ 4-H lending library
- ✦ Resource leaders and community members
- ✦ Junior/teen leaders
- ✦ State and national breed associations
- ✦ County fairs and shows
- ✦ County trainings and events
- ✦ Members' parents
- ✦ Project proficiencies

As a 4-H project leader you will recognize that:

- not every idea will come directly from the project literature.
- each member is an individual and will have a unique learning style.
- if an adult does any part of the work necessary for a successful project the youth does not have that opportunity.
- members may need help halter breaking a steer or sheering a lamb. The idea is for parents and leaders to allow the member do all they are capable of doing.
- junior/teen leaders make excellent assistants. (In general, the junior leader assists an adult leader and an adult leader assists a teen leader.).

The following month-by-month guide will hopefully provide the first year leader with ideas for successful projects, as well as reminders for the experienced leader. It should be recognized that these are only ideas and are not intended as a strict set of rules to follow throughout the year. You, as a 4-H volunteer, may desire to change some of these ideas to another month, use these as a spring board for other ideas, or in some cases not use them at all. The *Project Leader Worksheet* will assist you in planning your project for the upcoming year.

Each member should receive instruction on selection, housing, feeding and routine care of the animal *before* it is purchased. This way the members will better understand the cost, time commitment and responsibility they are accepting.

SWINE

SEPTEMBER

1. Contact UC Extension 4-H office for list of who is enrolled in the project and who will serve as a Junior/Teen Leader.
2. At first project meeting collect a complete and up-to-date, Medical Release Form (4-H 1109) for each participant.
3. Review with breeding project members, discuss breeding, feeding and farrowing.
4. For animals already purchased, review internal and external parasites and control.
5. Instruct members on vitamin/mineral deficiencies and vaccinations.
6. Instruct members on breeds, conformation and selection.
7. Discuss how to participate in proficiency program and County Presentation Day.

OCTOBER

1. Review what supplies, feed, and shelter, each member will need to have before purchasing an animal.
2. Discuss with members and parents the cost of market animals, figure a feeding budget and possible sources for a loan, if necessary.
3. Discuss nutrition needs, types of feed, feeding program, grooming, and safe handling.
4. Alert members and their parents to swine sales, and other resources to secure market or breeding animals.
5. Review what is, and the importance, of adequate winter shelter.
6. Discuss the importance of feeding, on time, every day, seven days a week.
7. Check 4-H Lending Library for project reference materials.

NOVEMBER

1. Contact UC Extension 4-H office for an updated list of who is enrolled in the project and who will serve as a Junior/Teen Leader.
2. Continue assisting members in locating and buying market and show animals.
3. Review barn safety and safe handling practices.
4. Assist members in starting project record keeping.
5. Discuss permanent identification, and the different methods of identification.
6. Review with each member their personal goals for this project.

DECEMBER

1. Plan project tour to see member's animals and facilities.
2. Discuss hoof care and maintenance.
3. Review what and how much feed animals are receiving.
4. Begin holding practice judging activities or skill-a-thon.
5. Discuss farrowing with breeding projects members.
6. Have each member assemble a barn emergency kit for both animals and humans.
7. Discuss breeding procedures with breeding project members.

JANUARY

1. Discuss the importance of exercise and why all animals need some exercise.
2. Review farrowing crates, housing, and warning lights for sows to farrow.
3. Make sure members are prepared to care for new born piglets.
4. Continue locating breeders with market swine for Lake County Fair.
5. Discuss the importance of rate-of-gain and market weighs.
6. Discuss topics and ideas for County Presentation Day.
7. Discuss a field trip to Junior Grand National, educational field day, or other livestock shows.
8. Review signs of illness and medicine to have on hand.

FEBRUARY

1. Check that members have entered County Presentation Day.
2. Arrange for a field day with another project group for a judging/skill-a-thon.
3. Plan local project tour to see all breeding project animals and how they are progressing.
4. Plan a field trip to Junior Grand National or to other swine shows.
5. Review signs of illness and medicine to have on hand.
6. Plan a community service activity related to the project.

MARCH

1. Review conformation, show quality and wholesale meat cuts.
2. Discuss project record completion, and other requirements for showing or selling at the Lake County Fair.
3. Discuss rate-of-gain and market weight.
4. Review Showmanship

5. Cover record keeping and update project records.
6. Start planning educational display for Lake County Fair.

APRIL

1. Discuss fences, feeders, watering systems and summer misters, housing and summer shade.
2. Each member should attend/participate in a minimum of 1 hour of animal ethics training.
3. Check that members have followed through on obtaining a market animal.
4. Continue discussing what members need to have on hand before they receive their market animals.
5. Review daily and show grooming.
6. Discuss bio-security and how to keep animals healthy.

MAY

1. Encourage members and parents to read the Lake County Fair Exhibitor Handbook Book.
2. Discuss fly control and other parasites.
3. Plan a field trip to up coming fairs.
4. Have members start looking for buyers for the Lake County Fair Auction.
5. Advise members of special fair awards and recognition.

JUNE

1. Cover project record completion and other requirements to show or sell at Lake County Fair.
2. Advise members how to exercise hogs in warmer weather.
3. Practice fitting, showing and showmanship.
4. Continue discussing rate-of-gain and review weight classification in market classes.
5. Advise members of “due date” on project records, and procedure for fair entry form signature.
6. Plan project tour to see all market animals and how they are progressing

JULY

1. Hold grooming and showing activities.
2. Plan for project or group competition at fairs.
3. Help members create a “check list” of supplies to take to fairs.
4. Continue recording rate-of-gain.
5. Discuss feeding and watering at the fair.

AUGUST

1. Continue fly control, and daily grooming.
2. Finish educational display for Lake County Fair.
3. Continue project records and encourage members to re-enroll in project.
4. Continue recruiting buyers for the Jr. Livestock Auction.
5. Discuss requirements and tips and ideas for Lake County Fair:
 - a. Showmanship, uniform requirements.
 - b. Proper methods for safely transporting animals to fair.
 - c. Weigh-in, thank you notes and awards ceremony
 - d. Everyone selling at auction needs to be a Runner
 - e. Clean Stall and Educational Display Award
 - f. Stay in uniform after they have sold their animal and help the duration of the Jr. Livestock Auction.

Several of the animal science projects have Project Proficiencies as a part of the learning experience. They provide youth opportunities to sample a broad array of experiences, measure personal progress, and become self-directed learners. They provide a standard of excellence where members are recognized for knowledge and skills they have mastered. The Project Proficiency may be used as a guideline for 4-H volunteers to enhance and expand project content and experiences. Each proficiency level will help members set goals, record their successes, and be recognized for their work. Each level can take more than one year to complete. Members are not expected to complete a level each year. In some projects, more than one level can be completed in a year if they are highly motivated. For additional information about the proficiency program refer to the *Leader Tips for Utilizing the 4-H Project Proficiency Program*.

Resources available at the UC Cooperative Extension office:

4-H Lending Library

Learning Laboratory Kit

4-H Club Member & Parent Expectations – (project and fair participation requirements)

Teen Leaders

Other 4-H Project Leaders

UCCE website: <http://celake.ucdavis.edu>

Project Proficiency

California State 4-H Website:

Parts Identification Poster <http://ca4h.org/4hresource/forms>

University of California, Davis website:

Animal Science <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu>

Safety Notes http://danrrec.ucdavis.edu/ehs/safety_notes/

For additional resources contact the 4-H staff at the UCCE office:

707/263-6838,

UCCE Office, 883 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport CA 95453

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