OBJECTIVES

The Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program will help youth to:

1. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning and caring for market swine.

2. Learn how to feed, fit, show, and raise market swine.

3. Learn proper handling procedures to prevent injuries to 4-H members and their Project animal(s).

4. Become good citizens by working together in groups and supporting 4-H Market Swine Project activities and events.

5. Develop leadership initiative, self-confidence, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program

Getting Started

The Leaders Role
As a leader in the 4-H Market Swine project, you should be knowledgeable in the care and management of market lambs. The leader’s goal should be to help the 4-H members fulfill the objectives outlined by the member and leader.

Housing
Proper housing is necessary to raise healthy and productive animals. Make certain there is proper shelter from the elements as well as ventilation. The MSU Extension Office has resources including shelter designs that are available.

Nutrition
Proper nutrition is a must to be successful. Learn about nutrition from resources available from the MSU Extension Office as well as from area Feed Stores. The animal’s diet will affect its weight and condition. Always provide fresh, clean water.

Management
Housing and nutrition are basic parts of proper management of the market swine project. Also included is the general care of the animal. Ensure that there is clean dry bedding available. Routine worming and vaccinations are a must.

Fitting and Showing
Use proper handling techniques from the beginning of your project. Working with your animal on a daily basis will pay off in the long run. Learn proper fitting and showing techniques by going to other shows, Fairs, demonstrations and clinics. Bulletins are also available thru the MSU Extension Office.
Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program

PROJECT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The adult 4-H Market Swine project leader is expected to assist members, through a project learning experience, to grow and develop into responsible, emotionally mature young adults. This goal can be achieved in the following specific areas:

**Project administration**
- Secure project literature and other relevant materials from the Extension Office and other sources.
- Provide Administrative leader of the club with information on new 4-H members.
- Work with 4-H members and other leaders to decide on meeting dates, locations, times and duration.
- Encourage 4-H members to keep records and assist them in understanding and following all guidelines in projects.
- Keep 4-H members informed about local, county and state events and activities.
- Assist members in finding prospective project animals. Before the tagging deadline visit with the member and observe how the member works with his/her animal. Give suggestions as needed. Follow up visits as needed or requested.
- Complete required 4-H Market Swine Project forms and 4-H Swine Carcass forms and submit to office by July 15th.

**Communication**
- Communicate with the club administrative leader as well as other club leaders.
- Make an effort to get acquainted with parents of members. Inform parents of meeting dates, times & places set by the group.

**Project Education**
- Plan the project experience based upon the needs and interests of the 4-H members, using a variety of teaching techniques, demonstrations, illustrated talks, tours, trips, audio-visual material, resource people, etc.
- Meet periodically with the project group to provide instruction in subject matter and to help members achieve the goals which, together and individually, they have set.
- Assist 4-H members in setting goals, and developing a realistic self-evaluation program checking their progress periodically and helping kids develop a positive self-image through regular encouragement and sincere praise.
- Involve 4-H Teen leaders with specific tasks and/or other responsibilities, which have been developed in consultation with teens.

**Leadership**
- Attend and participate in Monthly 4-H Livestock Leader meetings to keep up to date on what is happening at the county, regional, state and national levels.
- Participate in county, regional, state and national leader training when possible.
Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program

Resources

Allegan County MSU Extension is located at 3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 103 in the Human Services Building at the County Services Complex near Dumont Lake about 5 miles north of Allegan. The Phone number is 269-673-0370. The fax number is 269-673-7005.

Publications - The Allegan County MSU Extension Office has 4-H and Extension Swine publications available for purchase by clubs.

Website - Use the Allegan County MSU Extension office website www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan to find out what's happening in the county and throughout the state in Swine programming. You can also connect to Michigan State University through our site.

Other Resources - Breed Associations and State/National Swine Organizations.

Suggested Activities

Club & County Activities
- Guest speakers, such as a Veterinarian, Extension Staff, judging team.
- Try a Quiz Bowl to make learning fun.
- Visit a vet clinic, Livestock auction, research farm, neighboring County Fair Show, Open Shows, etc...
- Allegan County Fair in September

Participate in State and National Activities:
- Green & White Youth Event & Open Hog Show in January at MSU Pavilion
- 4-H Communications Contest in February at MSU for 9 - 19 year olds.
- 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Workshop held in Feb. at Kettunen Center.
- ANR Week in March at MSU for all youth and adults
- MSU Vet-A-Visit (March or April) at MSU
- B & B Youth Livestock Judging Contest (April) at MSU Pavilion
- MI Spartan Classic Jr. Swine Show (June) at MSU Pavilion
- 4-H Exploration Days at MSU in June for youth 12-19 years old.
- State 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest (July) at MSU Pavilion
- Ag Expo (July) at MSU
- Michigan State Fair held in August.

Contact the Allegan County 4-H Staff for more information on State and National 4-H Swine Activities.
Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program

SUGGESTED LEARNING PLAN

Members should learn:

1. To recognize the breed of their swine project.

2. Proper show attire – see dress code guidelines

3. How to select a good project animal
   A. Breed & characteristics of Breed
   B. Age
   C. Confirmation
   D. Registered or cross

4. Principles of proper feeding, housing and health requirements.

5. Proper handling skills.

6. Basic anatomy of their Swine project.

7. Basic fitting and showmanship.

8. How to keep accurate records:
   A. Expenses of project (animal, feed, housing equipment, etc.)
   B. Length of project.
   C. Income of project - animal sold, premiums

9. In-depth knowledge of their project animal.


Allegan County 4-H Market Swine Program

GENERAL 4-H MARKET SWINE PROJECT RULES

Membership
1. Allegan County 4-H Market Sine Projects are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

2. Youth must be at least 9 years old and not older than 19 years old as of JANUARY 1ST of the current year to be enrolled in the 4-H Market Swine Project

3. Youth must be enrolled in a 4-H club to participate in 4-H Market Swine project activities. (Youth showing as independents at the Allegan County Fair wanting to sell at the 4-H Market Livestock Auction must follow the same rules as 4-H and pay a participation fee of $10 payable by tagging deadline)

4. A youth may enroll in a 4-H club at any time during a project, however, activity/event deadline dates must be adhered to, in order to maintain eligibility in those areas.

Project Animal(s)
1. 4-H Members must have their Project animal(s) tagged and in their possession by July 15th. Youth may raise up to 3 animals, but may only bring two to the Fair. Members of the same family can share their third animal, but if it comes to the fair it must be designated to an individual member.

2. 4-H members must work with their market swine projects becoming familiar with them by caring, fitting, and learning how to show their animals.

3. 4-H Members are responsible for 80% of their project animal's care.

4. Project animals must be kept clean.

5. Each project animal must meet State Health guidelines.

6. 4-H Members should keep a 4-H Market Swine Project Record Book.

7. Market swine may be either Barrows or Gilts.

8. Swine must weigh at least 220# but not more than 320# to show and sell at the fair.

Dress Code
The 4-H Livestock Leaders policy for appropriate dress for 4-H members showing beef, sheep and swine:

1. Dress neatly. Wear a short or long sleeved collared type shirt tucked into clean not ripped jeans or show pants. Wear a belt for neatness. Jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling should be avoided.

2. Leather or safety boots/shoes must be worn for safety and appearance reasons.
PQA Certification Information

1. 4-H Market Swine Project members, as well as independent youth, **MUST** have current PQA certification in order to sell at the 4-H Livestock Auction at the Allegan County Fair.

2. Youth’s Age is determined January 1\textsuperscript{st} of the current year.

3. Beginners (Youth age 8-11) must re-certify annually by attending a certification workshop.

4. Intermediates (Youth age 12-14) and Advanced (youth age 15-19) can certify/re-certify annually by attending a certification workshop OR can certify by receiving a 70% correct on a test. Once certified by test the youth is not required to re-certify until the next age bracket is reached.

5. All youth who attend a workshop will at least receive a 1 yr. certification. If they fail the test they receive a certificate good until the next age group – if they don’t pass they will be certified for 1 year.

6. TESTING OPTION FOR YOUTH TIRED OF COMING TO PQA SESSIONS. May take test in Allegan County MSU Extension Office – Youth passes test gets appropriate certification OR Youth fails test must attend Youth PQA Session to receive a 1 yr. certificate.

Commission fee

1. A commission fee of 4\% (as determined by the 4-H Livestock Leaders Committee prior to the Fair) will be charged on each animal sold through the auction.

2. .5\% of the commission fee is dedicated to the insurance fund as the 4-H Livestock Leaders are self insured.

3. 3.5\% of the commission fee is used by the 4-H Livestock Leaders to cover auction expenses, advertising and support county 4-H livestock programs and activities.
ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK LEADERS
SELF-INSURANCE POLICY

COVERAGE - A market animal owned by a 4-H member, which has been rightfully registered with the County Extension office, shall be covered under the following conditions. The Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders will pay for the direct physical loss caused by DEATH of the covered livestock from the time it is on the scales to be weighed at the fairgrounds until it is loaded onto a truck/trailer for shipping off fairgrounds.

LIMITS OF INSURANCE - Benefit will be paid in cases of death only. Benefit to be paid to whoever is the owner at the time of death. Amount of benefit to be paid will be based on the current market value at Wayland Hopkins Livestock Auction on Tuesday of Fair week. Weight will be the weight on the Fair weight slip. If claim(s) exceed the amount in the insurance fund, the fund will be distributed proportionately.

EXCLUSIONS - We will not pay for loss caused by or resulting from fire, floods, disease, crippling, theft, or dishonest acts by member/owner.

D. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS - To receive the benefit a claim must be submitted in writing with proof of death attached. If a 4-H member is making the claim it must be signed by the member, parent, leader and superintendent with the weigh slip from the Fair attached. Claims to be sent to: Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders, 3255 122nd Ave., Suite 101, Allegan, MI 49010-9511.

E. PREMIUMS - GreenStone Farm Credit Services will deduct the premium of 1/2% from the commission of 4% which is deducted from the gross pay the 4-H member(s) receive(s) their animal(s) at the auction.

4-H MARKET SWINE
RECORDS & NOTEBOOKS

1. 4-H members are encouraged to keep project records of their market animals. Sample 4-H record books that can be used are available from the MSU Extension Office.

2. Notebooks can be a valuable resource for members if kept up over the years. Sample table of contents of notebooks along with general guidelines are available at the MSU Extension Office.

3. 4-H Swine Notebooks can be displayed at the Fair in the Youth Exhibit Building. The class must be added onto the members entry form. Class 2951 under Section 12P010 Vet Science and Animal Science.
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4-H SWINE CARCASS PROJECT RULES

1. Limited to **30** swine total. Involvement will be on a first come first serve basis.

2. 4-H members may tag up to 4 swine (but at least 3 of these tag #’s must also be the same as those swine tagged for the 4-H Market Livestock program.) Members may bring only 1 pig to carcass. Members of the same family can share their animals, but when it comes to the carcass show it must be designated to an individual member.

3. Swine must be tagged & tag forms in office by July 15. Tag # on Swine at Carcass Show Check-in must match Swine Tag # on Swine Carcass Show Tag Form.

4. **Members MUST** confirm with Ext. Office by 5pm, August 10th that they are/are not participating in the Swine Carcass Contest. **NO** changes (other than death of animal) after this date. Reason for this rule is that Geukes needs to know ahead of time how much room to reserve for carcasses.

5. Pseudorabies test not required for Carcass Swine.

6. **Carcasses will be placed on a calculated carcass price per hundred weight. A base carcass price will be determined at the time of the show. Deductions from the base will be taken for carcasses that are outside an acceptable range. These deductions are based on data from published USDA reports.**

7. All participants must be in attendance and active at both the Live Show and Carcass Judging.

8. Awards will be on a graduated scale.

9. Participant or club is responsible for the carcass and slaughter costs.

10. The processor will cut, wrap & freeze for an additional cost.

11. Participants & parents must sign a waiver of liability regarding the transportation of swine from the live show to the processor.

12. Participants must help set up a display at the Allegan County Fair.

*The Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders sponsor this program with help from local businesses and individuals who donate money towards expenses. A list of sponsors and their addresses will be given at the show so participants can send thank you letters.*