

OKLAHOMA 4-H SWINE PROJECT



4-H GROWN

LIFE SKILLS

- Use critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management
- Develop skills through the responsibilities and management practices involved with a livestock project

LEADERSHIP

- Organize an educational activity related to the swine project
- Assist an educator or volunteer in developing a livestock or meat evaluation team
- Volunteer to host a tour at your project location

COMMUNICATION

- Present a demonstration on proper pork preparation
- Interview a local producer
- Create a presentation on developing rations for swine nutrition

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The 4-H Swine Project gives youth the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the swine industry. Through this project, youth discover more about animal science, swine production and marketing, and explore careers in the swine industry. Youth will:

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning or caring for one or more head of swine
- Identify quality and nutritional value in wholesale and retail cuts of animal products
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on the meat industry

GROW IN YOUR SWINE PROJECT

The activities below are ideas to inspire project development. This is not a complete list.

BEGINNER

- Identify swine breeds
- Know desirable qualities for project selection
- Explore the parts of the animal and cuts of meat
- Learn the importance of training pigs to walk and basic grooming practices
- Develop basic showmanship techniques
- Learn to read ear notches

INTERMEDIATE

- Develop live evaluation and meat grading skills
- Understand swine nutrition
- Identify common swine health issues and how to treat them
- Practice safe swine handling techniques
- Utilize proper swine stalling practices
- Practice proper clipping techniques

ADVANCED

- Utilize EPDs in herd management and sire selection
- Explore programs used to develop swine rations and understand the importance of various feedstuffs
- Research methods and value of artificial insemination
- Evaluate how the quality of a carcass can affect its marketability

EXPAND YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Exhibit your project at a county, district or state show
- Become involved with the Oklahoma Pork Council
- Visit a feed mill to learn how feeds are weighed, mixed and packaged
- Discuss college degrees and careers related to the swine industry



RESOURCES

4-H CURRICULUM

- National 4-H: www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/plant-animal-science-curriculum
- Tennessee 4-H: <https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/projects/swine.aspx>
- Utah 4-H: utah4h.org/html/discover4hclubs/discover-4-h-swine-clubs/

OPPORTUNITIES

- Oklahoma State 4-H Roundup
- District Leadership Conference
- Big 3 Field Days
- Showmanship clinics
- Livestock and meat judging clinics
- Speech and Demonstration Contests
- Cook-offs
- Pork Quality Assurance programs
- Swine Skill-a-thon
- Animal Science Quizbowl
- OK Pork Council Speech Contest
- Oklahoma Youth Expo

RESOURCES

- Oklahoma State University Meat Judging: www.ansi.okstate.edu/outreach-extension/meat-science/outreach-programs-offered
- Oklahoma State University Animal Science breeds of livestock: www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/swine
- Reading Ear Notches: www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Reading_Ear_Notches.pdf

4-H GROWN

CITIZENSHIP

- Develop a presentation communicating the benefits of the swine industry
- Assist younger 4-H members with their swine project
- Volunteer to care for the pigs of a local producer during a time of need

HEALTHY LIVING

- Prepare a pork-based meal for low income families
- Develop a program that emphasizes the pros of pork consumption
- Encourage safe handling practices of live animals and food safety

SCIENCE

- Explore pig behaviors by observation under various environmental conditions
- Study scientific advancements in genetic research
- Research how different feeds and feeding influence the animal's end product

Learn more at:
contact your county
Cooperative Extension office.



Oklahoma 4-H is the youth development program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Oklahoma State University

Join Our 4-H Community:



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