



2018 4-H MARKET HOG PROJECT GUIDELINE

Raising a market hog will help you to learn about the requirements of an animal grown for meat. You will also learn important life skills such as responsibility along the way. **You must raise one or two market hogs from approximately 2 months of age and weighing 50 pounds in April to a market weight of 220- 290 pounds at about 5-1/2 months of age.** Market hogs weighing under **220 and over 290 lbs.** will be sent home immediately following weigh in and may not be exhibited. Members enrolled in the 4-H Market Hog project are required to own their animals by 60 days prior to the Delaware State Fair. However if you are going to purchase a feeder pig for this project, you must purchase it in mid-April in order for it to be market weight by the Delaware State Fair. Pigs must not be farrowed before January 1. The fair allows you to raise as many market hogs as you wish but you are permitted to show a maximum of two market hogs. Only one entry in a weight class will be accepted.



Your hog must be identified with an ear tag in order to be eligible for the Market Hog Show and Jr. Livestock Auction at the Delaware State Fair. Tagging of livestock for the Delaware State Fair will occur on several different dates and at three different locations this year. ***In addition, the swine department has instituted a new policy that market hogs tagged in May must meet minimum weight requirements at tagging time or they will not be tagged for the state fair.*** If you choose to participate in the 4-H/FFA Rate of Gain Contest sponsored by the Delaware Farm Bureau, you need to attend the tagging/weigh specified for your county. If you choose not to participate in the 4-H/FFA Rate of Gain Contest, you may tag at any of the three locations regardless of what county you are enrolled in. Please see the guidelines for the 2018 4-H/FFA Rate of Gain Educational Contest for further details. <http://extension.udel.edu/4h/projects-activities-for-members/4-h-animal-science/>

No oil or colorants may be used on hogs; water only.

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The dates, locations and minimum weights for tagging and weigh-ins this year are as follows:

- Saturday, May 5, 9 am-11 am – Cook Farm 3300 Frazer Rd. Newark (**NC County**)- **minimum weight is 75 lbs.**
- Saturday, May 5, 9 am- 11 am - Georgetown Research and Education Center (**Sussex County**)- **minimum weight is 75 lbs.**
- Saturday, May 12, 9 am- 11 am - Delaware State Fair (**Kent County**)- **minimum weight is 80 lbs.**
- Friday, May 18, 6 pm- 9 pm- Delaware State Fair (**Kent County Jackpot Show and County 4-H Show Participants Only**)- **minimum weight is 85 lbs.**
- Tuesday, May 22, 5 pm- 8 pm - Delaware State Fair (**Kent County**)- **minimum weight is 85 lbs.**

Untagged hogs will not be accepted for the Delaware State Fair Market Hog Show and sale. **State fair entries open April 1 this year and the closing deadline for entries is June 1, 2018.**

A. Quality Assurance Training:

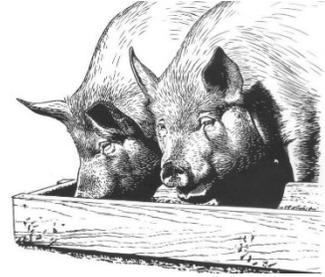
All junior exhibitors showing market hogs must have completed Quality Assurance training. The national Youth Pork Quality Assurance(PQA) training is a program that was put together by the National Pork Producers Association. Commercial hog producers across the county have been required to have this certification since 1999 in order to market their hogs. It covers important issues such as proper drug use, withdrawal times, and ethics. This program is currently in transition to a new Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program which will cover all livestock species for all youth nationwide. For 2018, the Delaware State Fair Swine Department will accept either the PQA or YQCA certification. After June 1, the Youth PQA program will cease to exist and the YQCA program will be the only option for certification. The certification you receive is good for one year. Dates and times for 2018 YQCA training classes are:

- April 16, 2018 - NCC PQA/YQCA Classroom Training- New Castle Country Extension Office 6:30-8:30 pm
- May 10, 2018 - Sussex County PQA/YQCA Classroom Training-Carvel Center 6:30-8:30 pm
- June 4, 2018- FINAL PQA/YQCA Classroom Training- Kent County Extension Office- 6:30-8:30 pm

You may attend any of the training locations but RSVP's are required in order to have enough materials on hand. Children under 8 years of age(as of January 1, 2018) will need to have an adult attend the training with them. Please RSVP to Susan Garey at 730-4000 or truehart@udel.edu. Additional information on the Youth PQA/YQCA Program certification requirements and online certification options, can be found here <https://cdn.extension.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/10074105/2018-PQA-Certification.pdf>

B. What Kind of Hog Do You Purchase for This Project?

You may select a barrow or gilt, which may be purebred or crossbred. **Gilts entered in Breed Classes and Open Crossbred Gilt Classes are not eligible to compete in the Market Hog Contest.** Gilts not making market weight can enter the Open and Junior Crossbred Gilt Class but you must remove the DSF ear tag from their ear and they must weigh between 200 and 300 lbs. A feeder pig suitable for a project animal could weigh anywhere from 40-75 lbs. depending on the date purchased. Your project animal may come from your own herd, a family herd, or from a local swine producer. When selecting your project, look for a healthy pig that:



- is well muscled
- has a minimal amount of back fat
- has deep, full hams
- is long, trim, and smooth
- walks free of any stiffness or lameness
- is thrifty, free of disease and outward signs of illness and well vaccinated

C. What Do You Need to Raise a Market Hog?

Hogs should be raised under a confinement system. Modest but adequate housing can be provided easily by a total confinement arrangement in a barn or shelters on dry lots.

A good shelter:

- provides protection from harsh weather and shade in the summer
- includes 8 to 10 square ft./pig
- can be simple and inexpensive
- should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before each use

Feed and water may be provided by self-feeders and nipple drinkers or with the use of simple troughs. Provide one feeder hole for every four pigs and one nipple drinker for every 20 pigs. A good trough:

- is large enough to provide a full day supply of water or feed
- is constructed so pigs cannot slide down in it or step in it
- is built so pigs cannot turn it over

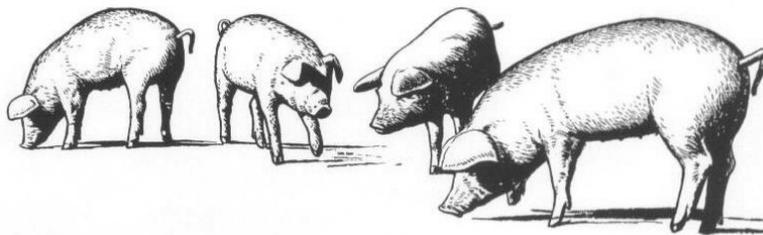


D. Health Concerns:

Your pigs should have been vaccinated prior to you purchasing them. You should ask whomever you purchase your project animal from, what the animal has been vaccinated and treated for and when this occurred. Please consult the “Vaccination Guidelines for Show Pigs- A 4-H Primer...”

<http://extension.udel.edu/4h/files/2012/02/VaccinationprogramsSwine.pdf> for more information specific to types and timing of vaccinations for show pigs. These guidelines have been developed in response to specific animal health problems that have been observed at the Delaware State Fair. If your pig has not already been dewormed by the breeder, your pigs should be de-wormed a few days after you get them home. You should de-worm your pig at minimum two times, three weeks apart. This three-week interval is very important because the life cycle of parasites is three weeks long. The medication only kills the larva and adult stages of the worm. The egg stage is not killed. By waiting three weeks and de-worming your pig again, you are killing those eggs that have developed into adults.

Ivomec is the top choice of medications because it is the only type that kills both internal and external parasites (mites, lice, etc.). If you chose to de-worm your pig with another type of medication, you must also dust your pig with an approved hog mange/louse product. Typically these products have side effects that are too dangerous to warrant use by children so if you decide to go this route please ask an adult for assistance. Please consult the deworming guide on the Delaware 4-H Animal Sciences webpage at: <https://cdn.extension.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/10062520/Livestock-Overnighter-Deworming.pdf>



Be watchful for health problems. Things to look for include diarrhea, excessive coughing, and sneezing. You should spend time with your pig so you are familiar with its normal behavior. If you know what is “normal” for your animal, then you will be able to quickly spot when it might be having problems. It is also important to remember that pigs do not have sweat glands and therefore lack the ability to cool themselves. You may need to cool your pigs by wetting them with cold water during the summer (when temperatures exceed 80°F). Do not drench an overheated pig with cold water or put cold water on the head of an overheated pig as you may put them into shock.

You should begin teaching your pig to drive and steer at home when your pig is still young and has settled in after purchase. Do not wait until your pig is several month old or just before a show. Use a cane or a whip to guide your pig but do not hit your pig. Light taps

beside the head are sufficient to direct the pig. Begin to brush your pig's hair now so that it is in good shape by fair time.

E. Feeding Your Pig:

Your pig should be on a self-feeding program using a 16-20% protein feed depending on the body composition of the pig. Desired fat content in the feed is also dependent on the body composition of the pig. A medicated feed is satisfactory until pigs get to 125 pounds. Once they reach this weight, they do not need medication unless a problem develops. You want to avoid using medicated feed after this point because you do not want drug residues in your pig at the time it is slaughtered. Read the label on your feed bag for any required withdrawal times. Some medicated feeds are only available now with a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). You must obtain the necessary documentation for a VFD from your veterinarian.

As a general rule of thumb, a growing market hog should gain 1.5- 2 lbs/day. This is important to know so that you can project a finished weight for your pig at fair time and ensure that it will be within the acceptable weights for a market hog at the Delaware State Fair. Fresh water is very important, especially in hot weather. Pigs will drink approximately 1½ quarts of water for every pound of feed they eat.

F. Fitting and Showing:

Pig Preparation:

- Wash and clean your pig thoroughly
- Do not attempt to part or curl the hair on your pig. Groom the hair to lie in its natural direction.
- Do not use oils or colorants.
- Work with your pig so that it is gentle and easily handled.
- Keep your pig from getting sunburned

If you need help, ask another older 4-Her to help you.

Tips on Showing:

- Carry your brush into the ring but keep it in your pocket or otherwise out of sight most of the time. Try to use it when the judge is not looking unless he/she deliberately puts shavings on your pig.
- An open area 20 feet from the judge provides a better place to show a pig than crowded area within several feet of the judge.

- Show your pig at a slow to moderate walk as he looks best while on the move, and keep him moving.
- Bring your pig to an immediate halt if the judge indicates a desire to inspect him at a standing position.
- Permit your pig to stand for brief moments if he remains alert and does not assume an awkward position.
- Make no attempt to place your pig's feet by handling them.
- Keep your pig within clear view of the judge.
- Use a light whip, cane or stick to direct the pig about the arena. A well trained pig responds to light taps or the mere sight of a show stick.
- Never force your pig to make abrupt turns in the show ring. Don't permit him to walk into a spot that makes it necessary to back out. Don't over show your pig as it will fret and tire him.

G. Costs:

The following information will give some guidance on the financial aspects of the project.

Feeder pig at start of project-	\$100-250 per head
700 Pounds of feed at \$20.00/50 lb. bag. =	\$280.00
Miscellaneous cost =	<u>\$50.00</u>
 Total costs =	 \$430-580.00*

* This figure may vary greatly depending on how much you decide to spend on the purchase of your pig, the type of feed you decide to use and if you have any veterinary costs.

H. Showing:

All exhibitors showing market hogs at the state fair must have completed a PQA training/YQCA or test. You must bring a copy of your PQA/YQCA certificate to the state fair with you. This will be turned in to the swine department superintendents prior to your market hog being weighed. ***If you do not have a PQA/YQCA certificate, you will not be permitted to show. Once the state fair has started, no reprinting of PQA/YQCA certificates will occur so you need to plan ahead.*** Market hog classes will be divided based on weight. All animals will be weighed on Saturday, July 21st. Exhibitors or a designated individual must be present or your hog will not be weighed. You are permitted to show one market hog per class, two market hogs total. Weigh in on Saturday July 21st will begin immediately following a mandatory barn meeting for all livestock exhibitors at 8 am in the Kent Building.

Junior Livestock exhibitors must show their own animals in the Junior Show. No assistance is permitted in the show ring at any time in all junior livestock classes except assistance given by a designated ring steward. There is a dress code for exhibitors showing livestock at the Delaware State Fair and in 4-H related shows. The State Fair rulebook states that showman will wear appropriate show attire.

Pants- clean, neat jeans or slacks (no shorts)
Shirt- clean, with a collar and sleeves (no T-shirts or tank tops)
Shoes- hard soled shoes or boots (no open-toed shoes)

This type of attire will tell those watching the show that we take pride in our projects and it will keep members from unnecessary injury.

I. Junior Livestock Auction:

Every year a limited number of market hogs are selected by the junior livestock auction committee and the chairman of livestock exhibits for the Delaware State Fair to participate in the Junior Livestock Auction. The number is based on the total number of market hogs being shown and is normally equal to the top 30% of market animals being shown in a livestock department. Market hogs that do not make the auction will go home Sunday night/Monday morning (12:00 am- 9:00 am) following the market hog show. Market hogs that qualify for the Junior Livestock Auction will stay in place. Exhibitors of the Champion and Reserve Champion Market Hogs are strongly encouraged to sell their animals in the auction. Each exhibitor is limited to a maximum of three animals across all livestock species with no more than two animals entered per species. Each individual selling an animal is strongly encouraged to contact a minimum of three potential buyers who will come to the fair and bid on their animals. The Fair is not responsible for providing buyers for the exhibitors. ***Exhibitors that sell animals through the Junior Livestock Auction are strongly encouraged to send their buyers thank you notes.***



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