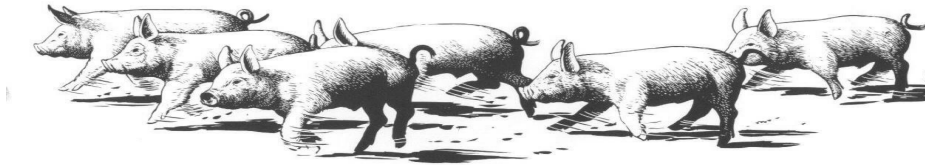




2007 4-H MARKET HOG PROJECT GUIDELINE

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. One of the advantages to this project is a fairly low initial investment. 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- 275 pounds at about 5-1/2 months of age. Hogs weighing under **220 and over 275 lbs.** will not be accepted. Hogs are shown at the Delaware State Fair and sold at auction if they qualify. 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 three pigs but you are permitted to show a maximum of two pigs. Only one entry in a class will be accepted.



Your hog must be identified with an eartag 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. 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 in 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 2007 4-H/FFA Rate of Gain Educational Contest for further details. Entry information for the 2007 4-H/FFA Rate of Gain Contest will be handed out at the tagging locations.

No clipping or shaving of any hog being shown at the Delaware State Fair will be allowed after the animal has been tagged. No oil or colorants may be use on hogs; water only. This is the result of a request from meat processors.

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

- Saturday, May 5, 9 am-1 pm - Smyrna High School (**NC County**)
- Saturday, May 5, 9 am- 1 pm - Georgetown Research and Education Center (**Sussex County**)
- Saturday, May 12, 9 am- 1 pm - Delaware State Fair (**Kent County**)
- Tuesday, May 22, 6 pm- 8 pm - Delaware State Fair (**Kent County**)

Untagged hogs will not be accepted for the Delaware State Fair Market Hog Show and sale. The deadline for state fair entries this year is June 15, 2007. Delaware State Fair entries will be accepted online only on a first come first serve basis. Any entries over barn capacity will be placed on a waiting list, if necessary. Please do not wait until the deadline to submit your entries.

A. Quality Assurance Training:

All junior exhibitors showing market hogs must have completed Quality Assurance training. Pork Quality Assurance Level III 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. The certification you receive is good for one year. There is a testing option for older youth, which is good for more than one year. Call for more information. Dates and times for 2007 Quality Assurance training classes are:

- April 16th, 6:30-8:30 pm - Kent County Extension Office – RSVP by April 12th
- May 16th, 6:30-8:30 pm – New Castle County Extension Office - RSVP by May 11th
- May 21st, 7-9 pm – Sussex County Extension Office- Carvel Center- RSVP by May 16th
- June 2nd, 9-11 am -FINAL OPPORTUNITY- Kent County Extension Office- RSVP by May 30th

You may attend any of the training locations but RSVP's are required in order to have enough materials on hand. Children under 10 years of age will need to have an adult attend the training with them. Please RSVP to Susan Garey at 730-4000 or truehart@udel.edu.

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 that are entered in breeding classes are not eligible to compete in market classes. You may show a gilt in the market class but the same gilt cannot be shown in the breeding classes.** 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 and free of disease



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:

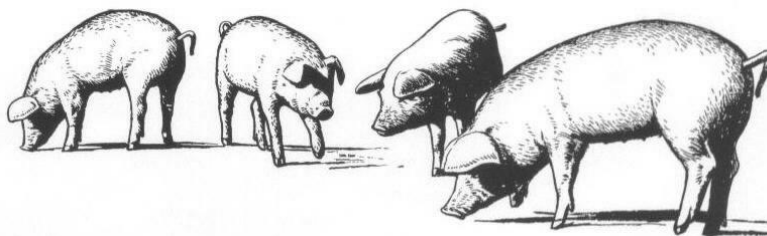
- is large enough to provide a full day supply of water or feed
- is constructed so pigs cannot slide down in it
- is built so pigs cannot turn it over



D. Health Concerns:

Your pigs should be de-wormed a few days after you get them home. You should de-worm your pig 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.



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 as you may put them into shock.

Do not wait until fair time to teach your pig to drive. Rather, begin at home when your pig weighs approximately 150 pounds. 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% protein feed. 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.

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 clip or shave any hair on any hog that has been ear tagged as per the Delaware State Fair rule (see page 1).
- Work with your pig so that it is gentle and easily handled.

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 dirt 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. The 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.
- Make no effort to improve the arch of a pig's back by pushing its nose down or its rump forward. Actually, such tactics make the pig look worse.

G. Costs:

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

Feeder pig at start of project-	\$75-100 per head
612 Pounds of feed at \$12.00/cwt. =	\$73.44
Miscellaneous cost =	<u>\$20.00</u>
 Total costs =	 \$168.44-193.44*

* This figure may vary greatly depending on how much you decide to spend on the purchase of your pig.

H. Showing:

All exhibitors showing market hogs at the state fair must have completed a PQA training or test. You must bring a copy of your PQA certificate to the state fair with you. This will be turned in to the swine department chairs prior to your market hog being weighed. ***If you do not have a PQA certificate, you will not be permitted to show. Once the state fair has started, no reprinting of PQA 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 beginning at 8:00 am in the Kent Building. Exhibitors or a designated individual must be present. Animals will weigh in the following order- lambs, goats, market hogs and barrows, and steers. You are permitted to show one market hog per class, two market hogs total. A mandatory barn meeting follows weigh in on Saturday July 21st at 11:30 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

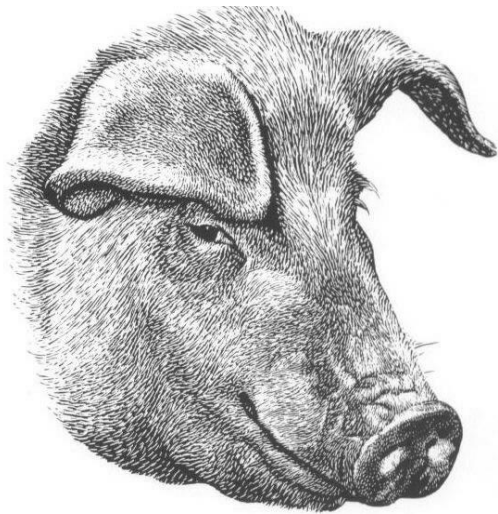
State Fair and in 4-H related shows. The State Fair rulebook states that showman will wear appropriate show attire.

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 market hog show judge to participate in the Livestock Extravaganza and the Junior Livestock Auction. 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.



Susan Truehart Garey
Extension Agent, Livestock
University of Delaware

Revised March 2007