TO: Swine Project Members & Project Leaders

FROM: Stephanie Gay, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator

DATE: March 2026

This letter contains important information about the swine project. Make sure to read it entirely. Swine must be enrolled online through 4HOnline by May 15th at 11:59pm. Exhibitors may show any combination of 6 pigs at the county fair. There is no requirement on how many barrows and gilts. As always, be sure ear notches are reported correctly. Online you will enter the ear notch numbers, not draw any notches. A copy of correct ear notches is in your swine resource manual. Contact the Swine Leaders if you have questions concerning correct ear notching.

Swine ID Requirements:

Swine Barrows & Gilts- *county rule*	Ear notch and *840 RFID tag
Swine Barrows & Gilts- *State Fair rule*	Ear notch and 840 RFID tag and DNA hair sample

Important Information on entering Swine Animal ID

- You must enter an 840 RFID tag and ear notch into 4HOnline by May 15th for each animal and those must match the animal id when you bring it to fair for exhibition
- You do not have to put the 840 RFID tag into the ear of the pig on or before May 15, but the animal must have an 840 RFID tag in the ear before arriving on the fairgrounds for fair.
- It is suggested you put the 840 RFID tag in the ear a couple days before fair check-in
- Double check the information you put into 4HOnline. Missing/incorrect information can result in county and/or State Fair Disqualification.
- Information on obtaining 840 RFID tags is below.

840 RFID Tag & DNA Envelope Form

Attached is the form to order tags and DNA envelopes. You will use one order form per family. If you keep your pigs with another 4-H member's pigs that is fine, but we need a separate form for each family. Forms must include a Premise ID. You will not be given tags if you don't have a Premise ID. Info on how to obtain this can be found on pg 4 of this letter. **Tags and DNA envelopes will be given when the order form and payment are turned into the office.**

**If you are unable to visit the Extension Office during normal business hours, we will also be able to sell tags at the March 16th, April 14th and May 4th Quality Livestock Care Trainings at the Fairgrounds in the Witham Pavillion. Please bring your order form.

*For 2026, 4-H members will receive their RFID tags free of charge. Swine tags were provided by the USDA APHIS. Please only order the number of tags your family needs for your 2026 4-H animals. DNA Envelopes are also free and there is no limit to the number of envelopes you can have. You only need to collect DNA if you are planning to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair.

DNA Samples - *State Fair Only*
The Indiana State Fair requires DNA hair samples of all barrows and gilts that you want to be eligible for state fair. **It is the 4-H member's responsibility to collect an adequate sample and turn the filled out & sealed envelope into the Extension Office by May 15.** Here are the instructions for collecting DNA hair samples: https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/_docs/projects/animal-identification/swine-dna.pdf. These samples will then be forwarded to the State 4-H office to be sorted and stored until the State Fair. This is not a county requirement, only state fair.

How to Tag
It does not matter which ear you put the tag in. You will need an AllFlex Tagger that will work for putting an 840 RFID tag in. Timmons Feed typically has these for sale. Their address is: 407 E Noble Street, Lebanon. Reach out to your 4-H swine leader if you need additional assistance.

What if my pig already has an 840 RFID Tag in its ear?
If you purchase a pig for your 4-H project and it already has an 840 RFID Tag in its ear, then you will enter that number in 4HOnline and you will also need to contact Indiana Board of Animal Health and register that RFID tag with the Premise ID that the pig is now at.

Make sure that the tag in the ear is an 840 RFID tag. To tell if it is an 840 tag vs a regular RFID tag it will have 15 digits and the first three digits will be 840. A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag contains a microchip, where the identification number is stored.

Livestock Location Approval Form
If any of your livestock are not housed on your family's residence you **must complete a Livestock Location Approval Form. This can be done online at: https://forms.gle/tEB2R2N87aKp6PsdA and must be completed by May 15th.** This paperwork will be reviewed and kept on file at the Extension Office. See General Livestock Rule #1 of the 4-H Handbook for specific details. This form can also be found on each of livestock project pages on our website.

Entering Animals in 4HOnline
Livestock will be entered through 4HOnline. You will go to **https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in** and login to the account you created when you enrolled in 4-H online for the current year. Instructions to walk you through this process can be found on the Swine Project Page on the Purdue Extension Website: https://extension.purdue.edu/county/boone/4-H-Youth-Development/swine.html. **You will have until 11:59pm on May 15th to enroll the animals online. After that, you will not be able to enter any additional animals and only the ones in 4Honline will be allowed at the county and/or state fair.**

Don't have access to the computer or internet or just not that tech savvy? The Purdue Extension Office is here to help you! Stop in the Extension Office during office hours (8am-4pm) Monday- Friday

and use the computers we have for enrolling animals. If you plan to show at the Indiana State Fair, you will still need to go through the State Fair registration process on their website as in years past. For more information on registering for the 4-H livestock shows at the Indiana State Fair go to https://www.indianastatefair.com/.

The first step to enrolling 4-H Livestock, DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE TO ENROLL ANIMALS. If you have problems with the online process at the last minute you may be out of luck, and we can't help you after the deadline. Work on this as soon as you can. You can go in as many times as you like to add/delete animals prior to May 15th.

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Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care
To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits at the county fair and Indiana State Fair, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care training or the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program. Quality Assurance training must be completed by 4-H members annually.

The program is offered here at the Boone County Fairgrounds. There is a $3.00 fee, which you pay at the door with either cash or check (made out to Purdue University). We are not able to accept card payments for this training.

You will need to pre-register at https://2026BooneQLC.4honline.com
Youth may also register by using the "event" tab on their 4-HOnline account. There are 3 training dates available. Each 4-H'er only needs to attend ONE of the three trainings.

Dates offered (you only need to attend 1 session)
March 16th @ 6:30pm
April 14th @ 6:30pm
May 4th @ 6:30pm
*All trainings will take place in the Witham Pavilion at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds.
*Please note- these trainings do not apply to Mini 4-H members (grades K-2)
If you are unable to make the in-person trainings, you may also complete the online training through YQCA at www.yqcaprogram.org. The cost for this option is $12**. If you choose to complete this training, you MUST email a copy of your certificate by June 15th. Please send to the certificate to bvickery@purdue.edu.**

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Other important information you need to know
when it comes to enrolling livestock:

Co-enrolling Animals: Animals may be co-enrolled within the same family (siblings and step-siblings). The animals may be listed under a single 4-H member or you may enroll each animal under each child. Either way the animals will be considered "co-enrolled" among the siblings in the family. At least 1 animal needs to be identified by each member enrolled in the project. Then at the fair each child will designate who will be showing each animal.

Ownership and Registration Requirements: 4-H animals must be registered in one of the following ownership methods:
a. In the 4-H members' name;
b. John Smith and Sons;
c. John Smith, Sons and Daughters;
d. John Smith and Family (family includes sons, daughters, and legal guardian youth only);
e. Mark Smith (brother) and Mary Smith (sister);
f. Family corporations, where the 4-H members' name appears as a holder of stock in the corporation, and proof of same must be supplied on or before the enrollment date;
g. Family partnership where the 4-H members father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, and/or legal guardian is also in the family partnership and the 4-H member's name appears on the legal, notarized partnership. A copy of the written document must be attached to the enrollment form before the enrollment deadline.

Premise ID (Premises Identification): Every property owner housing beef, boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goat wethers, pygmy goats, sheep, and swine should have a premise identification number for that property. The purpose is to be able to quickly notify livestock owners of a contagious disease outbreak in their vicinity, should that ever occur. Please contact the Indiana Board of Animal Health for more information and to obtain your premise ID number if you do not have one. The phone number for IBOAH is 317-544-2381. This process takes about 5 minutes over the phone.