

# Mini 4-H Pig



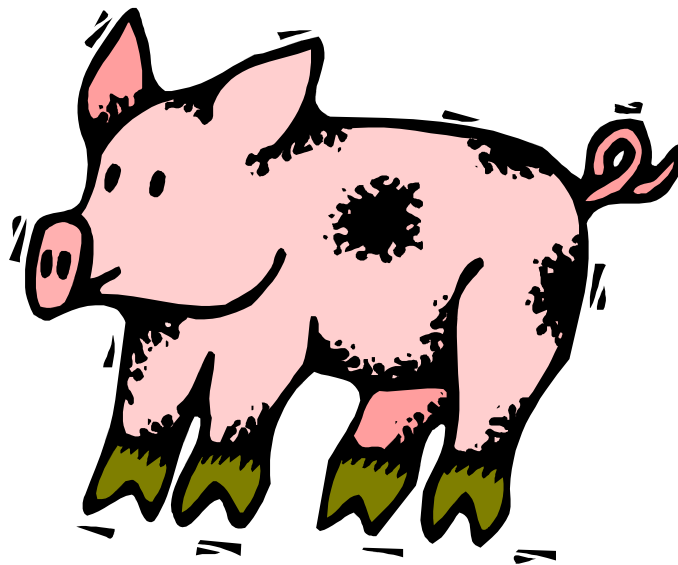
**Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**

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Dear Parent:

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is “Learn by doing”... and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

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Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun. There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

Mom, Dad or another adult can help you with your project, and you can bring your project to the 4-H fair. Many people will be able to see what you have done. You will receive a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H.

Things to learn –

**The 4-H Symbol:** A four leaf clover with an H in each leaf

**4-H Colors:** Green and white

**The 4-H Motto:** To make the best, better.

**The 4-H Pledge:** I pledge my *Head* for clearer thinking;  
my *Heart* for greater loyalty;  
my *Hands* for larger service;  
and my *Health* for better living  
in my club, my community,  
my country and my world.

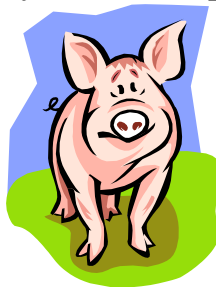


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# Mini 4-H Pig

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Pig project! You are going to learn a lot of exciting things about pigs! Did you know that gelatin, chalk and crayons are made using pork by-products? Did you know that pig heart valves have been used to replace damaged human heart valves? Do you know where insulin, medication for people with diabetes, comes from? Do you know what a pig eats? You will learn the answers to all of these questions in the Mini 4-H Pig project. Pigs are a great project for young people to show. Here are a few reasons to raise and show pigs.

1. Pigs are easy to handle .
2. Pigs are gentle animals.
3. Pigs are smart.
4. They provide free mud baths so you don't have to pay for one.
5. They need very little space in which to live.
6. Pigs do not need very much equipment.



# What Will I Do?

**Division 1 (Kindergarten):** Exhibit a poster with pictures of pigs (snapshots, magazine picture, drawings, etc...). Posters are displayed horizontally; 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating your name and grade.

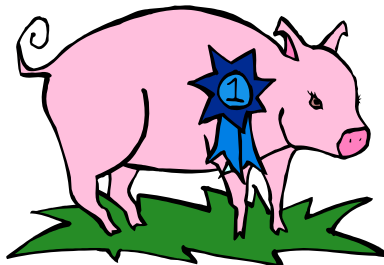
**Division 2 (1st Grade)** Exhibit a poster on one of the following:

1. Favorite breed of pig. Include picture(s), short description, and explanation of why it is your favorite breed of pigs.
2. Products we get from pigs.
3. Overview of swine well-being and care.

Posters are displayed horizontally; 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating your name and grade.

**Division 3 (2nd Grade):** Learn how to care for a pig and the proper way to show one. Show a pig at the 4-H Fair in the Mini 4-H Showmanship Class. The pig must be one that is at the fair and being show by a 4-Her as there is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H swine exhibitors to bring in their own pigs. You can either find your own 4-H swine exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair or the committee will assign you a 4-Her to work with prior to the fair if indicated at the workshop or you have notified the extension office by May 15th that you will need to be matched with a 4-Her.

When your class number is called, you will enter the holding ring with your pig. You will pen in one of the holding pens. The judge will tell one 4-Her at a time to bring their pig out of the pen. You will show your pig in the show ring by moving it around the ring so that the judge can see your animal. You move your pig around the ring using a whip, plastic pipe, or cane. There will be adults or older 4-Hers in the show ring to help you pen your pig. The judge may ask a question or two about the Pig project. Do not get scared if you don't know the answer. The judge will tell you the answer. Learning is what Mini 4-H is all about!



## **Boar, Sow, Gilt or Barrow?**

A mother pig is called a sow. Sows give birth after 114 days. The average number of pigs that sows have in a litter of piglets is eight to twelve pigs.

A female pig is a gilt. Around the age of eight months, a gilt is big enough to breed. She becomes a sow after she gives birth or farrows a litter of piglets.

A boar is a male pig. It is the father of the young pigs or piglets.

A barrow is a male pig that has been castrated. Barrows are market animals. When they get to be 230 -270 pounds, they are taken to market and sold for their meat.



# What Do Pigs Eat?

Pigs are non-ruminant animals, which means they have a digestive system similar to humans. They cannot digest grasses, like cattle and ruminant animals. Pigs can only digest feed such as corn and soybean meal which is ground into small particles.

Corn is an excellent energy feed for pigs. It is also very tasty! Corn by itself cannot supply all of the vitamins and minerals a pig needs. The rest of the nutrients pigs need are supplied through soybean meal and minerals.

Pigs should be self-fed. This means pigs should have a feeder that is full of feed and the pig eats as much as it wants to, whenever it wants to. This will allow your pig to grow as fast as possible. Pigs do not overeat!

Water is the most important part of a pig's diet. Just as you cannot live without water, neither can a pig! One-half to two-thirds of a pig's body is made up of water. Always provide clean, fresh water to your pig.



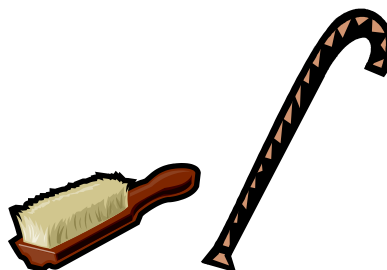
## **In The Show Ring**

When you show a pig in Mini 4-H, you will need a show pipe, whip, or cane. The pipe will help you guide your pig in the direction you want it to walk in the show ring.

The most important thing there is in showing a pig is to watch the judge. He will tell you which placing pen to put your pig in. If you don't keep eye contact with him, you might miss the chance to place your pig higher in the class.

Place your show stick down by the side of your pig's head. This should be on the same side of the pig in which you are standing. Gently tap your pig on its' shoulder. Your pig should start walking. If you want your pig to go the opposite direction, with your show stick, reach across to the pig's other shoulder and gently tap it. Try to keep the pig between the judge and you. You do not want to stand between the pig and judge because the judge will not be able to see your pig. Try practicing to keep 10 – 15 feet between the judge and your pig. This will take a lot of work.

Keep a small brush in your pocket. Use it to brush off any sawdust or dirt that might get on your pig.





Sometimes a judge will ask a few questions. You might try and learn where the ham, loin, shoulder, and flank are on your pig. Other common questions that may be asked are: What is the weight of your pig? Gender? Breed? Age? What does a pig eat?

Try not to get too excited when your pig doesn't go exactly where you want. Remember, your pig can tell if you get excited, which will cause your pig to get excited. Stay calm!!!

You want your pig to look nice and clean when going into the show ring and the judge wants you to look nice and clean, too!



Do not worry about knowing all this information when you are in Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Try to know most of it by the time you are in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. If you can answer all these questions by the time you are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and ready to join 4-H, you will be a pro!

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# Breeds of Pigs



Berkshire



Chester White



Duroc



Hampshire



Hereford



Landrace



Poland China



Spot

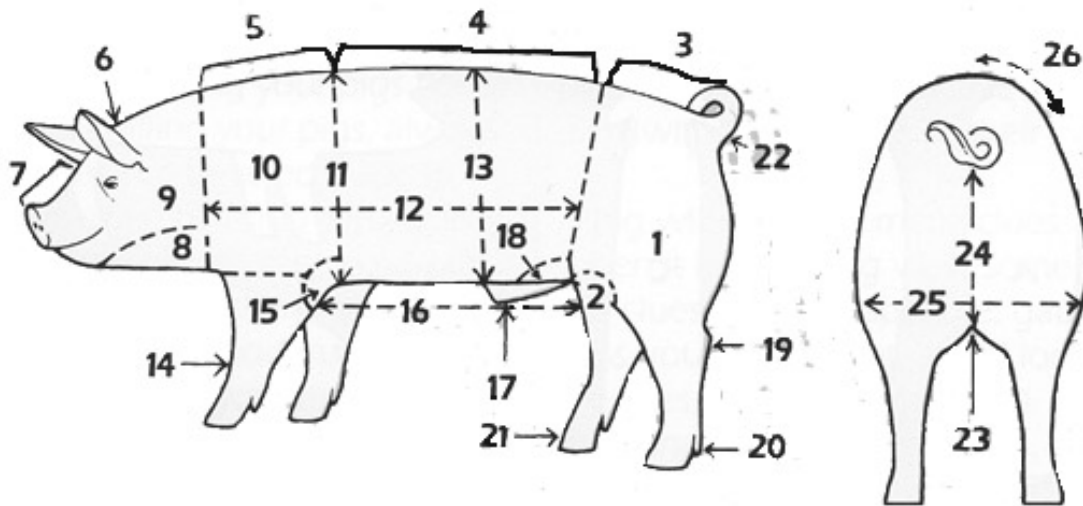


Yorkshire

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# Parts of a Live Pig

Become familiar with the parts of your pig



- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ham                  | 14. Knee                    |
| 2. Stifle region of ham | 15. Elbow                   |
| 3. Rump                 | 16. Underline               |
| 4. Loin                 | 17. Sheath                  |
| 5. Shoulders            | 18. Rear flank              |
| 6. Poll                 | 19. Hock                    |
| 7. Face                 | 20. Dew claw                |
| 8. Jowl                 | 21. Pastern                 |
| 9. Neck                 | 22. Tail Setting            |
| 10. Shoulder            | 23. Seam or crotch          |
| 11. Heartgirth          | 24. Depth of seam or crotch |
| 12. Length of Side      | 25. Width of stifle         |
| 13. Depth of side       | 26. Turn over loin edge     |

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