

March 14, 2024

Dear Swine Member:

It's that time of year again! The 2024 Howard County 4-H Fair is just a few months away. To exhibit your animal at the fair, please ensure that you meet the following requirements:

- **Identify animals in 4-H Online by May 15** at <https://v2.4honline.com/>.
- **Register animals in Fair Entry from May 17 through June 1** at <https://faireentry.com/>.
- **Complete QLC (Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care) training by June 1.** Information regarding this training is enclosed.
- **Notch your pig's ears using the standard ear notching system.** This is the only identification system for admission to the Howard County 4-H swine project. If your pigs are not already notched, DO NOT use a baby pig ear notcher. You will need a larger ear notcher, or the ear notches could grow shut. If you are unsure how to read ear notches, have someone help you read them. The swine superintendent, swine committee, and barn superintendent will all assist. An ear notch chart is enclosed for your reference. If your ear notches do not match at fair time, then you risk the possibility of your animal not being admitted for exhibit.

You may enroll a maximum of 15 barrows and 15 gilts, but you may only show a maximum of three pigs at the Howard County 4-H Fair. The three pigs you show at the fair may be of any combination of barrows and gilts as long as they are registered in 4-H Online and Fair Entry.

### **PEDv Information**

As someone interested in swine, you have probably heard about the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), which has caused significant challenges to the swine industry. PEDv was not previously identified in the United States before May 2013. This virus infects pigs, not humans or other livestock. It is spread through oral contact with contaminated feces. The most common sources of infected feces are pigs, trucks, boots, clothing, or other contaminated objects. There is currently no vaccine for this virus, and all swine owners are asked to take precautions when working with their swine. Tips to help reduce the risk of your swine becoming contaminated, the signs of PEDv, and information on treatment are available on the National Pork Board website at <http://www.pork.org/Research/4316/PEDVResources.aspx>. Please learn more about this disease and the steps you can take to help prevent it from affecting your swine.

Swine check-in is **Monday, July 8 from 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM**. The Howard County 4-H Swine Show is **on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 8:00 AM**. Health papers are no longer required to exhibit animals at the Howard County 4-H Fair. However, the superintendent will inspect every animal, and any animal considered unhealthy or contagious WILL NOT be allowed to unload.

### **STATE FAIR**

If you plan to exhibit your animal at the Indiana State Fair, visit <https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/competitions-contests/4-h-competitions-entry-information> for more information. DNA envelopes are required and are due by May 15 in the Extension Office.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Extension Office at 765-456-2313. We're here to help!

Sincerely,

Allison Hillis  
County Extension Director