March 7, 2024

**TO:** 4-H Swine Members and 4-H Swine Committee Members

The La Porte County 4-H Swine Committee would like to make you aware of the following very important requirements for enrolling in the 4-H Swine project for 2024.

**NEW FOR 2024!!**

* **There are two options for tagging your pigs.**
	+ **Members contact Dr. Clint Shireman, Shireman Veterinary Services, to conduct tagging at your facilities.**
		- He can be reached at 219-363-4236. A farm visit charge will be assessed for the trip by Dr. Shireman along with the $5.00 per 4-H member PLUS $5.00 per pig. He can also deworm your pigs if needed, for a small fee.
		- IF you are using Dr. Shireman for tagging it must be done BEFORE tagging day on May 4th**.**
	+ **Members attend tagging day at the fairgrounds on May 4th from 8am-9am.**
		- The committee will charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of the vaccines and tags. **Be prepared to pay $5.00 per 4-H member PLUS $5.00 per pig**. Please have your own sorting gates.
	+ **Please plan accordingly to get your pigs done in this time frame.**
* Influenza vaccine is no longer required *HOWEVER*, it is strongly recommended that all swine be vaccinated for influenza within 90 days of arriving at the La Porte County Fair. Please note that influenza vaccines often require two doses. Additionally, please pay careful attention to vaccination withdrawal times.

**IMPORTANT PROJECT INFORMATION:**

* **SWINE ID WORKSHEET**

Enclosed is a Swine ID Worksheet for your record keeping and to assist you while enrolling your animals in 4HOnline.

* This is ***NOT*** an animal enrollment form nor does it enroll your animals!
* You will need to have it when tagging your animals.
* **NUMBER OF SWINE:**

A 4-H member in the Swine Project may bring up to four (4) pigs to the Fair, which must be in his or her possession by **May 1**. This can be **ANY** combination of barrows and/or gilts.

* **SWINE ID:**

Please complete the enclosed 4-H swine worksheet form with all information EXCEPT the RFID tag number, which will be assigned at tagging (when an RFID tag is put in your pig’s ear). Pigs need to be ear notched ***BEFORE*** tagging. List “**Ear** **Notch**” as identification for each of your pigs. These numbers can be obtained from your purebred papers or the person you bought the pigs from. Also Dr. Shireman can help with this.

At the time the RFID is put in a pig’s ear, **a DNA sample** will be collected from only those pigs that will **also be enrolled for Indiana State Fair.** A sample of pulled hairs (to get the roots) will be taken from the loin or rump.

All pigs must be tagged with an RFID tag in order to show at both the La Porte County Fair and the Indiana State Fair.

* + *A Premises ID from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health is also required on all worksheet forms. Visit* *animalID@boah.in.gov* *for more information about Premise ID numbers.*
* **BREEDS OF SWINE:** For 2024, the 4-H Swine Show at the fair will include purebred classes for both barrows and gilts. All recognized breeds of barrows and gilts will be represented in class competition, regardless of number of entries.
* Registered gilts will be shown by breed and age.
* Commercial (crossbred) gilts will be shown in weight classes.
* All gilts will be shown as breeding classes and not as market hogs.
* Registered barrows will be shown by breed and weight.
* Crossbred barrows will be shown in weight classes.

**Registration certificates** are required for all purebred animals and **must be properly transferred to the 4-H member**, in accordance with Indiana State Fair guidelines. **Registration papers for purebred swine will be reviewed at the fair to make sure the pigs are properly registered** to show in purebred classes. If the registration papers are not in order, those pigs will be shown as crossbred pigs during the swine show. **No photo copies, pictures on phone of papers will be accepted. All registration papers must be original.**

* **SWINE COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE COORDINATING PROCESSOR PICK UP.**
	+ **FAIR LOAD OUT OPTIONS:**
		- **GO THRU AUCTION, 1 PER MEMBER (**Buyer decides where pig goes)
		- **TURN TRUCK (WHICH WE STRONGLY SUGGEST!)**
		- **HOME (We will have a day and time set up for this)**
* **FAIR WORKDAYS:**

4-H members and their parents are invited to the Swine Project Fair Workdays. **Set up day will be held on June 20 at 5:00 p.m. at the Swine Barn with a light supper provided.** Swine barn clean-up and taking down pens will be **Saturday, July 13, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m. 4-H members who help with **BOTH** sessions may receive a $5.00 refund.

**CHECK-IN AT FAIR AND WEIGHT OF SWINE:**

* Swine will need to be brought to the Fair on **Monday, July 8, between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m.** The 4-H Swine Committee may refuse to unload pigs that are determined to be too dirty to unload for biosecurity reasons.
* Open weigh-in will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. during which time 4-H members can bring their own pigs to the scales to be weighed. Barrows need to weigh between 220-300 pounds at weigh in. Gilts need to weigh a minimum of 220 pounds – no maximum weight.
* **Any pig, barrow or gilt, that weighs less than 220 pounds will not be able to show in the swine show or sell in the auction and must be removed from the fairgrounds by the end of Monday evening.** If for some reason NONE of the 4-Hers pigs makes weight, they may keep one at the fair for showmanship. This pig will need to leave the pig barn **Wednesday after the show is completed.**

**SWINE SHOW AND AUCTION:**

The 4-H Swine Show will be held on **Wednesday, July 10**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. CDT, beginning with gilts, then barrows and ending with showmanship. All 4-H members are eligible to participate in showmanship, but must show his or her own pig in the respective showmanship class. To minimize the length of stay by the pigs at the fair, pigs not going through the auction will be released to go home on Wednesday after the concert traffic.

* 4-H members will need to **designate what will be done with their pigs** (auction-individual, home, turn truck) **by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the latest (earlier is better). Pigs that aren’t designated may not be sold in the auction.**

One pig may be sold, per 4-H member, individually and the remainder can go directly to the turn truck for the turn truck price or you can take home with the 4-H member.

* To reduce stress on the pigs and to help the auction run more quickly, only 4-H members showing champion pigs will be given the option of going through the auction ring with their pigs. All other “individual” pigs sold at auction will be just the 4-H member walking through the auction ring in the established rotating order by 4-H

club. Load-out of sold pigs will be on Friday afternoon. If for any reason a packer rejects a pig from the fair, it is at the 4-H member’s expense, not the 4-H Swine Committee or the 4-H Swine project.

**STATE FAIR ENTRY FORMS:**

If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, on-line entry will be available through the State Fair website at <http://www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/competitionscontests/4-h-competitions/>. Regular entry deadline is **June 1st** with a $20.00 processing fee for each animal species entered and $3.00 per class and $5 drug testing fee.

**4-H ONLINE DEADLINE IS MAY 15TH.** Using the 4-H Swine Worksheet**,** you should have all of your animal info into the program. Pigs may be **co-enrolled only** bybrothers and sisters, you can decide in FairEntry who is taking which pigs. **Be sure to input the correct breed, gender, birth date, ear tag and ear notch numbers.**

**INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE REQUIREMENTS/YCQA:**

Each 4-H member who is participating in Beef or Dairy Feeder, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry projects will need to complete a quality assurance program. Must be completed by June 14th. You have two options:

1) The Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program. These trainings will all be held in-person for the upcoming year and registration is open in 4HOnline, under Events, look for LaPorte County – Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care.

2) YQCA certification (online only) will be accepted. Please visit [yqcaprogram.org](file:///%5C%5C42laporte.boilerad.purdue.edu%5Chome%5CShared%5C4-H%20Youth%5CLetterhead%20%26%20Templates%5C2020-2021%5Cyqcaprogram.org) to take the online training. Once completed it is your responsibility to send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office so they have record of completion. Those certificates can be sent directly to woznia11@purdue.edu

**FAIR ENTRY IS MANDATORY!! FINAL DATE OF ENTRY IS FRIDAY, JUNE 14!**

FairEntry is the second step in being able to exhibit animals at the LaPorte County Fair. All 4-H members will need to designate which pigs belong to each 4-H member using FairEntry before June 14, 2024.

You will use the same email and password that is used with 4HOnline when visiting <https://fairentry.com>.

**Please contact any Swine Committee Member, if you have any questions and please join our Facebook page, LaPorte County Swine Project.**

Sincerely,

The 4-H Swine Committee

Enclosures: ID Worksheet/FAQ