

March 17, 2026

Dear 4-H Swine Members,

Welcome to another great year in the Parke County 4-H Swine project! Please read the following closely. This letter contains a lot of important information.

Important Dates:

- Animal Enrollment Deadline: May 15th
- Swine Check-In at the Fair: Saturday, July 11th from 7am-12pm
- Parke County Swine Showmanship: Monday, July 13th at 8am
- Parke County Swine Gilt & Barrow Show: Monday, July 13th at 10am
30-minute break and then (Swine Grand Showmanship followed by Gilt & Barrow Show).

RFID Tags

You will need to pick up a tag for each animal at the Parke County Extension Office. This number must be entered when enrolling your animal in 4-H Online with the ear notch of the animal.

RFID Tags for 2026 are \$3 with a limited amount at no cost.

Example of \$3 tag:



Example of free tag:



The tag number corresponding to each pig must be included on your 4-H Online Animal Enrollment by May 15th. You can wait to put the tag in your animal, but if you do this **make sure to record which tag goes to which animal**. Errors in 4HOnline can lead to ineligibility.

If you need assistance with tagging your animal or reading ear notches, please contact Kyle Hopkins Swine Superintendent (765) 592-5909, Caleb Chambers Assistant Superintendent (317)440-7953, or the Extension Office at (765) 569-3176. We are glad to help.

2026 Swine Enrollment

All Swine exhibited at the Parke County Fair and Indiana State Fair must be born on or after December 1, 2025.

Enclosed you will find instructions on how to complete your enrollment online via your 4-H profile at <https://v2.4honline.com>. After you select either swine barrows or swine gilts you will be asked to complete each animal's information. If you have any doubt in the ear notch of your pig you can upload a picture in 4-H Online or contact Kyle or Caleb or a committee member for assistance. Incorrect identification entered in 4-H Online could lead to disqualification of animal.

All swine members **MUST COMPLETE AND PROVIDE THE CORRECT INFORMATION FOR EACH ANIMAL BY MAY 15TH TO SHOW AT THE COUNTY OR STATE FAIR.** Make sure all your information is correct.

Beginning Swine Members

Beginning with the 2026 Parke County Fair, there will be **no Beginning Barrow or Gilt classes.** All first-year 4-H members will now be permitted to show both purebred and crossbred animals and will compete alongside advanced exhibitors.

Premise Identification:

Swine Enrollment requires your Premise ID. Obtaining a premise ID is an easy task to accomplish if you have not done this for your family or farm. You may access the form on line at <https://www.in.gov/boah/traceability-and-premise-id/>. In addition, if you plan to make entries for the State Fair, your Premise ID will be required on that entry as well. Contact the Extension Office if you need help. If you have a premise ID from previous years you should continue to use that number.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA

To exhibit swine at the Parke County or Indiana State Fair, youth must also complete Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA certification. Instructor led trainings will be offered at the fairgrounds or you may complete the YQCA training online at yqcaprogram.org. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office. Training must be completed by June 21st.

Trainings will be held in Parke County on the following dates in the 4-H Building:

April 22nd at 6pm

June 10th at 2pm

Parke County Swine Department Information

1. Swine will be unloaded, weighed, and inspected at the County Fair on **Saturday, July 11th** from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. All animals need to be tagged prior to arriving at the fair.
2. Project Completion: If you are unable to exhibit an animal at the fair, you may complete a record sheet or 1/3 of the project book for completion. We also encourage livestock exhibitors to complete a poster to share their knowledge with others as an animal education project.

3. The Parke County Fair 4-H Swine Shows will be **Monday, July 13th** in the Cow Palace Show Arena.
4. All non-auction swine must be removed from the swine barn by end of day on Monday 13th. All other pigs left in the barn will be considered group sale pigs. Group sale pigs must weigh a minimum of 200 pounds to qualify for the market truck pickup.

INDIANA STATE FAIR REQUIREMENTS (DNA and RFID)

State Fair Pigs Only!! Once again, to show swine at the Indiana State Fair for 2026, exhibitors will be required to submit a DNA Hair Sample and provide RFID tag numbers. DNA samples are only required for swine exhibiting at the State Fair.

For each pig you exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, you will need to come to the Extension Office and pick up a DNA envelope for each pig. The DNA sample for each pig **must be submitted to the Extension Office. The deadline is 4pm on Wednesday, May 15th.**

Once you receive the envelope from the office for each pig going to the State Fair, you will collect approximately 40 hair samples from each pig. The recommended procedure is to take a pair of pliers and remove hair from their back. Four collections with the pliers should provide you with about 40 follicles.

Write the pig information on the envelope and insert the hair follicles into the envelope. The envelope must then be turned into the office. Put the hair directly into the envelope. Do not use a Ziploc bag to collect your hair samples as this will collect moisture and mold.

2026 Indiana State Fair Livestock Entry

Please Read the State Fair Swine Requirements Online before making your entries.

1. All entries must be made in accordance with the terms and conditions.
2. Online Entry - To enter into the Indiana State Fair, please go to www.indianastatefair.com and enter online. Competitions > 4-H > Online Entry and follow the prompts. Each exhibitor is required to pay an entry fee at the time of entry. An exhibitor will not be considered entered into the Indiana State Fair until payment is made in full. Payment can be made online with a valid credit card.

Please contact Kyle Hopkins Swine Superintendent (765) 592-5909, Caleb Chambers Assistant Superintendent (317)440-7953, or the Extension Office (765) 569-3176. if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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