



# SHOW READY: LIVESTOCK STARTER GUIDE

## Swine



**Q** How do I identify and enter my animal in the fair?

**A** All livestock species, except Poultry, must be identified in the 4-H Online system (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by May 15. Ensure that you are meeting the animal ID requirements listed in the 4-H handbook when entering your animal. Poultry exhibitors will identify their animals at <https://tinyurl.com/26Poultry>. Identify any animals you may want to show. By July 1, go to <http://vanderburghcountyin.fairentry.com> to enter what classes your animal(s) will be participating in. This is where you'll select which animals you will be bringing to the fair, what classes they will be in, and you can enter showmanship. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, pygmy goats, rabbits, sheep and swine, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program by July 1. If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, be sure to check out state guidelines and registration details at <https://indianastatefair.com>. Suggestion - if showing multiple animals/species, create a list of all ID information to help with animal ID entry. Enter all possible entries on May 15. Only animals entered by May 15 can be shown. Just because they are entered, does not mean they have to go to the fair; however, if they are not entered, they are not eligible.

**Q** Where do I find set-up, check-in, check out, and clean up times for my species?

**A** You will find this in the handbook, in the summer LINK newsletters, and in a mailing that goes out before fair.

**Q** How does check-in work?

**A** Pens will be assigned prior to check in. Please notify superintendents of desired grouping. Each animal is brought to the scale where they are weighted; ear notch checked; RFID tag verified and fair registration card collected. Bring with you breed registration paperwork. All pigs need to have RFID tags in and entered in 4-H Online; card provided at sign in from superintendents

**Q** What supplies/equipment do I need to have at fair?

**A** All standard show tack (bedding, brush, whips, feed pans/waters; feed; fans; extension cords that meet requirements). Think about what you use daily to care for your animals.

**Q** How do I care for my animal during fair?

**A** It is expected that the 4-H member provides regular care for their animal during the fair. This includes making sure your animal has access to clean water at all times and is fed regularly. The fair is often very hot so make sure you have a plan to keep your animal cool and to prevent overheating.

Q How does check out work? What do I need to do to clean up?

A Check out is during required times; all tack and bedding to be removed.

Q How do I participate in the livestock premium auction (if eligible)?

A To participate in the livestock premium auction, complete the auction card that will be mailed to you and return to the Extension Office at the fair by noon on Monday of the fair. If you decide to change the animal or species you plan to exhibit in the auction, let the Extension Office know by 5:00 pm on Thursday of fair week. Photos will be taken of you with your animal immediately after you take your animal in the ring. You will also be asked to write thank you notes to your auction buyers after you have exhibited in the auction. Exhibitors will be asked to pick up their auction check when available (typically about 1-2 months after the auction) and checks must be cashed/deposited within 90 days.

Q What do I wear on show day?

A Professional show attire (for example, jeans, collared shirt/blouse and boots)

Q What supplies do I need to show?

A Brush and whip. Optional: pump sprayer with water to keep animal cool

Q How should my animal be prepped for the show?

A Ensure you animal is washed and brushed.

Q How do I make my animal look its best in the show ring?

A Keep the skin/hair conditioned pre fair.

Q What does the judge expect of me?

A Keep your animal under control and show the judge many views of your animal.

Q Who can I contact if I have questions?

A Your species superintendent or assistant superintendents can answer your questions. Their contact information can be found in the 4-H handbook in the livestock section. You can also reach out to the Purdue Extension Office at (812) 867-4935 with questions.

We hope you have a  
great year in 4-H!

