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Pasco County Fair Hog Committee

# Junior Swine Resource



Photo: [www.tbo.com](http://www.tbo.com)



Dedicated to:

## Gail Stout

A loyal member of the Pasco County Fair Hog Committee. Forever committed to educating our youth to prepare them for their future. The Pasco County Fair Hog Committee thanks Gail for the many years of service she has provided to our committee.

This publication is for educational purposes only. It may not be reproduced or sold. This information is a starting point for your project. You are strongly encouraged to talk to experienced swine producers, read scholarly articles, and continue to learn about the hog project beyond what can be found in this book. Knowledge is power. The more you know, the better your hog will grow!

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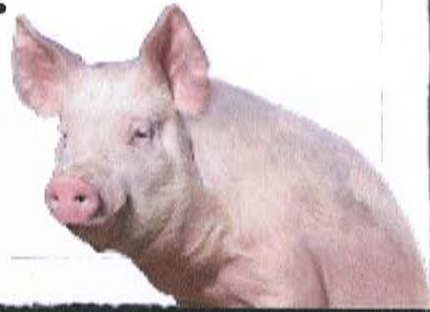
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Chapter 1:  
**At Home**



# Hog Project Timeline

For some of you it may be your first time showing a hog. If that is the case, having an idea of what you should be doing and when might be helpful to you. The following timeline is only ONE example of what you might be doing during each month of your hog project.

## August/September

During these months you and your family should be researching possible breeding **facilities** where you can purchase your market hog. You may be thinking about whether you would like a **gilt** or **barrow**. While many market hogs are cross-bred to combine certain breed characteristics, you can research specific breeds to decide which breed would be best for you. You will also want to plan and build a hog pen if you don't already have one, or prepare your hog pen for your new hog to arrive.



## October/Early November

During these months you and your family should be preparing to bring your hog home. When you bring your hog home, it should already be 10-12 weeks old. Remember, the smaller your pig is, the more growing it will need to do before the fair. If your pig starts out too small, you could end up with a pig that does not weigh the correct amount. If your pig is larger, you might end up with a pig that weighs too much when you get to the fair. You should communicate with your breeder to see if there are any **preventative medications** they recommend so that you can get them from your vet. You will want to start your record book! Don't forget to weigh your hog so you know how much it needs to gain!



**Fun Fact:**  
Pigs are among the  
smartest of all  
domesticated  
animals and are even  
smarter than dogs.



Sept





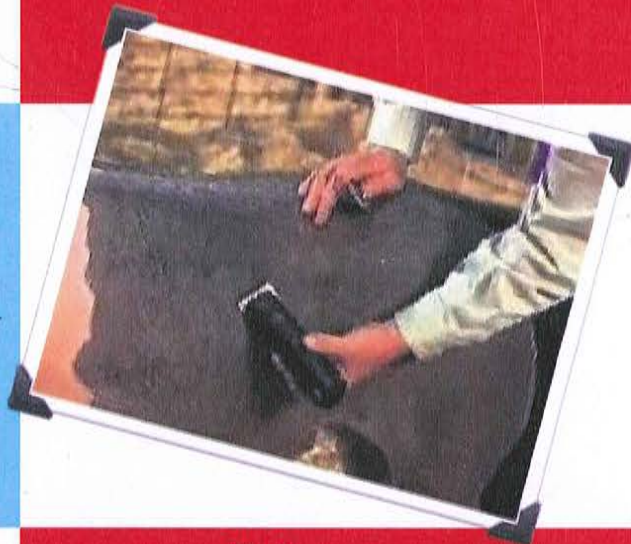
## November

During this month you will be making sure your hog is happy and healthy. During this time it is recommended that you deworm your hog to prevent **parasites**. You will want to weigh your hog to see how much it weighs. Record this information on a weight chart. If the weather changes you will want to take necessary precautions with your hog to ensure it stays warm. Remember, you need to get your hog tagged at one of the tagging events hosted by the hog committee in order to be eligible for the fair. You will want to begin to walk your pig so that you can prepare for showmanship at the fair. Weigh your pig again so you know it is gaining correctly.



## December

In December, you will want to weigh your hog and make feeding decisions. You should deworm your hog again. It is important to spend time with your hog. Brushing them will help you **bond** with your hog so that you will have an easier time getting ready for **showmanship**.



## January

During this month you will want to start weighing your hog every 2 weeks. This will give you an idea of how much your pig still has to gain to make it to the fair! Deworm your hog again! If it is warm enough, you can bathe your hog.

## February


It's fair month! Your hog should fall in to the recommended weight range to be ready for the fair! You will want to make sure you read any medication labels carefully to ensure that you are following the directions for hogs that are going to **slaughter**. You may choose to give your hog a haircut or 'clip' your hog.

# Where should my hog live?

Pig pens come in all shapes and sizes. Making sure your hog has a clean, dry, and safe place to live is an important part of your project.

## “Floor Plans”

The floor your pig lives on can effect their health and safety. Make sure you research your floors and have a plan!

Floor Type:	Safety:	Cleanliness:	Cost:
Dirt	Pigs enjoy rooting in the dirt and there is nothing for them to slip on. Dirt may allow greater chance of parasites infecting your pigs.	Should be cleaned daily. Stays pretty clean if your pen is large enough and your water doesn't leak. If your dirt is very dry you should spray it to avoid the dust getting in your hog's eyes, throat, and nose.	Does not cost much to build. Your only cost would be for your structure. \$
Concrete	Make sure your pen is not “slick” concrete. It should have some texture to it so your pigs can not slip if it becomes wet.	Easy to clean. Can be sprayed out with a hose. Can be bleached if needed. Very easy to tell what needs cleaning. Your pig stays very clean if you keep your pen clean.	Costly to build. Some people feel that shavings can help pigs to prevent injury on concrete. \$\$\$
Sand 	Pigs enjoy rooting in the sand and it's not slippery. Moisture is drained nicely.	White sand makes it easy to see waste and keep your pen clean. Your pig's skin is not irritated by this sand.	Sand may have to be replaced yearly. \$\$

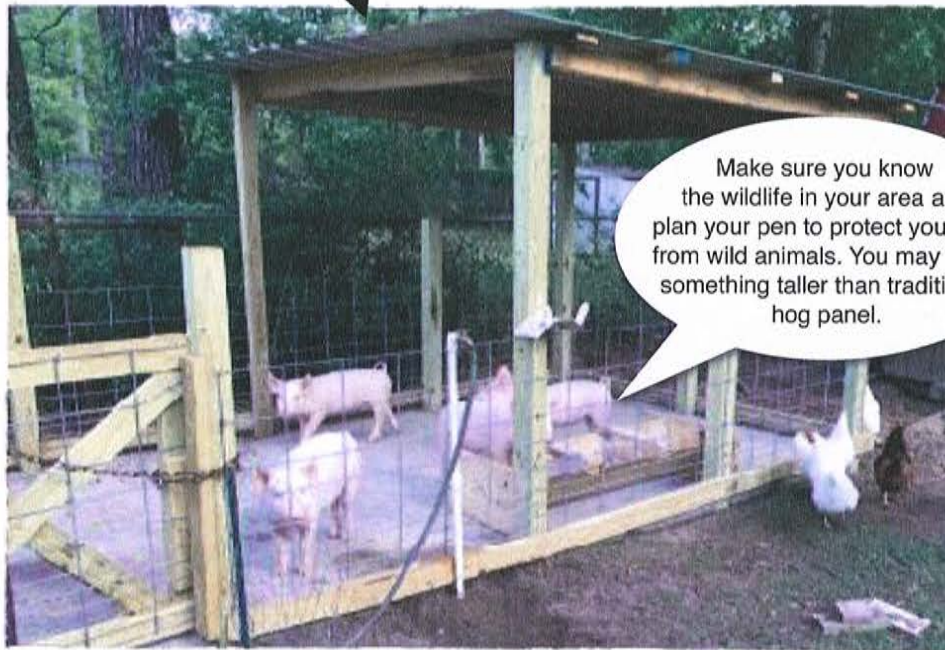
**Fun Fact:**  
There are around 2 billion pigs in the world.



It is important that you provide shelter for your pigs. Pigs can sunburn easily and it hurts them just as much as it hurts you! This pig pen has a tall shelter, but you can make it as low as 4ft, which will help protect your pigs from the hot sun.



**Fun Fact:**  
A 100 pound pig will produce up to 1.6 pounds of manure each day!



Make sure you know the wildlife in your area and plan your pen to protect your hog from wild animals. You may want something taller than traditional hog panel.

**Pen Size:** Many people have different ideas about pen size. As a general rule of thumb, a full-grown pig needs 80-100 square feet of living space per pig. Making sure your pen is comfortable for your pig will help it to avoid stress and allow your hog to grow. When a pig is stressed, it won't grow as well.

## Feeding Your Hog

Clip On Feeder



One of the things you will need to do is choose a pig feeder. You may choose to use an automatic feeder or a clip on feeder. The automatic feeder is a good solution if you are not monitoring your pig's daily feed intake. The automatic feeder should be clipped open the first few days after getting your pig if they have never used this type of feeder before. If you want to monitor the daily calorie intake of your hog, a clip on feeder may be what you are looking for. Make sure it clips from the bottom so that your pig can't flip it up and dump the feed. Whatever you decide, always check to make sure the feeder is clean!



Automatic Feeder

## Feed/Weight Ratio

Pounds of Feed per Day	Pounds Gained Per Day (Approximately)
4 pounds per day	1 -1.5 pounds per day
6 pounds per day	2- 2.5 per day
8 Pounds per day	2.5-3 per day

# What should my pigs eat?

When buying a hog feed one of the most important things to remember is to purchase your feed from a reputable company to ensure your hog gets all of the nutrients it needs to grow healthy and strong.

## 4 Main Nutrient Groups

Energy (Carbohydrates and Fats)	Protein	Minerals	Vitamins
Examples of Carbohydrates and Fats:	Examples of Proteins:	Examples of Minerals:	Examples of Vitamins:
<p>Whole Grain Barley Whole Grain Oats Wheat Corn Milo Beet Pulp Hay and Hay Cubes Molasses Whole Grain Rye Whole Cottonseed Buckwheat Soybean Hulls Dried Whey</p>	<p>Cottonseed Meal Soybean Meal Linseed Meal Corn Gluten Meal Distillers Grain Brewers Grain Blood Meal Fish Meal</p> <p><b>** Proteins are made up of amino acids. A pig will use these amino acids to form muscle and other body proteins. The 10 essential amino acids listed below cannot be produced by the pig's body, so must be included in their feed.</b></p>	<p><b>Bone Meal</b> - (Important for bone formation) <b>Dicalcium Phosphate</b> (Important for bone formation and providing energy) <b>White Salt</b> (Helps your hog maintain appetite and encourages them to drink) <b>Ground Limestone Tace Mineral Salt</b></p>	<p><b>Fat Soluble:</b> Can be stored in the hog's body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Vitamin A</b> (Carotene- Helps keep skin and stomach healthy)</li> <li>- <b>Vitamin D</b> (Helps hog use calcium)</li> <li>- <b>Vitamins E</b> (Helps hog develop body tissues and resist infections)</li> <li>- <b>Vitamin K</b> (Helps the blood form blood clots)</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Soluble:</b> Needs to be included in hog feed. (B Vitamins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, B12, and pyridoxine.</li> </ul>



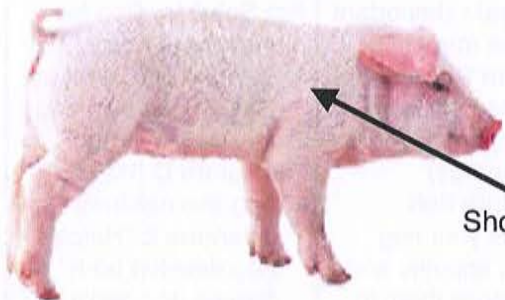
**Fun Fact:**  
A growing pig needs more protein than a pig that is being finished for show.

- 10 Essential Amino Acids for Pigs:**
- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Lysine.    | 6. Isoleucine     |
| 2. Threonine  | 7. Histidine      |
| 3. Tryptophan | 8. Valine         |
| 4. Methionine | 9. Arginine       |
| 5. Cystine    | 10. phenylalanine |



## Water

Making sure your hog has plenty of clean, fresh water is one of the most important things you can do to help your project be successful. Pigs that do not get enough water will not eat as much as they need and will not grow. Hogs will typically use the bathroom near their water source so it is important that you clean around this area daily. The best way to provide water to your hog is with an automatic watering system. As a general rule of thumb, the water nozzle should be around the same height as your hog's shoulder. Your hog will grow during your project so you may want to have a system set up so that you can easily raise the nozzle on your watering system. If your nozzle is attached to a hose, make sure the water isn't getting too hot sitting out in the sun. Even though your water system is automatic, you should check to make sure it is working everyday!



Shoulder Height



## Cold Weather

If the weather starts to get cold you will want to make sure your hog keeps warm. Remember, when animals are shivering- they lose weight! Also, sitting out in the cold is no fun for us- so why should your pig have to do it? You will need to have a plan for keeping your pig warm if the temperature starts to get cold. Many people purchase hay bales, open them up, and place them in the pen with their hog when it is cold. The hog will spread the hay out and nestle in it to keep warm. Another option is to hang heat lamps if your pen has electricity. Make sure that your pigs are not able to reach the wires and chew on them. Also, make sure your pigs can't touch the hot bulbs in the lamps. Be cautious with heat lamps because if they were to fall they could cause serious injury to your hog or, potentially, cause fires in your barn.



# A Healthy Hog is a Happy Hog



The correct temperature for a hog is 102.5 degrees. If your hog's temperature is 2 degrees or more than that, you should contact your vet immediately!



## Signs of a Sick Hog

1. Not eating
2. Not drinking
3. Rough hair coat
4. A dull look in the eyes
5. Lots of coughing
6. Diarrhea
7. Not moving around
8. Limping

## Things That Can Make Your Hog Sick

1. Stress- hauling, vaccinating, temperature

Diseases such as pneumonia, pseudo rabies (mad itch), and swine dysentery can be caused by stress.

2. External Parasites

Example: Lice or Mange Mites

3. Internal Parasites

Examples: Roundworms, Nodular Worms, Whipworms, Lungworms, Threadworms, and Kidney Worms

When you get your hog you should deworm it right away. You should then deworm your hog every 30 days. Many hogs will gladly eat dewormer that has been squeezed onto a piece of bread or put into a tasty cup of 'fruit on the bottom' yogurt. Ivomec effectively controls most of the parasites that effect hogs. If you have been regularly worming your hog and it still seems to have parasites (diarrhea, loss of appetite, dull hair coat, not gaining weight) you should contact your vet immediately.

## Ways to Keep Your Hog Healthy

1. Make sure you clean your hog pen daily. Removing manure keeps your hog clean and causes less problems with flies.
2. Always make sure your hog has clean, fresh water.
3. Make sure you have a deworming schedule for your hog to avoid problems with parasites.
4. Make sure the feeder you use to feed your hog is clean.
5. Make sure you monitor the temperature of your hog's pen and use fans if it is too hot and hay or heat lamps if it is too cold.



# Weighing Your Hog

Weighing your hog is a very important part of your project. Knowing how much your hog weighs gives you important information about feeding and health. Some people choose to purchase a digital scale if they have access to electricity in their hog pen. Others use non-digital scales to weigh their hogs. If you do not have scales of your own, you will want to make arrangements to have your hog weighed throughout your project. When you have weighed your hog 3-4 times and you know how much your hog is eating each day, you can figure out how much your hog will weigh on the day of the show.

## Example Weight Chart

	Date:	Weight:	Daily Gain:
First weight of hog →	10/1/16	70	— unknown—
Second weight of hog →	10/7/16	80	1.6 pounds per day
	10/14/16	93	2.1 pounds per day
	11/7/16	135	1.9 pounds per day

**To figure out how much your hog is gaining each day:**

**Step 1:** Subtract the current weight of your hog (for example 135) by the last known weight (For example: 93)

**Example:**  $135 - 93 = 42$

**Step 2:** How many days have passed since you last weighed your hog? In this case, there are 23 days between 10/14 and 11/7.

**Step 3:** Divide the Hog's gain (42) by the number of days that have passed since you last weighed.

**Example:**  $42/23 = 1.9$  ← Average daily gain

You can learn that if you keep feeding your pig the same amount it will continue to gain around 1.9 pounds each day until the fair. If we pretend the hog weigh-in day is February 20th, we know there is another 98 days until the fair. (From November 7th to February 20th) We can multiply  $98 \times 1.9$  and find out that our hog should gain another 186.2 pounds by the fair.  $186.2 + 135$  (the last weight known) = 321.2 pounds ← Too much for the fair!!! You can then decide to drop down on your feed because you know that you only need your hog to gain around 1 to 1.5 pounds per day to make weight.





# Getting Ready to Show!



Getting ready to go to the show is fun and exciting! Here are some things you can do to prepare for the fun!

## Hog Show Checklist:

- Feed pan or clip on feeder (Clip on feeders can stay hanging, feed pans should be removed after hog is done eating)
- Scrub brush
- Towels
- Bath Shampoo (Non-irritating to the skin)- for Thursday or Friday
- Shavings for when your hog is clean
- Board for bottom of your pen to put shavings on to keep your hog clean after bathing
- Sign to display your name, hog weight, and hog's name
- Muck Rake or shovel to clean your hog's pen
- Crop, show stick, or whip to move your hog
- Soft brush and/or small clean towel to keep in the pocket of your pants when showing
- Appropriate clothing- 4H is black pants, clean white shirt, green neck tie or bolo, green 4H vest/jacket, and boots. FFA is black pants, white shirt, FFA jacket, neck tie, and boots. It is not required, but recommended, that girls and boys with long hair wear it neatly pulled back away from the face either in a braid or pony tail.
- Remember that buyers are watching you from the moment you enter the fairgrounds. Use good manners and build a good reputation for yourself!



Chapter 2:  
**At the Show**



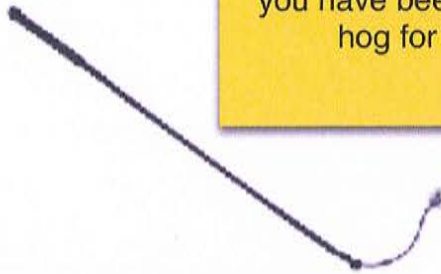
# What should I bring to the show?

On the days of the show it is important to have an idea of what you should have with you. Here are some suggestions:

Come to the show dressed and ready to go. Some people don't put their ties on right away. So make sure you have it!



Make sure you have the show stick you have been using to train your hog for showmanship!



Make sure you remember your boots!



4 Safety pins to pin on your tag number!



# How do I show ethical behavior?

Ethics is basically doing the right thing. It is knowing what is right and wrong and then doing what is right. When showing livestock, it is the exhibitors responsibility to always be ethical and do the right thing in regard to your project.

There are six pillars of character that help us when we work to be ethical. The first is **trustworthiness**. This is telling the truth....always. It also includes being reliable and honest. This is following the rules and not cheating.

The second is **respect**. This is basically treating others the way you want to be treated. It is accepting and being nice to everyone.

The third is **responsibility**. This is following through with your project from start to finish. It is doing the work to complete the project.

The fourth is **fairness**. Everyone is treated equally.

The fifth is **caring**. This is being concerned about others.

The sixth is **citizenship**. This is being part of the whole community and doing your part by following the rules.

Ethics are the heart of who you are and everything you do. When you practice ethical behavior you will have good relationships with other people and feel good about yourself.



# What should I wear?

## 4H Official Dress

**Black/Tan Jeans**  
**Black or Dark Boots**  
**White button down shirt (with or w/o 4H logo)**  
**Green 4H Jacket or Vest (Optional)**  
**Green Bolo or Tie**



## FFA Official Dress

**Black Jeans**  
**Black or Dark Boots**  
**White button down shirt**  
**FFA Jacket**  
**FFA Neck Tie/Scarf**



## At the Sale

**During the sale some exhibitors wear official dress while others choose to "dress up" and wear a western style shirt and nice jeans.**



# Chapter 3: **Let's Learn About Pigs**



What words should I know?

**Average Daily Gain** – The average number of pounds your hog gains in one day.

**Back fat** – a layer of fat located between the skin and muscle along the back of your hog. It is measured by an ultrasound instrument on a live hog.

**Ultrasound** is an instrument that uses high frequency sound waves to observe the internal structure of your hog. Your hog will have its back fat measured when it enters the fair.

**Muscle** – bundles of tissue in your hog that helps with movement and keeps the body parts in place.

**Conformation** – the general shape of your hog. It is determined by its skeleton and muscles.

**Barrow** – a young male hog

**Gilt** – a young female hog

**Breed** – a group of animals with similar external characteristics that are passed on from one generation to the next. Examples are Duroc, Berkshire, Chester White.

**Crossbreed** – a hog whose parents are different breeds.

**Nutrient** – a chemical compound that is needed by the body. Hogs get their nutrients through feed.

**Ration** – the amount (weight) of feed provided to you hog in a 24 hour period. Also, a formula for mixing feed (similar to a recipe).

**Stress** – physical body strain or tension caused by an event (such as transporting) or illness that can be harmful to your hog.

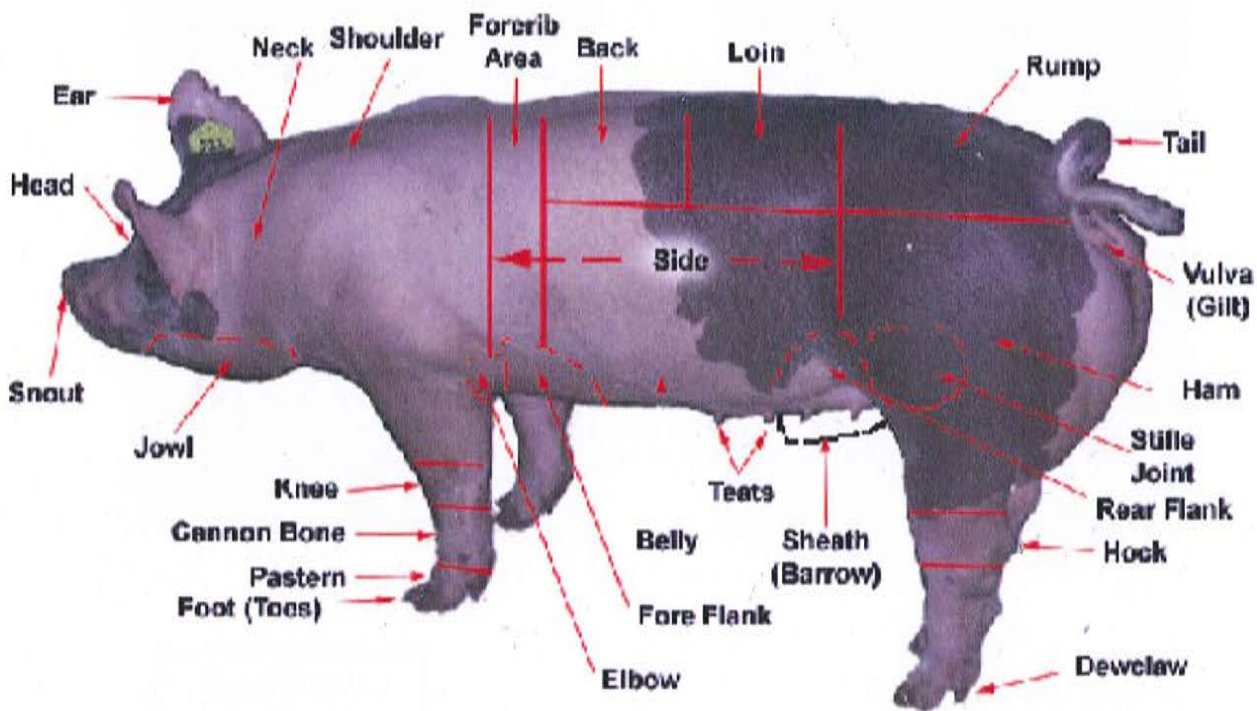
**Parasites** – internal parasites are worms that cause your hog to not grow by taking the hog's nutrients and injuring organs such as the heart or stomach. Also, parasites can lead to your hog getting a disease.

**Preventative Medications** – medications such as deworming **injections** are given to your hog to prevent illness. The medications help to control infections, kill disease germs and parasites.



# What are the parts of the hog?

Knowing the parts of an animal you work with daily is very important. When a judge is describing strengths and weaknesses in your hog at the show he or she will often describe the strengths using parts of the animal. Also, if you need to describe an injury to your vet it is important for them to know what body part you are talking about. Make sure you study your hog parts! It might come in handy for showmanship!



# What are common breeds of hog?

While many show hogs are crossbreeds that are chosen for certain desirable characteristics, it is important to know which breeds your hog might be. Below you will find common purebred hog breeds. A showmanship judge may ask you your hog's breed during showmanship. Below are only a few hog breeds. In a situation where you know your pig is a crossbred, you would refer to them as "Hampshire appearing", "Yorkshire appearing", etc. depending on the breed they resemble the most.

## Duroc



Solid red with drooped ears

## Hampshire



Black with white belt around shoulders and erect ears

## Spots



White with black spots and drooped ears

## Yorkshire



Solid white with erect ears

Fun Fact: Most market show pigs are crossbreeds of different breeds.



Other Breeds:  
Landrace  
Chester White  
Poland China  
Berkshire



# What do we get from hogs?

Hogs provide society with more products than any other animal. Hogs help us have better human lives.



Insulin and other medical products



Gelatin for marshmallows



Drumheads



Hearts for xenotransplantation



Bone china

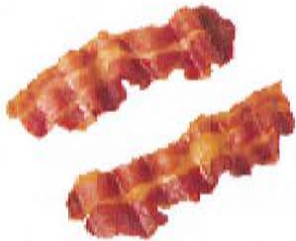


Violin Strings



Leather goods

Sausage



Bacon



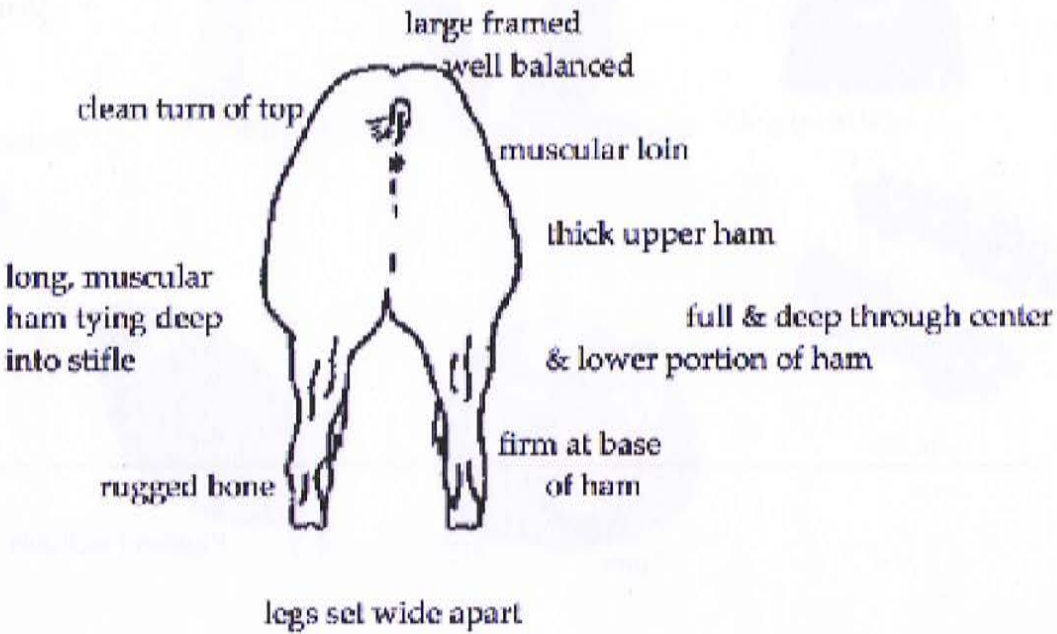
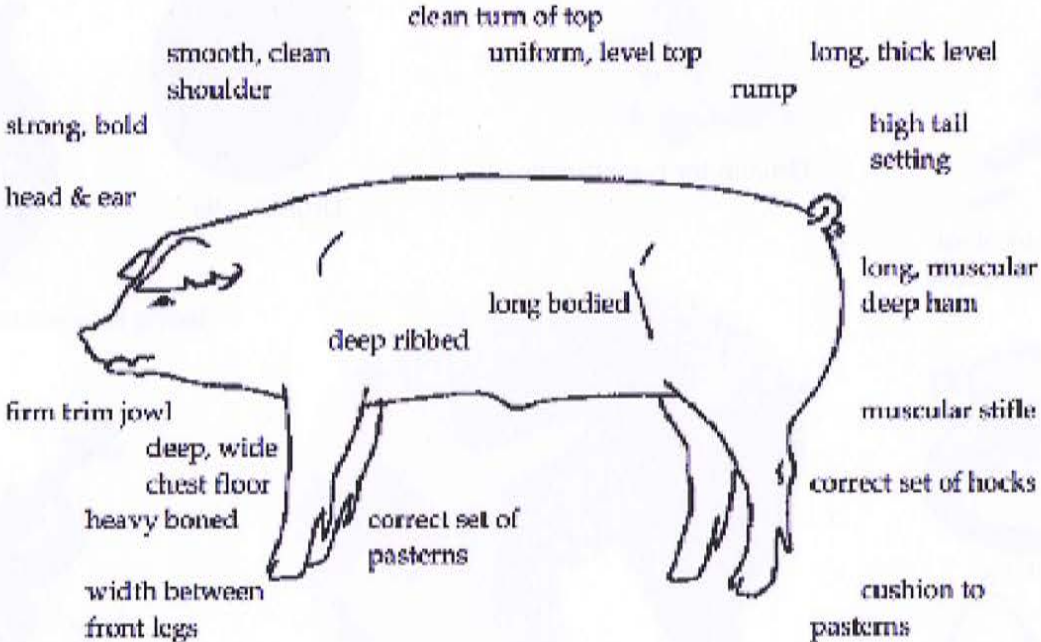
Ham



Pigskin Footballs

# How do I pick a hog for the show?

## The Ideal Show Pig



Chapter 4:  
**How to Write a Letter**





# Writing a Business Letter

As part of your project you will need to write at least four letters to potential buyers inviting them to come and bid on your hog at the fair. Many buyers prefer handwritten letters. If you choose to send handwritten letters, be sure that you use neat handwriting. Other buyers prefer typed letters. To be sure that you meet the needs of your buyer, you may choose to include both a handwritten letter and a typed letter that say the same things. That is your personal preference. Remember that these letters are a reflection of you. Make a good impression.

September 20, 2016

Buyer's Name  
12345 Sample Street  
Dade City, Florida 33525

Dear Pretend Hog Buyer,

Ideas of things to include in your letter:

- Your Name
- Your Age
- Number of years doing this project
- Hog tag number
- 4H or FFA Member? What club/chapter?
- How will you spend your hog sale profits?
- Date/time/location of the sale
- What you have learned from the project
- Favorite thing about raising and showing hogs
- Photo of you with your hog

Sincerely,

**Fake Name**

Fake Name







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[http://animal.ufl.edu/youth/livestock/documents/Hog\\_and\\_Ham\\_Mannual.pdf](http://animal.ufl.edu/youth/livestock/documents/Hog_and_Ham_Mannual.pdf)

**2. Controlling Internal Parasites in Swine**

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an039>

**3. Your 4H Image**

[http://florida4h.org/events/files/4H\\_image\\_factsheet.pdf](http://florida4h.org/events/files/4H_image_factsheet.pdf)

**4. Parts of the Hog**

<http://www.thepigsite.com/articles/3934/selecting-pigs-for-youth-swine-shows/>

**5. National Ag in the Classroom**

<http://www.agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix/lessonplan.cfm?lpid=272>

**6. Products From Animals**

<http://animalsmart.org/feeding-the-world/products-from-animals>

**7. Selecting 4H Pigs**

[http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/674\\_Selecting%204H%20Pigs.pdf](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/674_Selecting%204H%20Pigs.pdf)

**8. Show Pig Selection**

[http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Show\\_Pig\\_Selection.pdf](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Show_Pig_Selection.pdf)

