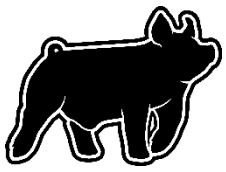
2025-2026 Swine Project Rules and Requirements



Please review these rules and requirements along with your project book and the Fair Book. Make sure members AND parents understand what is expected in your project, this will make your 4-H year a lot more fun!

4-H Registration and Project Enrollment:

1. November 30 is the deadline to re-enroll as a 4-H member in a Ravalli County 4-H Club.
2. December 31 is the deadline to enroll as a new 4-H member in a Ravalli County 4-H Club.
3. March 1 is the drop/add deadline for all 4-H projects if you want to participate in the Ravalli County Fair for your specific project.
4. When enrolling in a swine project you must register for Swine Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3, and Market Swine or Swine Breeding or Swine Independent Study. Contact the Extension Office with any questions regarding project enrollment.
5. Individual members are allowed to tag one swine as a companion animal(s) (two swine total). Families with two or more children in the swine project will be able to share a family swine.
6. All members enrolled in the Market Swine project are required to keep complete records on their companion swine(s) or any family swine, as well as their actual market animal. These records must be included in their record books and shown to their Organizational Leader.
7. Definitions of companion swine and family swine:
    a. Companion swine is owned by a specific member and ownership cannot be transferred to anyone.
    b. Family swine is shared by a family of two or more children. One of the children may show this swine at the fair in place of the one they signed in under their own name, provided that the swine was listed on the paperwork as a family swine at Spring Weigh-In.

Project Requirements:

1. As a 4-H member, you are required to complete a 'My 4-H Year' form for your record book each year. It is meant to be completed during the year, not at the end of the year.
2. In addition to the 'My 4-H Year', an 'Animal Project Journal & Financial Record' form is required for the swine project. This form is used to keep track of feed costs, weights, veterinary costs, supplies, etc.
3. 4-H records shall be up-to-date for all members. Records should include one "My 4-H Year" and a non-animal and/or animal project journal & financial record depending on the type(s) of projects entered. These forms are to be completed and signed by your Organizational Leader by September 30 (end of the 4-H year).
4. It is easiest if you keep a separate record of feed in close proximity to where you store the feed. This way, you can simply create a log of how much you feed your animal per day.
5. Project requirements in regard to the level enrolled: you must complete a minimum of seven activities and three to five learning experiences each year to complete the project for the year. Levels take around three years to complete. Please refer to the Clover, Montana 4-H Project Selection Guide for additional information.

Spring Weigh-In:

1. All market swine must be registered during the weigh-in process every spring in order to be eligible to show at the Ravalli County Fair. Be on the lookout for specific weigh-in information and paperwork before the end of April. Members are required to show a Bill of Sale or Proof of Ownership at Spring Weigh-In.
2. All market swine should be born January 1st or later of the current year.
3. Bring your market swine project pigs and all completed paperwork to the Ravalli County Fairgrounds to participate in the weigh-in at the fairgrounds. The Swine

Superintendents and Livestock Committee will accept the completed paperwork for each member, tag your swine, and weigh it on the scale. Only the animals who weigh-in at the fairgrounds will be eligible to participate in the Average Daily Gain competition during Fair.

4. The only exception to bringing your market swine project pigs to the Ravalli County Fairgrounds is if you have swine breeding operations. Please contact the Swine Superintendent(s) directly, prior to weigh-in at the fairgrounds, to get details regarding this exception and to make an appointment for tagging. These animals will not be eligible to participate in the Average Daily Gain competition during Fair.

5. Market animals can be tagged in truck/trailer at Spring Weigh-In. Individuals can choose to tag their own animal or have a weigh-in volunteer tag the swine. All equipment used for Spring Weigh-In is sanitized between each truck & trailer. Any individual entering a trailer to tag swine will wear protective shoe coverings.

Additional Information:

1. Quality Assurance training is mandatory for 4-H members who have a swine project. Members must become Quality Assurance certified your first year as a Junior member and first year as a Senior member. If you are not Quality Assurance certified, you will not be allowed to sell your animal at the Ravalli County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale.
2. Swine Project Interviews are mandatory prior to Fair.
3. Swine Showmanship is mandatory if bringing a market swine to the Fair.
4. If your swine loses an ear tag, please contact a Swine Superintendent immediately. Tags must be replaced prior to the fair. Do not wait until you get to the Fair Weigh-In. Swine without at least one Ravalli County Fair ear tag will not be allowed to weigh-in.

Prior to the Fair:

1. Submit your completed fair entry form and fees by the first Friday in August online and to the Fair Office.
2. Prior to the fair, the Swine Superintendents will make swine pen assignments. Pen assignments are posted on the Monday of fair week when the barn opens for final fair preparation. Do not change pens without the express permission of a Swine Superintendent.
3. Please decorate your area of the barn. You can use whatever you want as long as you remember no balloons and keep the decorations high enough that your animal, and those around you, cannot reach them.
4. Beginning a week before the fair, you will want to pick up your fair entry tags at the Fair Premium Office. It is located directly south of the Fair Office, in its own white building. In addition to the fair entry tags, you will receive an exhibitor number on an index card which will be displayed on your self during Showmanship and Market Swine shows. Please be certain to have this number with you during the fair. You must be wearing your correct exhibitor number, or you will not be let into the show ring.
5. Wash your animal before bringing it to the fair. **Ear tag numbers must be visible for verification.**

Arriving at the Fair:

1. A mandatory meeting for all swine exhibitors will be held at the Hornung Arena on Monday evening of fair week at 7:30 PM.
2. Swine weigh-in at the fair is traditionally on the Tuesday of fair week. Check the fair book for the exact date and time.
   - Bring your records with to fill out stall card information.
3. In addition to your animal, you will want to bring enough feed for the duration of the time your animal is at the fairgrounds, a tack box and the additional equipment that is outlined below.
4. Bedding for your swine pen will be provided at the fairgrounds.

5. The weight range for market swine is from 220 lbs. to 300 lbs. These weights better meet current SOE (Swine of Excellence) standards and market changes. Swine will be weighed in one-pound increments only.
6. Swine will be weighed in for the Ravalli County Fair only once right off the truck/trailer on fair entry day. Members and parents can watch the weigh-in and are allowed to challenge the weight only once. Market animals are not allowed to leave the scale area and will be immediately reweighed. The second weight will be the final weight. Any concerns need to be discussed with the Extension Agent and Swine Superintendent(s).
7. All animals not entered in a class must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately after the weigh-in.
8. Swine weighing less than 220 lbs. are eligible for the underweight class. This class is intended for those members whose market swine did not make weight and they do not have a market swine at the fair. Animals in this class are not eligible for the Ravalli County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale. Swine over 300 lbs. can be sold at the Ravalli County 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale, but the member will be paid for no more than 300 lbs. and will be ineligible for call backs in the Market Class.

Equipment for the Fair:

You will need specific items to care for your swine and your assigned areas in the barn at the fair. Since storage space is extremely limited during fair, please be extremely courteous in storing it during your time on the fairgrounds. Make sure you keep your equipment in your club's designated storage area.

Tools/Equipment:

- Wheelbarrow
- Bedding rake/pitchfork
- Shovel
- 5-gallon bucket
- Broom and dustpan
- Floor squeegee

Exhibitors must provide their own pig waterer: maximum diameter 6", maximum height 48", and a cap is required for the top to keep the water contained. Each animal must have its own waterer.

You will also want to have your own tack box in which to keep your personal items. Tack boxes are to be no larger than 2-foot-wide, 3-foot-long, and 20 inches tall (2' x 3' x 20"). Please keep your items contained and your tack box locked to protect everything.

Tack Boxes:

- Soap/Shampoo
- Wet wipes
- Rags and old towels
- Spray bottle
- Scissors
- Scrub brush
- Muck boots
- Sharpie/felt-tip marker
- Show brush
- Show stick, can or whip

**** Thank you note for your buyer at the livestock sale! ****

Please make sure everything you bring to the fair is clearly labeled with your name. Items have a tendency to be borrowed or moved, and if you want to leave with what you come with, you are strongly encouraged to make it easier by having a name on it for identification.

During the Fair:

1. It is the responsibility of the 4-H and FFA market swine members to feed and water their swine and to keep their swine's pen clean or to make arrangements to do so. 4-H and FFA members will maintain best practices in regard to animal husbandry and care from the time of arrival for weigh-in to the stated release time of the Superintendents. Members who do not meet a standard of acceptable care and pen maintenance will be requested to meet for an in-person conversation with the Superintendent, Club Leader and/or Parent/Guardian. Repeated warnings or failure to meet with the Superintendent will result in a fine of no more than $50 paid to the swine barn held in the 4-H Advisory Council account.
2. All feed kept in the barn MUST be in a sealed container (for example: small Rubbermaid tub with a latching lid). Do not help yourself to someone else's animal feed or use your feed for someone else's animal. You are responsible for your own feed supply for the duration of the time your animal is at the fair. Please remember that the swine are at the fairgrounds until Sunday or Monday, after Fair ends.
3. Check the swine barn during the fair for a listing of rules and regulations, show times, weight classes, showmanship drives, and any updates or important information you might need. Please do not hesitate to ask a Swine Superintendent any questions you may have.
4. Please take the time to visit with fair attendees about your animals and projects. This is part of the reason people attend the fair. Many people who walk through the animal barns would love to know specific facts about your animal and what is involved in its care. They especially like to hear information from youth about raising livestock.
5. Make sure that your thank you note for your buyer at the livestock sale has been checked by a Swine Superintendent prior to the sale. Anyone who is selling must have a thank you note to go through the sale.
6. A limited supply of animal bedding is available during the fair. You should change the bedding in your animal's pen as it becomes wet or dirty. Please make a note of the "Clean Bedding" and the "Dirty Bedding" locations and dispose of the used bedding in the proper location.

Show Days:

1. Arrive early to make sure your animal is fed, well hydrated and clean, and that your pen is clean as well.
2. Market swine weight range is from 220 lbs. to 300 lbs. Swine weighing less than 220 lbs. will be in an underweight class. Swine weighing more than 300 lbs. will be in an overweight class and ineligible to be called back for final drive of the Market Classes.
3. Market swine and showmanship classes will be judged by a single judge.
4. Please conduct yourself with good sportsmanship at all times toward fellow showmen, the judge, our volunteers and helpers, and all of the animals.
5. Check the fair book for current mandatory dress code rules for market classes and showmanship classes. You will not be allowed in the ring if you do not meet these requirements.
6. If a member is showing more than one species of market animal, they must let a Swine Superintendent, or the Sale Administrator know which animal they will be selling immediately after the last market show they are involved in.

Sale Day:

1. Arrive early to make sure your animal is fed, well hydrated and clean, and that your pen is clean as well.
2. Swine over 300 lbs. can be sold at the 4-H & FFA market sale, but the owner will be paid for no more than 300 lbs.
3. With the exception of Grand and Reserve Champions and the finals (purple) drive, the sale order will be determined by random draw. The swine sale order will be Champions, purple (final drive), purple (no call back), blue and red ribbon swine.
4. Please check the fair book for current dress code rules for selling your animal. Official dress is mandatory for FFA members. Western style or cowboy hats will be allowed.

5. Be at your pen, with your animal, and ready to go when it is time for you to line up for the sale. If you are not ready with your animal, you do not sell.

After the Fair:

1. After the livestock sale you must continue to feed and water your animal daily, as well as maintain a clean pen, until your animal is removed from the barn. Please see rule #1 on page 3 under "During the Fair" for any questions.
2. Underweight swine that were shown in the underweight class or showmanship class must be removed on Sunday from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Swine Superintendent(s).
3. You must clean the pen used to house your animal during the Ravalli County Fair. There will be a $50.00 fee charged for any dirty, unclean pens after the designated clean out day. All pens for all exhibitors must be cleaned between the hours of 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM on Monday. Day and time are contingent upon processor availability.

Glen & Nicole Thompson
4-H & FFA Swine
Superintendents
406-529-5032

Malorie Cook
4-H & FFA Swine
Superintendent
406-381-5912

Sophie Kolb
Ravalli County 4-H & Youth
Development Agent
406-375-6611

*As approved by Countywide Leaders and Project Members annually

4-H & FFA Swine

Superintendents:
Malorie Cook • (406) 381-5912
Nicole Thompson • (406) 529-5032
Glen Thompson • (406) 529-2683

Animals to be brought to the Fair Tuesday of Fair week, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mandatory Swine Barn Meeting Monday night at 7:30 p.m.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Refer to General 4-H, FFA, & Livestock Rules and Regulations for more information as well as the Ravalli County Swine Project and Requirements.
2. The Barn Superintendent, prior to the fair, will make swine pen assignments.
3. See the Ravalli County Swine Rules and Requirements for complete directions for the Spring Weigh-In.
4. **Swine Showmanship and Project Records Interviews are mandatory.** All 1st year swine project members are required to show in the Novice Showmanship class.
5. The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion livestock market animals must sell in the Ravalli County 4-H Livestock Sale unless you sell in the Western Montana Fair in Missoula. In the event that an Exhibitor wins more than one Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion, they must choose which one to sell.
6. Swine must be born January 1st or later of the current 4-H year.
7. Market swine weight range is from 220 lbs. to 300 lbs., to better meet the SOE standards and market changes. Swine will be weighed in 1-pound increments only.
8. Swine weighing less than 220 lbs. are eligible for the underweight class; this class is for those members who **do not have** a market swine at the fair. Swine in this class are not eligible for the Livestock Sale.
9. All animals not entered in a division must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately after the weigh-in.
10. Swine over 300 lbs. can be sold at the 4-H & FFA market sale, but the owner will be paid for no more than 300 lbs.
11. Market swine weighing over 300 lbs. are not eligible to be called back for the final market drive for Grand and Reserve Champion.
12. With the exception of Grand and Reserve Champions and the final drive, the sale order will be determined by random draw. The swine sale order will be Champions, purple, blue and red ribbon swine.
13. Swine not sold in the Livestock Sale must be removed on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. unless prior arrangements have been made with Barn Superintendent(s).
14. It is the responsibility of the 4-H and FFA swine members to feed and water their swine and to keep their swine's pen clean or to make arrangements to do so. 4-H and FFA members will maintain best practices in regard to animal husbandry and care from the time of arrival for weigh-in to the stated release time by the Barn Superintendent(s). Members who do not meet a standard of acceptable care and pen maintenance will be requested to meet for an in-person conversation with the Barn Superintendent(s), Club Leader/Chapter Advisor and/or Parent/Guardian. Repeated warnings or failure to meet with the Superintendent will result in a fine of no more than $50 paid to the swine barn held in the 4-H Advisory Council account.
15. There will be a $50 fee charged for any dirty, unclean pens after the designated clean out day. All pens for ALL exhibitors must be cleaned out or between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Day and time are contingent upon processor availability.
16. Release times for the market swine will be posted in the Swine Barn at Fair.

Division A - Showmanship

Class No.

01. Junior Showmanship - Ages 8-11 yrs.
02. Intermediate Showmanship - Ages 12-13 yrs.
03. Senior Showmanship - Ages 14 & over
04. Novice Showmanship – 1st year swine members, regardless of age.

Grand Champion - Rosette
Reserve Champion - Rosette

Division B - Market

Class No.

01. Market swine

Grand Champion Market Swine - Rosette
Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine – Rosette

Division C - Other

Class No.

01. Underweight swine
02. Mandatory Project Records Interview - Bring all of your project and animal records with you to the interview. Records should be secured in a binder.
03. Educational Poster - Must be made during the current 4-H year by the Exhibitor entering this class.
04. Breeding Project Interviews & Display - Make a display, depicting some part of your swine breeding project. Interview times will be posted in the Swine Barn.