

# **ELKHART COUNTY**

## **4-H**

### **SWINE CLUB**

### **HANDBOOK**

## **2026**

#### **2026 Meeting Dates**

**Location: Sheep Swine Arena**

January 13 - 7:00 PM

February 10 - 7:00 PM

March 10 - 7:00 PM

April 14 - 7:00 PM

May - No Meeting

June 9 - 7:00 PM

July 14 - 6:00 PM

## **4-H SWINE CLUB**

Organizational Leaders - Jerod and Megan Erb  
Assistant Leaders - Erinn Anglemeyer, Chelsie Weldy, & Matt Kritzman

Fair Board Representative - Kraig Resler

**Friday, July 24, 2026 @ 5:00p.m. - 4-H Senior Showmanship & 4-H Gilts**

**Friday, July 24, 2026 @ 7:30p.m. - Open Class 12 & Under Show**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2026 @ 8:00a.m. - 4-H Greenhand through Junior  
Showmanship & Market Barrows**

**Thursday, July 30, 2026 @ 9:00a.m. - Open Class Gilts & Barrows**

**Friday, July 31, 2026 (time TBA) - 4-H Swine Auction**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - 4-H Swine Club Achievement Banquet**

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

All pigs entered in 4-H Swine must be born on or after December 1, 2025, and purchased by May 2, 2026. All boars must be castrated and ear notched by May 2, 2026. All 4-H Swine that will be exhibited must meet health criteria in accordance with Livestock Health Requirements. Barrows and Gilts must be those that were identified in May. Barrows and Gilts will be tagged by the Swine Advisory Board.

**Any 4-H Gilts and Barrow pigs can be brought in on Friday, July 24, 2026, between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 am. All remaining 4-H Barrows are to be brought in on Saturday, July 25, 2026, between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Only Swine Club members that are members of any other Livestock Club may bring their barrows in on Sunday, July 26, 2026, between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Scales will be only open at the times listed above.**

**\*\*\*\*\*ON WEIGH IN DAYS, the wash racks will be closed during weigh in times and will not be open until further notification from the Advisory Board.\*\*\*\*\***

All Gilts and/or Market Barrows will be weighed at the time they are brought into the barn. At the time of weigh in, ALL pigs must be clean and all ear tags clean, visible, and readable. If the Advisory Board deems your animal unfit for weigh-in, then it may be necessary that you enter the wash racks and clean your animal. Please note that all 4-H Barrows will be weighed the day you bring them in and that will be the weight that will be used for the 4-H Barrow show as no re-weighs will be allowed UNLESS your barrow is under 220 lbs. Any barrow that is less than 220 lbs. by Sunday at the expiration of the appointed time will be registered in an underweight exhibition class and will not be eligible to show for any placings such as Grand Champion, Champion of Breed, etc.

and will not be eligible to be sold at auction. Barrows weighing less than 220 lbs. will be allowed to re-weigh only **AT THE TIME SPECIFIED ON SUNDAY BY THE ADVISORY BOARD. NO EXCEPTIONS.** There will be no other re-weighs unless deemed necessary by the Swine Advisory Board. Each 4-H member exhibiting market hogs must be present at the time of weighing or have someone present at the scales to assume responsibility by furnishing necessary information. **Switching of pigs to other siblings will be allowed at weigh-in only.**

Registration papers on all purebred gilts must be presented at the time of check in on Friday. Registration papers on all purebred market barrows must be present at the time of weigh-in. All purebred barrow papers must be presented by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday—no exceptions. We will follow Indiana State Fair Guidelines for purebred papers; purebred characteristics and rules of exhibition.

A Preliminary Show Order will be posted by Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. A final Show Order for the barrows and showmanship will be posted by 1:00 p.m. on Monday. There will be no changes to show order after 5:00 p.m. on Monday.

Barrow classes will be divided by weight with no more than 12 pigs per class. (ALL 4-H shows will be no larger than 12 participants in an individual class.) Barrows must be shown by the owner or another 4-H Swine Club member where two entries fall in the same class. All market barrows, gilts and litters will be shown by breed. There will be a class of crossbreeds.

All 4-H barrows will be judged Wednesday, following showmanship classes. All exhibitors should be at the swine barn when the show starts and stay in the barn until the show is over. It is your responsibility to get your animal in to the ring when your class is called to the arena. If a 4-H member (or designee in case of illness) fails to show their barrow(s) during the 4-H barrow show, then said 4-H barrow(s) will not be eligible for sale at the auction on Friday.

Swine for Indiana State Fair exhibition must be registered by May 15 of the calendar year. See Livestock Health Requirements.

**MARKET BARROWS:** Each member may show a maximum of two (2) barrows. All barrows must be born on or after December 1, 2025. Barrows will be shown by breed and by weights. Each member may identify/tag five (5) barrows. A family member may interchange any identified barrow with a sibling at the time of weigh-in only. A sibling is defined as a brother or sister and/or stepbrother or stepsister. A 4-H member is only allowed to bring two (2) barrows to weigh-in. All 4-H members should be present at

weighing of animals. Members showing purebred animals must have registration papers to exhibit in the purebred class. Purebred characteristics and rules of exhibition will follow State Fair guidelines. Final authority will be the 4-H Swine Advisory Board.

**Each 4-H member will be assigned their pen(s) by the leaders. No 4-H member and/or parent(s) may utilize any other unoccupied pen(s) WITHOUT the permission of the leaders.**

**MANDATORY EAR TAGGING and 1st vaccination of ALL barrows and gilts will be done on Saturday, May 2, 2026, between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and the 2nd vaccination will be Saturday, May 16, 2026, between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All 4-H barrows and gilts MUST be brought to the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds on both dates. In order to show your pigs at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair, all pigs must be registered online by May 15, 2026.**

**BREEDING GILTS:** Breeding gilts eligible for exhibition must be born on or after December 1, 2025. Purebred gilts will show by breed and date of birth. Crossbred gilt classes will be determined by weight. A 4-H member may identify/tag five (5) gilts. The member will be allowed to exhibit two (2) identified gilts. All gilts must be brought to the Fairgrounds on the ear tagging/vaccination dates. Gilts may be interchanged among siblings, following the same guidelines as used for Barrows, and this can be done at the time of check-in only. Members showing purebred gilts must have registration papers for each gilt to be exhibited at the time of check-in on Friday, July 24, 2026. We will follow State Fair guidelines as it relates whose name the registration papers must be in. Purebred characteristics will follow State Fair guidelines.

**JUDGING BARROWS:** The 2026 4-H Swine show order will be: Exhibition Only, Underweight Exhibition, Chester White, Hampshire, Landrace, Crossbred, Berkshire, Poland China Yorkshire, Hereford, Spot, Duroc, Tamworth, AOB (if 3 or more in the class and if less than 3 than they will show in Crossbred).

A champion and reserve champion market barrow will be selected in each breed as soon as all classes are judged in that breed (excluding Exhibition Only and Underweight Exhibition classes). If there are more than six (6) classes in a particular breed, the breed will also be divided into weight divisions, i.e., light, medium, and heavy, so that no more than six (6) animals will show for a breed champion. This is for show logistics only and no additional awards will be given for weight division winners. Only champions and reserve champions awarded blue ribbons when their classes were judged shall be brought in the ring to compete for grand and reserve grand champion.

**JUDGING GILTS:** Judging of the gilt classes will follow the same order as the barrow classes. Gilts are not eligible to sell in the auction. Gilts will be released following the show and shall be loaded and out of the barn that evening. Champion and reserve champion gilts will be selected in each breed.

**IN BOTH THE BARROW SHOW AND THE GILT SHOW, THE CHAMPION IN EACH BREED WILL COMPETE FOR GRAND CHAMPION. ONCE A BREED CHAMPION IS SELECTED FOR ANY POSITION IN THE GRAND DRIVE THAT RESPECTIVE RESERVE BREED CHAMPION WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE RING FOR CONTENTION FOR ANY REMAINING SPOTS FOR A TOTAL OF 5 PLACES---- Grand, Reserve, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place.**

**THE SALE ORDER FOR THE AUCTION WILL NOT CHANGE FOR THE 3rd, 4th, and 5th PLACE PIGS.**

**\*\*NO BARROW OR GILT MAY BE TAKEN HOME ONCE IT HAS BEEN CHECKED IN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF A 4-H LEADER. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Swine Office where you will need to sign out your Gilt or Barrow.**

**ALL PIGS IN THE BARN ON SUNDAY (JULY 26, 2026) SHALL REMAIN IN THEIR PENS FROM 12:00 P.M. (NOON) UNTIL 9:00 P.M.**

**SHOWMANSHIP:** Showmanship will be divided into four (4) groups by the 4-H member's grade as of January 1 of the showing year. Sign up for all showmanship classes can be completed prior to the fair when you register your pigs on Fair Entry. Sign-up sheets for all showmanship classes will be posted on the first Friday of the fair. Senior Showmanship sign up will close at 2:00PM Friday, July 24. Remaining classes will be divided Monday at 11:00a.m. to accommodate the size of classes. Classes will be determined by a blind draw. As follows is a description of each showmanship class:

Senior showmanship class: Grades 9-12

Junior showmanship class: Grades 6-8

Beginner showmanship class: Grades 4-5

Greenhand showmanship class: Grades 3 (1<sup>st</sup> year members only)

- Greenhand through Junior showmanship will start at 8:00 a.m. the day of the 4-H Barrow show.
- Senior Showmanship will take place at 5:00PM Friday, July 24th, prior to the 4-H Gilt show. Gilts will be eligible to be used in Senior showmanship only and be registered to the member at the time of check in and follow the same rules previously

established above for barrows. The winner of Senior showmanship will represent the Swine Club in the Round Robin competition.

- If a member wins their showmanship class, they will move to the next class the following years.
- If the Senior Showman wins 1st place in Round Robin, that showman will be ineligible to compete in Round Robin in subsequent years. That Round Robin champion will, however, be eligible to still show in Senior Showmanship. If a prior Round Robin champion wins Senior Showmanship in ensuing years, the Reserve Champion will represent the club in Round Robin. However, if the Senior Showman does not win Round Robin, they will retain their eligibility for future Round Robin competitions.

The Judge will be instructed to select the top five (5) individuals and from this group, the Judge will place the individuals from 1st place to 5th place. The class size in showmanship will be limited to twelve (12) participants per class. There will not be a limit of participants in each age group. Example: if thirty-six (36) individuals sign up for the beginner's class, the first twelve (12) will be called to the arena, five (5) will be selected to return for the final placing of this class. The same will be done for the next twelve (12) and the same for the next twelve (12). When all three (3) groups have shown, the top five (5) showmen in each group will return to the arena for the final beginner class drive. A final five (5) will be placed from 1st to 5th place.

**ONLY 4-H BARROWS CAN BE SHOWN FOR THE GREENHAND THROUGH JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES AND MAY ONLY BE SHOWN BY THE OWNER OF THE BARROW.**

**SWINE CLUB AUCTION:** The auction will take place on Friday, July 31, 2026 -Time to Be Announced - in the Sheep/Swine arena.

Animals are sold based on initial weigh-in weight. Maximum weight is 295 lbs. Animals exceeding 295 lbs. will be paid only maximum weight.

**SWINE CLUB ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET:** The achievement banquet will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Mennonite/Showalter/Fidler (ECCC). The family of the owners of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion barrows will be co-chairmen for the banquet. The families of the breed champions will be on the committee.

### **Rules (Per Extension Office)**

MAY 15, 2026 ANIMAL ID DEADLINE: ALL animals MUST be Identified and entered into the online system by MAY 15, 2026, as well as all DNA MUST be turned in by MAY 15, 2026. Elkhart County follows the Indiana State Fair ID requirements, but this does not guarantee that animals can be exhibited at the State Fair. It is the 4-H member's responsibility to check the State Fair Guidelines for any additional requirements. MISSING THE DEADLINE FOR ANIMAL ID WILL RESULT IN NOT BEING ABLE TO SHOW.

YQCA/QUALITY ASSURANCE DEADLINE: Each 4-H Member who is participating in Swine Club will need to complete the Purdue Quality Assurance program or Youth for the Quality Care of Animals. 4-H member must have a current certification in order to comply with Indiana 4-H policy. In order to exhibit/show at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair, the Purdue Quality Assurance course, or YQCA certification program needs to be completed by JUNE 15 of the current year. There are two (2) ways to complete the training, instructor led or via an online course. Youth for Quality Care of Animals can only be completed online. If you chose the option of YQCA, you must provide a certificate to the Purdue Extension Office by JUNE 15.

ANIMAL GROOMING: Anyone can assist with livestock grooming as long as the 4-H member is actively participating in the fitting process as well. (This is an Elkhart County 4-H rule only.)

MEDICINES: ALL medications that need to be given to an animal while on the fairgrounds must have a veterinarian script or given under the supervision of a veterinarian. This must be on file with the 4-H club leader PRIOR to this happening.

EXHIBITION ONLY: If a 4-H member has not entered their animal(s) into the Fair Entry program by the deadline, their animal(s) will be placed into an EXHIBITION ONLY show and will not be eligible to show for any placings such as Grand Champion, Champion of Breed, etc. It is upon the livestock leaders' recommendation as to whether the animal(s) will be eligible to be sold at auction.

### **2026 Swine Club Leaders**

Megan Erb - 574-202-4440

Jerod Erb - 574-202-1387

Erinn Anglemeyer - 574-370-9081

Chelsie Weldy - 574-238-6210

Matt Kritzman - 574-536-5673

Club Email - [elkhartcountyswineclub@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartcountyswineclub@gmail.com)

**2026 SWINE CLUB REPRESENTATIVE**

Kraig Resler

**2026 SWINE CLUB ADVISORY BOARD**

Mike Anglemyer – President

Scott Morehouse – Vice President

Brad Neff – Treasurer

Curtis Weldy - Secretary

Nicholas Burt

Kyle Carrick

Lee Garner

Nolan Sausaman

Jody Weldy

Pete Werner

Ryan Yoder

**2026 Swine Club Member Requirements to Complete Project:**

1. Complete 4-H enrollment by January 15.
2. YQCA training and/or the Quality Assurance Program through Purdue will need to be completed by June 15, 2026.
3. Turn in all paperwork prior to the start of the fair.
4. All fees and dues need to be paid prior to the start of the fair.

**General Information:**

Sign up to work a shift at the Pork Producers building (including adults) on Monday, July 27, 2026.

Club dues are \$15 per 4-H member for the year 2026.

Transaction fee will be \$5.00 per 4-H member. (This is subject to change pursuant to the Fair Auction Committee)

Tagging fee will be \$7.00 for each pig tagged (5 barrows and 5 gilts per 4-H member. If tagging over the allotted 5 barrows and 5 gilts for State Fair purposes, the fee will be \$10.00 for each State Fair pig tagged over the allotted 5 barrows and 5 gilts per 4-H member.



NO pen rent will be charged for 2026.

Invoices will be sent out via email to all 4-H members after the ear tagging/vaccination dates. All club dues (if not already paid), tagging fees, and vaccination fees shall be due upon receipt of your invoice. If said fees are not paid prior to the July meeting, 4-H packets will be held until said fees are paid in full.

All members will be expected to show their animals wearing the t-shirt provided by the club and wear long pants. Breed specific apparel such as hats, belt buckles, etc. are prohibited.

Show Order is printed in the fair handbook. Classes will be posted by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday of the fair. Pigs will be let into the show ring one at a time.

There will be five placings given when there is at least that many in a class. First through Fifth place will receive a placing ribbon rather than a 4-H group ribbon.

Make sure animal health requirements and registration papers are in order. All purebred barrows and gilts must have registration paper.

The ear notches and tag numbers must match tagging papers in order to exhibit and show at the fair. It is suggested to have your copy of your ear tagging papers in case of any discrepancy.

When a 4-H member is in multiple livestock clubs, it must be determined at weigh in which animal will be sold at the auction. Any barrow not going through the auction, MUST be signed out by 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY JULY 29, 2026; said sign-out book shall be located in the Swine Office. Any barrow not signed out in the book and not going through the auction shall be considered a "z" pig.

### **Scholarship Information:**

Information for scholarships will be given by the Pork Producers. The deadline for scholarship applications will be July 6, 2025. Said scholarship forms are located on the Elkhart County 4-H Swine Club website. If you have any questions, please talk to a swine club leader, email at [elkhartcountyswineclub@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartcountyswineclub@gmail.com) , or a member of the Elkhart County Pork Producers.

**All information contained herein is subject to change.**