



February 2, 2026

The La Porte County 4-H Swine Committee would like to make you aware of the following very important dates and information regarding the 4-H Swine project for 2026.

- April 1st – 30th** | *Farm Tagging by appointment only Dr. Shireman 219-363-4236*
- May 2nd** | *Tag in Date for Swine | 8 - 9 AM at the Fairgrounds*
- May 15th** | *ALL livestock must be entered and identified in 4HOnline*
- May 15th** | *DNA hair sample due for State Fair (turn in at the Extension Office)*
- June 12th** | *All Livestock entered in Fair Entry (these are the specific animals you will be bringing to fair)*
- June 12th** | *Complete Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA Online*
- June 12th** | *Pen reservations due*
- June 25th** | *Pen Set-up at 5:00pm*
- July 1st** | *State Fair Entry Deadline*
- July 11th to 18th** | *LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR*
- July 12th** | *Swine Arrival | 7 – 9 AM | Swine Barn*
- July 13th** | *Swine Arrival | 6 – 9 AM | Swine Barn*
- July 13th** | *Swine Check-In | 7 – 10:00 AM | Swine Barn*
- July 13th** | *Swine Weigh-In | 7 – 10:00 AM | Swine Barn*
- July 15th** | *4-H Swine Show | 8 AM | Livestock Show Arena*
- July 15th** | *Swine designation cards due by 5:00PM*
- July 15th** | *Release of ALL Non-Sale Swine | After Swine show until 11 PM*
- July 16th** | *Release of ALL Non-Sale Swine | After Concert Traffic until 11 PM*
- July 17th** | *ALL DAY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION*
- July 17th** | *Release of Auctioned Swine | 12 PM | Swine Barn*
- July 18th** | *Swine Barn Clean-Up | 10 AM*
- August 7th to 23rd** | *Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)*

TAGGING

- **There are two options for tagging your pigs.**
 - **Members contact Dr. Clint Shireman, Shireman Veterinary Services, to conduct tagging at your facilities.**
 - He can be reached at 219-363-4236. A farm visit charge will be assessed for the trip by Dr. Shireman along with the \$5.00 per 4-H member PLUS \$5.00 per pig. He can also deworm your pigs if needed, for a small fee.
 - IF you are using Dr. Shireman for tagging it must be done BEFORE tagging day on May 2nd.
 - **Members attend tagging day at the fairgrounds on May 2nd from 8am - 9am.**
 - The committee will charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of the vaccines and tags. **Be prepared to pay \$5.00 per 4-H member PLUS \$5.00 per pig.** Please have your own sorting gates.
 - **Please plan accordingly to get your pigs done in this time frame.**

- Influenza vaccine is no longer required *HOWEVER*, it is strongly recommended that all swine be vaccinated for influenza within 90 days of arriving at the La Porte County Fair. Please note that influenza vaccines often require two doses. Additionally, please pay careful attention to vaccination withdrawal times.

IMPORTANT PROJECT INFORMATION:

- **SWINE ID WORKSHEET**

Enclosed is a Swine ID Worksheet for your record keeping and to assist you while enrolling your animals in 4HOnline.

- This is ***NOT*** an animal enrollment form nor does it enroll your animals!
- You will need to have it when tagging your animals.

- **NUMBER OF SWINE:**

A 4-H member in the Swine Project may bring up to four (4) pigs to the Fair, which must be in his or her possession by **May 15**. This can be **ANY** combination of barrows and/or gilts.

- **SWINE ID:**

Please complete the enclosed 4-H swine worksheet form with all information EXCEPT the RFID tag number, which will be assigned at tagging (when an RFID tag is put in your pig's ear). Pigs need to be ear notched ***BEFORE*** tagging. List "**Ear Notch**" as identification for each of your pigs. These numbers can be obtained from your purebred papers or the person you bought the pigs from. Also Dr. Shireman can help with this. At the time the RFID is put in a pig's ear, a **DNA sample** will be collected from only those pigs that will **also be enrolled for Indiana State Fair**. A sample of pulled hairs (to get the roots) will be taken from the loin or rump. All pigs must be tagged with an RFID tag in order to show at both the La Porte County Fair and the Indiana State Fair.

- *A Premises ID from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health is also required on all worksheet forms. Visit animalID@boah.in.gov for more information about Premise ID numbers.*

- **BREEDS OF SWINE:** For 2026, the 4-H Swine Show at the fair will include purebred classes for both barrows and gilts. All recognized breeds of barrows and gilts will be represented in class competition, regardless of number of entries.

- Registered gilts will be shown by breed and age.
- Crossbred gilts will be divided into light and dark colored divisions then by weight.
- All gilts will be shown as breeding classes and not as market hogs.
- Registered barrows will be shown by breed and weight.
- Crossbred barrows will be divided into light and dark colored divisions then by weight.

Registration certificates are required for all purebred animals and **must be properly transferred to the 4-H member**, in accordance with Indiana State Fair guidelines. **Registration papers for purebred swine will be reviewed at the fair to make sure the pigs are properly registered** to show in purebred classes. If the registration papers are not in order, those pigs will be shown as crossbred pigs during the swine show. **No photo copies, pictures on phone or papers will be accepted. All registration papers must be original.**

- **SWINE COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE COORDINATING PROCESSOR PICK UP.**

- **FAIR LOAD OUT OPTIONS:**

- **GO THRU AUCTION, 1 PER MEMBER UNLESS MEMBER HAS 2 CHAMPIONS** (Buyer decides where pig goes)
- **TURN TRUCK (WHICH WE STRONGLY SUGGEST!)**
- **HOME (We will have a day and time set up for this)**

- **FAIR WORKDAYS:**

4-H members and their parents are invited to the Swine Project Fair Workdays. **Set up day will be held on June 25th at 5:00 p.m. at the Swine Barn with a light supper provided.** Swine barn clean-up and taking down pens will be **Saturday, July 18, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m.

CHECK-IN AT FAIR AND WEIGHT OF SWINE:

- Swine can arrive at the Fair on either **Sunday, July 12th between 7:00 am and 9:00 am** or **Monday, July 13, between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m.** The 4-H Swine Committee may refuse to unload pigs that are determined to be too dirty to unload for biosecurity reasons.
- Check in and weigh-in will take place **Monday, July 13th from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** during which time 4-H members can bring their own pigs to the scales to be weighed. Barrows need to weigh between 220-300 pounds at weigh in. Gilts need to weigh a minimum of 220 pounds – no maximum weight.
- **Any pig, barrow or gilt, that weighs less than 220 pounds will not be able to show in the swine show or sell in the auction and must be removed from the fairgrounds by the end of Monday evening.** If for some reason NONE of the 4-Hers pigs makes weight, they may keep one at the fair for showmanship. ONLY if they have signed up for showmanship. This pig will need to leave the pig barn **Wednesday after the show is completed.**

SWINE SHOW AND AUCTION:

The 4-H Swine Show will be held on Wednesday, July 15th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. CDT, beginning with gilts, then barrows and ending with showmanship. To minimize the length of stay by the pigs at the fair, pigs not going through the auction will be released to go home on Wednesday after the swine show.

- 4-H members will need to **designate what will be done with their pigs** (auction-individual, home, turn truck) **by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the latest (earlier is better). Pigs that aren't designated may not be sold in the auction.**

One pig may be sold, per 4-H member, individually and the remainder can go directly to the turn truck for the turn truck price or you can take home with the 4-H member. If a member has more than one champion, they are eligible to sell more than one pig BUT both pigs must be champions.

- To reduce stress on the pigs and to help the auction run more quickly, only 4-H members showing champion pigs will be given the option of going through the auction ring with their pigs. All other "individual" pigs sold at auction will be just the 4-H member walking through the auction ring. Load-out of sold pigs will be on Friday evening. If for any reason a packer rejects a pig from the fair, it is at the 4-H member's expense, not the 4-H Swine Committee or the 4-H Swine project.

STATE FAIR ENTRY FORMS:

If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, on-line entry will be available through the State Fair website at <http://www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/competitionscontests/4-h-competitions/>. Regular entry deadline is **June 1st** with a \$20.00 processing fee for each animal species entered and \$3.00 per class and \$5 drug testing fee.

4-H ONLINE DEADLINE IS MAY 15TH. Using the 4-H Swine Worksheet, you should have all of your animal info into the program. Pigs may be **co-enrolled only** by brothers and sisters, you can decide in FairEntry who is taking which pigs. **Be sure to input the correct breed, gender, birth date, ear tag and ear notch numbers.**

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE REQUIREMENTS/YCQA:

Each 4-H member who is participating in Beef or Dairy Feeder, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry projects will need to complete a quality assurance program. Must be completed by June 12th. You have two options:

- 1) The Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program. These trainings will all be held in-person for the upcoming year and registration is open in 4HOnline, under Events, look for LaPorte County – Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care.
- 2) YQCA certification (online only) will be accepted. Please visit yqcaprogram.org to take the online training. Once completed it is your responsibility to send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office so they have record of completion. Those certificates can be sent directly to mart2843@purdue.edu

FAIR ENTRY IS MANDATORY!! FINAL DATE OF ENTRY IS FRIDAY, JUNE 12th!

FairEntry is the second step in being able to exhibit animals at the LaPorte County Fair. All 4-H members will need to designate which pigs belong to each 4-H member using FairEntry before June 12, 2026. You must register for showmanship in FairEntry.

You will use the same email and password that is used with 4HOnline when visiting <https://faireentry.com>.

Please contact any Swine Committee Member, if you have any questions and please join our Facebook page, LaPorte County Swine Project.

Sincerely,

The 4-H Swine Committee

Enclosures: ID Worksheet/FAQ