

Department 3: 4-H/FFA Swine

Swine MQP Contest: Swine Barn, Sunday, September 7th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Market Hog Showmanship: Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena, Sunday, October 5th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Market Hog Show (Purebreds, Crossbred Gilts, Crossbred Barrows):

Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena, Monday, October 6th, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

Superintendents: Greg Grube, Leanna Tennant and June Spires

Superintendent for Swine MQP Contest: Sean Malone

MQP Hog Weigh In:

- Summer weigh-in is on the **last Saturday of June** (Saturday, June 28th) at the fairgrounds. This is **REQUIRED FOR ALL** MQP Hogs.
- Final MQP Hog weigh-in is Sunday, September 7th, 2025, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the Swine Barn. There will be no reweighs.

Tagging: All MARKET animals (including Market Hog and MQP Hogs)

- All market animals will be family tagged and any member of the family can show any animal tagged.
- As defined in [Ohio Administrative Code 901-19-01](#), "Family" means the immediate family of an exhibitor, including but not limited to the exhibitor's parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, or guardian.
- No tagging will be performed after the designated weigh-in/tag-in day.
- All market hogs must be tagged and checked in at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 28th, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hogs will remain on the trailer during tag-in, with the exception of MQP Hogs which will be weighed.
- **New for 2025: MQP – Each exhibitor may tag up to 2 hogs to be designated for MQP contest. Hogs will not be allowed to be used for the live contest (Family tagging rules apply).**
- **New for 2025: Live – Each exhibitor may tag up to 4 hogs to be designated for the live contest. Hogs will not be allowed to be used for the MQP contest. (Family tagging rules apply).**
 - Exhibitors may enter and show up to 3 live animals. In order to show 3 animals in the live show, one must be in the purebred division. Only 2 animals will be eligible for a packer bid (if one is available - one of the animals must be a take home animal and be declared as such per General Rule #32. If the animal declared as the take home animal is Grand or Reserve, another hog will be selected as the Take Home animal immediately following the show.
- Purebred market hogs should be in the exhibitor's name by the possession date (last Saturday of June). Documentation (in paper copy) should be provided to the Swine Superintendents at tagging day.
- All market animals will be tagged with an EID 840 tag. If an animal currently has an EID 840 tag in place, this tag will be used as the official fair identification.

Housing Forms: Junior Fair Exhibitors housing animal(s) in a location other than the property on which they reside must obtain and file a Livestock Housing Form with the OSU Extension Office. Deadline for filling out this form is the deadline set forth for possession of the animal. For more specifications, refer to the General Rules.

Quality Assurance: As mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, each exhibitor must have attended an educational experience by June 30th of the current year. Club/Chapter Quality Assurance Clinics taught by a trained and certified assistant instructor, or the countywide make-up clinics are required for exhibitors to meet this requirement. The 4-H Youth Development Educators at OSU Extension can provide locations of workshops provided in our county.

Skillathon: Each exhibitor must participate in a Skillathon. Youth are encouraged to attend the species you are exhibiting. If an exhibitor plans to compete for Swine Premier Exhibitor, they must attend the Swine Skillathon at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on September 6th, 2025, to be eligible.

Project Record Books:

- 4-H and FFA Record Books are required to be **COMPLETED** for each project.
- 4-H Members should have a **NEW** 4-H Record Book each year they take the project.
- 4-H and FFA Records Books will be reviewed at Skillathon.
 - For those who forget or don't bring their book – the book will need be completed and turned into the OSU Extension Office by Friday, September 19th, 2025.
 - Exhibitors who do not properly complete a record book for each of their fair projects **WILL NOT** be allowed to exhibit at the fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - No books will be reviewed after September 21st, 2025.

Health Papers: Are not required except for a valid Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) for all MQP and Market Hogs. DUNF forms are to be filled out online and not before three (3) days of weigh-in. DUNF forms must be filled out by **NOON** on the Friday before weigh-in for MQP Hogs on Friday, September 5th, 2025. DUNF forms must be filled out by **NOON** on Friday before weigh-in for live Market Hogs on Friday, October 3rd, 2025. **All livestock must be free from any/all drugs in their system on fair weigh-in day.**

Entries: Fair entries are required by 4-H and FFA exhibitors to be eligible to compete at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the corresponding 4-H project by enrollment deadline, April 15th. Fair entries will open in early August and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29th, 2025. All entries will be made online in the FairEntry program:

<http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldfaireentry>.

Market Hog Division

Market Hog Classes: Exhibitors may enter **three** animals in the live show. This can be a combination of purebred and crossbred animals for the live show. **In order to show three animals in the live show, one must be in the purebred division.**

1. Purebred Market Hog
2. Crossbred Market Hog
3. Muscle Quality & Performance (MQP) Hog: Exhibitors may also enter one MQP barrow or gilt.

Showmanship Divisions: Showmanship entries are submitted through FairEntry by the fair entry deadline.

Swine Showmanship Classes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Swine Showmanship Ages 17-18 | 6. Swine Showmanship Age 12 |
| 2. Swine Showmanship Age 16 | 7. Swine Showmanship Age 11 |
| 3. Swine Showmanship Age 15 | 8. Swine Showmanship Age 10 |
| 4. Swine Showmanship Age 14 | 9. Swine Showmanship Ages 8-9 |
| 5. Swine Showmanship Age 13 | |

Arrival Times:

- MQP hogs must be weighed in between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 7th, 2025.
- Market hogs should arrive between 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4th, 2025. No market hogs will be allowed on the fairgrounds before the time stated above.

Market Hog Weigh-In: Market hogs will be weighed off the trailer upon arrival as stated above. Refer to MQP Special Rules for additional information. There will be no reweighs per General Rule #27.

Swine Exhibitor Meeting: There will be an exhibitor meeting for swine exhibitors on Saturday, October 4th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena.

Market Classes: This is a partial terminal show. See [ODA Rules 901-19-01 GG](#). Market Hog Exhibitors will have the option to take home their animals. [Click here to review information to consider when making this decision.](#)

- Take home forms will be available at each specie's fair/final weigh-in.
- **The NUMBER of take home animals must be declared at the scale (no exceptions).**
- **Tag numbers of take home animals must be declared to the Show Superintendent within one hour of the conclusion of that species show.**
- Take home animals will lose their sale slot and will not be eligible for a premium and packer bid.
- Exhibitors who do not take home must qualify for their sale slot (as individual or group) at the discretion of the species show committee.

Release Time: No animals will be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the stated release time without approval from the Junior Fair Director or the Senior Fair Board. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from exhibiting that specie the following year.

- **Market Hogs who have completed a Take Home Form will be released THREE HOURS after the Swine Show on Monday, and this release time window will last for TWO HOURS. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from showing that species the following year. Exhibitors must check with the Superintendent before leaving the fairgrounds to ensure animals are accounted for before the sale.**
- All Market Hogs that qualify for the Livestock Sale (and direct to packer) will be released after 10:00 p.m. Thursday and must be removed by midnight Thursday for those going through the sale.
- All hogs kept must be checked out with the swine superintendent before leaving for inventory control. If you leave and do not check out, you will lose your show privileges for one year.

Premiums: Project books will be checked during county Skillathon. If an exhibitor does not complete a project book and turn it in at Skillathon, he or she will be ineligible to receive a premium and will not show that specie at the county fair for that year. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to complete project books annually for their exhibit.

(A) Market/MQP Hog Premiums: "A"= \$4.50; "B"= \$3.50; "C"=\$2.50

Market Hog Sale: Thursday at the Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena. **Sale order is pending.** Please review sale rules on the sale page regarding keeping hogs and selling: <http://u.osu.edu/livestocksale>

Livestock Sale Exhibitor Checks: Exhibitors must submit a stamped thank you note to their advisor prior to November 1st. Advisors will be required to mail thank-you notes and maintain their buyer checklist to receive the exhibitors' checks. If a check is not cashed within the specified 90-day period from the check date, there will be a Stop Payment Fee deduction imposed, and a replacement check issued to the exhibitor.

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

Swine General Rules

1. Market hogs must weigh from 225 to 295 pounds to show for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion and to be eligible to sell individually. Any hogs weighing outside of the declared weight range will show in a grade class and will only receive a packer bid (if available).
2. Market hog exhibitors must declare their intent to keep the animal in the appropriate category (purebred, crossbred gilt, crossbred barrow) and their intent to keep the animal at the time the animal crosses the scale. This includes showing appropriate purebred documentation in the exhibitor's name and/or filling out the Take Home Form provided at weigh-in. Take Home animals do not go through the livestock sale. If your animal is Grand or Reserve Grand Champion, you forfeit the right to keep as [ODA Rule 901-19-02 E](#) requires a sale and slaughter of these animals.

3. Swine exhibitors must be prepared to pen their hogs with the hogs of other members of their household and/or with hogs that have been raised together. **If entries exceed barn capacity to allow single penning, exhibitors will be required to house animals in the same pen.**
4. Exhibitors are not allowed to switch pens or remove the center gate without the permission of the show superintendent.
5. The market hog classes will be divided by purebreds (gilts and barrows shown together, separated by breed), **crossbred** barrows, and crossbred gilts and then by weight. Class sizes will be created equally across all categories with a formula of 8 +/- **3 per class** and placed within a division. If there are not at least 5 hogs of the same breed within the purebred division, they will show as an AOB class and be split by weight. The number of divisions will be determined by how many head of each category are checked in, with up to a maximum of 7 divisions. If an exhibitor has two animals in the same weight class, they are responsible to find another exhibitor to show one of their animals (see General Rule 4). An Overall Grand, Champion, Overall Reserve Champion, Third Overall, Fourth Overall, and Fifth Overall will be chosen from those division champions/reserve champions.
6. The top five in each weight class will receive an award.
7. An exhibitor will only be able to sell one animal in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale (unless both animals are grand and reserve grand champions).
8. If an exhibitor has two animals place individually, the lower placing animal will automatically receive packer bid (if one is available). If both animals place at the same class level, the first animal shown (by class order) will be sold individually and the other animal will be sold at packer bid.
9. The swine committee will determine the sale order and the show order.
10. Exhibitors may show purebred animals (both barrows and gilts) in the market show. Barrows and gilts declared for the purebred division will need to show a valid pedigree in the exhibitor's name and meet the respective breed characteristics to show as a purebred, otherwise the animal will be placed in the respective crossbred division. Barrows and gilts declared in the purebred division will be shown together and divided into classes, first by breed and then by weight. A minimum of 6 animals of the same breed are required to have their own class. If there are not at least 6 animals of the same breed, they will show as AOB (all other breeds) class and split by weight. The purebred division will follow the class break standards set forth in Swine General Rule #5. The purebred division(s) champions/reserve champions will be eligible to compete in the overall final drive.
11. The only bedding to be used in market hog show pens is to be wood shavings and/or sawdust.
12. All eligible market hogs may sell in accordance with [ODA Rule 901-19-02 E](#) and the sale is a partial terminal sale.
13. The grand and reserve grand champion market animals will be slaughtered, inspected, and evaluated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture officials.
14. The exhibitor of the grand and reserve grand champion will provide continual care through Saturday and leave enough feed for the Senior Fair Board through Monday. Additionally, the exhibitor will sign over possession of the animals to the Senior Fair Board, Saturday afternoon.
15. All animals will go to slaughter within 5 business days of the end of the sale.
16. All pens should be cleaned daily through the end of the sale. If a pen is not cleaned properly as judged by any member of the swine committee, a tag will be placed on the pen. If the pen is not cleaned properly within 10 hours after being tagged refer to General Rules #21 and #29.
17. All male hogs must be castrated, showing no evidence of testicular tissue, prior to tag in day in June. Any hog suspected of having testicular tissue present at the time of tag in will be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian. Any hog having testicular tissue present at the time of tag in will not be allowed to be tagged in for exhibition.

Violation of any of the following Swine Rules 18 through 20 will result in an automatic disqualification from all aspects of the Fairfield County Junior Fair Swine Show:

18. Any hog showing evidence of testicular tissue is not eligible to be housed, shown or sold.
19. Slick clipping or body shaving of market hogs is prohibited except for ears and tails. This means hair must be at least 1/2 inch except for the ears and tails. See ODA Tampering Rules [901-19-01 MM](#) and [901-19-33 D](#). No clipping of hogs at the fair will be permitted. No oiling of hogs will be allowed per ODA showing rules. Only water may be used, any oil or what appears to be oil or powder will not be permitted.
20. All animals exhibited must have been completely and fully owned (as evidenced by a bill of sale) and in complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor on or after the designated date (last Saturday of June).

Muscle Quality & Performance (MQP) Hog Contest Special Rules

1. Junior exhibitors ONLY.
2. Exhibitors that wish to take a hog to the MQP contest must complete an application an essay and return it to the OSU Extension Office by April 15th. Successful exhibitors will be notified of acceptance into MQP by May 1st. 4-H members that wish to sign up for the MQP Hog Contest must also be enrolled in the Market Hog 4-H Project in 4-HOnline by the April 15th 4-H enrollment deadline.
3. Complete rules for this program will be available from advisors and the OSU Extension Office.
4. The MQP animal will carry the same tags as that of the Junior Fair live animal.
5. Fairfield County Junior Fair Swine Show Committee will supervise all weighing and identification procedures. If an animal loses its ear tag, the procedure is the same as the rule for the "live" Junior Swine Show which states: "Each pig will have one ear tag. If an exhibitor's hog loses an ear tag, the exhibitor or immediate family member must contact the Senior Fair Office immediately to seek a replacement. If the hog does not have an ear tag at the time of the September weigh-in, it will not be allowed to show and must be sold in a group. **The exhibitor will receive a 'C' grade.**"
6. Gilts or barrows only may participate in the Swine MQP Contest. See Swine General Rule #17.
7. Exhibitors in the family may weigh and have tagged a maximum of **two hogs for the MQP contest and** four hogs for the live and can choose from those registered by the family (see family definition). **New for 2025: Separate hogs must be tagged in for the MQP contest and live show.**
8. MQP hogs must be tagged and weighed the last Saturday of June during to be eligible for the MQP Swine Show.
9. MQP hogs must meet the minimum weight of 225 pounds at the September weigh-in. Any MQP hog that does not weigh the minimum 225 pounds will be sent home. There will be no maximum weight.
10. Eligible MQP hogs will be transported to an approved harvest facility for muscle quality assessment upon completion of the September weigh-in. Skinned carcasses, excessive trim, abscessed carcasses, and cryptorchids will be eliminated from the competition.
11. MQP hogs are subject to all rules and regulations regarding exhibition at the Fairfield County Junior Fair.
12. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion MQP hogs will sell 4th and 5th in the Swine Sale. Additional MQP hogs will also sell and will be dispersed throughout the sale order.
13. MQP hogs are subject to rules of Quality Assurance (i.e., substance withdrawal). DUNF forms are required.

Swine Showmanship

The contest will be conducted in the following divisions in this order: Ages 17-18, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 8-9.

1. Exhibitors should sign up for Showmanship when making fair entries in August. Fair entries are due Friday, August 29th, 2025. Showmanship entries should be made for each species you plan to participate in.
2. Exhibitors must have an animal entry in that specie to show in showmanship for that respective specie.
3. All ages are as of January 1 of the current year.
4. Rules and conditions apply to all divisions.
5. Each exhibitor must show their own animal, but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. Each exhibitor must show one of their declared animals (if more than one), but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. However, if they are called back into the ring for another heat of showmanship, it must be with the same animal.
6. Winners from each age division will come back and compete for Swine Showman of Showmen.
7. The Swine Showman of Showmen Winner will compete in the Super Showmanship Contest on Thursday morning of the fair. An exhibitor can continue to return to Super Showmanship until they win the title of Champion Super Showmanship Overall.