

Why Show Youth Livestock?

Georgia 4-H uses all kinds of projects to accomplish our main objective - positive youth development! Livestock projects are special because young people learn what it truly means to care for and be responsible for another living being. Youth learn time management, budgeting, record keeping skills and many animal husbandry skills. They also learn about the livestock industry and its role in the larger agricultural economy.

Georgia 4-H believes there are four essential elements to positive youth development: Mastery, Generosity, Belonging and Independence. The 4-H Livestock Program fosters all four elements. Attend a livestock show and you cannot miss the sense of community. Maybe no other 4-H program demonstrates a sense of belonging like the livestock program. Youth build mastery as they practice and compete. Getting up early to feed and care for animals builds a "can do" attitude important for independence. How does one rightly describe generosity? The livestock shows again offer fine examples - adults sharing what they know with youth with no thought to the competitive nature of the event, youth sharing supplies...generosity is everywhere.

We are excited that you are interested in joining this dynamic part of Georgia 4-H! This fact sheet is a start-up document. You will find county agents, UGA Specialists and friends of agriculture everywhere willing to help you take next steps.

The Basics of Raising a Market Hog

Cost of Showing a Market Hog

Purchase of Market Hog: Show pigs are commonly purchased through online sales, breeders, and live auctions. Exhibitors will generally pay \$250+ depending on your personal budget. When considering what pig to buy, you must consider which season you would like to show in - Fall (born late March to May) or Winter (born October to November). The end weight for market hogs should be 220-280 pounds.

Feed: Feeding your hog project will cost an average of \$100 per month depending on which feed and feed additives you decide to feed. A pig will eat roughly 3% of its body weight per day. Feed can be purchased at a local supplier, and will need to be between 16-18% protein. An automatic waterer is essential to keep your pigs water fresh, clean, and readily available.

Equipment: Show driving device, show brush, mild soap, hanging feeder, health papers, water bucket, spray bottle, water hose, and old towels. Transportation and clippers will be needed as well if not provided by your county.

Facilities

An 8x6 or larger dry and sheltered (simple or elaborate) pen on concrete or dirt that is well-fenced and well-ventilated with access to electricity for a heat lamp in winter and a fan in the summer is necessary to properly house your hog(s).

Health

To go to a show, you must first check the rules and identify any testing requirements they may have as well as securing an EID, or Electronic Identification. Check with your local veterinarian to help you fulfill these needs.

To keep your show pig healthy, you will need to deworm them once a month by feed, orally, or intravenously. The amount of dewormer is based upon the current weight of your hog. It is essential to deworm, vaccinate, and clean your pig regularly, as well as watching them walk daily to spot lameness or mobility issues.

Feeding

Making sure your animal has clean, fresh water is extremely important. It is ideal to hand feed daily and many suggest feeding morning and evening.

Daily Care

- Exercise daily – start with a short amount of time and increase to build endurance.
- Weigh pig occasionally to track weight gain.
- Hair/skin care: Brush and condition. Protect from sunburn and wind burn by using OTC sunscreen.

Additional Opportunities – Livestock Judging Contest, Market Hog Record Book Contest, Georgia Junior National Livestock Show (Spring Pigs), Georgia National Fair Junior Invitational (Fall Pigs), District Project Achievement

- Refer to the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show Rulebook and always read show rules for any exhibition you are preparing to attend!
- Complete and mail entries with payment, and be sure your forms are signed by your county agent!
- Complete Code of Conduct and Medical Info & Release Forms and turn them in to your county agent for the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show!

Additional Resources – The following links can be accessed and utilized for more information regarding shows, contests, clinics, care for your project, scholarship opportunities and more!

Georgia 4-H Livestock Program's Market Hog Web Page: <http://georgia4h.org/livestock/swine/default.htm>

The Market Hog Guide to Success – Oregon State Extension Service:

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002335_Rep3430.pdf

Virginia 4-H Youth Market Hog Project Guide: http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/414/414-001/414-001_pdf.pdf

Colorado 4-H Raising and Showing Market Swine Member Manual:

http://www.cnusd.k12.ca.us/cms/lib/CA01001152/Centricity/Domain/3119/Market_Swine_Manual.pdf

Moormans ShowTec Feeds - ADM:

<http://www.admani.com/Show%20Feeds/Products/Show%20Feeds%20Show%20Pig%20Feeds%20Index.htm>

Georgia 4-H & FFA State Livestock Show Rulebook: <http://georgia4h.org/livestock/GaJrLivestockShow/default.htm>

Georgia Junior Swine Boosters: <http://gjsb.org>

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