

Date: March 30, 2021
To: All 4-H Swine Members, Leaders and Parents
From: Eva Beeker, 4-H Program Coordinator
Re: 2021 Swine project changes and updates



Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5521.

- All swine will be tagged by the June 15th date by each club leader. A NUES ID tag will be required for swine to exhibit at the 2021 St. Joseph County fair. A record of the NUES ID number will be required to match each hog at fair check in.
- ****NEW FOR 2021: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair is now a NON-TERMINAL fair.** If a member chooses to take their swine animal home as is NOT the Grand/Reserve Grand Barrow or Guit, they may do so. The intention to do so **MUST** be done in writing and given to the Swine Superintendent by 9:00am on **Tuesday, September 21, 2021.**
- ****NEW FOR 2021: No Ractopamine products may be fed or given to ANY animal at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.** Any animal that is determined to have been given Ractopamine will be disqualified and dismissal of the 4-H member may be considered. All awards, prizes, placing monies, and recognition will be forfeited.
- The swine INTERVIEWS will be held on Saturday, September 18 beginning at 1:00. The interview is required for members to exhibit at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. Evaluation books will be OPTIONAL for the 2021 fair. Each member will be responsible to sign-up for a time slot at the time of swine weigh-in. The senior class will be divided into smaller age groups: 15-16 and 17-19.
- The face-to-face interview will be a premium class with the skill-a-thon being a ribbon class only. **Both the face-to-face evaluation and the skill-a-thon will be required to exhibit swine at the fair.** Please come dressed appropriately.
- There will be sign up sheets at the Skill-A-Thon check in stations for barn duty. Each swine member is expected to sign up for at LEAST one – one hour time slot during fair week to full fill their responsibility.
- It was voted on at the Swine Post-Fair meeting that each swine pen will use ONLY shavings to bed with. This does not include any of the following: straw, bark, or sawdust. Use of anything other than DRY shavings could result in yellow/red tagging. (See “yellow/red” tag rules in the St. Joseph County Fair Book)
- The minimum weight will remain at 225 lbs. with the maximum weight being 320 lbs. at fair check in.
- If a member’s hog does not meet the minimum weight or is over the maximum weight, that member may choose to take their animal home. **(NEW for 2021)**
- All swine will be housed in their assigned pens throughout the week of fair unless approved by the swine superintendents.
- ALL leaders and members are responsible to clean up after their hogs in and around the wash racks. Many hands make light work! **Each 4-H Club will be responsible for one or more wash rack pen(s) for the entire week of fair. Upon inspection, if the wash rack pen assigned to a club is NOT kept clean, the entire club will be held responsible and a yellow tag may be given to each swine member of that club. This will begin on Friday, September 17 through Sunday, September 26.**
- **Clipping Pigs:** Exhibitors must not clip pigs shorter than ½” two to three weeks before the show. Shorter hair on the face and tail will not cause a problem at the slaughter facility because the processing lines allow for difficult hair removal from these areas. A good guide to how long a ½” is can be done with the top of the magnetic strip on the back of a credit card which is ½ “ from the bottom edge of the card.



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See the **Important dates, deadlines, and events** on page 2 for more information.

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Important dates, deadlines, and events

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Initial tagging and registration	June 1 through 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh-in is organized and conducted by the Swine leader(s) for your 4-H Club. • Four market animals can be registered per member (any combination of gilts and barrows). Only two animals may be shown at the fair and, if selected, one animal can be shown in the Carcass Contest • Animals can be cross-registered within an immediate family
Carcass Contest Hog Entrants Due	Friday, July 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swine leaders notify MSU Extension of their club's entrant.
Swine Skill-A-Thon & Interview	Saturday, September 18, Skill-A-Thon 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Interview 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members are required to complete the skill-a-thon and Interview to be eligible to show their animals at the fair.
Carcass Contest: Live Evaluation	Sunday, September 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the fairgrounds • Member attendance required • Check-in – 3:00 p.m. • Evaluation: 3:30 p.m.
Carcass Contest: Carcass Evaluation	Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. (member attendance required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members must arrange for private treaty sale of all Carcass Contest entered animals prior to the September 12 live evaluation. <p>Champion and Reserve Champion must be sold in the 4-H Market Livestock Sale.</p>
Fair Check-in	Friday, September 17, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 18, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225 - 320 lbs weight requirement for animals. • Any swine not within the weight range will be sold at market value or sent to an approved processor and will NOT show in a weight class but will be allowed to show in showmanship.
Under/Over Weight destination Due	Saturday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed official paperwork due to the Fair 4-H office.
Fair Weigh-in	Friday, September 17, 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, September 18, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hogs will be weighed-in at time of unloading. There will be NO reweighing of animals.
4-H Market Swine Show	Monday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.	
4-H Market Livestock Sale	Thursday, September 23, 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swine will sell last in 2021
Animal Loading and Barn Clean out	Sunday, September 26, 5:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members must help clean and put away the pens once pigs are shipped out.