

6 Pillars of Character

Here's how you can build character by participating in a swine project:

- 1. Trustworthiness** – includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.
 - Feeding and watering the animals daily (promise keeping)
 - Adhering to ownership deadlines (honesty)
 - Adhering to withdrawal time on drugs and dewormers
 - Using only approved drugs
- 2. Respect** – includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.
 - Handling animals properly and treating them humanely
 - Caring for the animals properly
 - Listening to and following the advice of leaders
 - Recognizing that the animal depends on you, providing feed and water daily
- 3. Responsibility** – includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.
 - Feeding and watering daily (even on busy, difficult days)
 - Going beyond providing the daily needs of the animal in giving additional time and attention to produce a winner
 - Adhering to deadlines for entry forms for and arrival at livestock shows
 - Never giving up in the show ring (perseverance)
- 4. Fairness** – involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.
 - Feeding only approved livestock rations
 - Using only approved drugs
 - Winning or losing with grace
 - Following recommended procedures for conduct in the show ring

5. Caring – promoting the well-being of people and things. It denotes action and not just feeling.

- Feeding and watering daily
- Providing a clean barn or stall for animals
- Treating animals humanely at all times

6. Citizenship – includes making your home, community and nation a better place to live for yourself and others.

- Accepting instructions
- Winning and losing with grace
- Helping others at stock shows
- Teaching younger members
- Treating animals humanely
- Ensuring that the meat animal is safe for consumption

Source: Character Counts!

For more information, contact your county Extension office.

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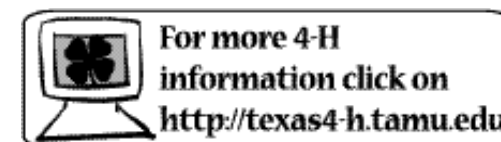


Texas 4-H



Swine Project

The Texas 4-H Swine Project supports the Texas Agricultural Extension Service state goals, particularly Goal 4, Developing life skills and leadership qualities.



4-H Swine Project

Participating in a Texas 4-H Swine Project offers you a chance to learn the proper ways to select, feed, care for, breed and market your swine. You can raise your livestock either to market (sell) them or to produce breeding stock. In addition to animal care techniques and experience, you can develop positive life skills through the project's club-oriented activities, lessons and competitions.

Goals

You and your family can benefit from participating in a swine program. You can:

- Develop leadership skills, build character and instill citizenship.
- Help strengthen your family relations, as different generations cooperate and share their knowledge.
- Learn the basic principles of animal care by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more head of swine.
- Begin to appreciate the swine industry and its effect on the Texas economy.
- Demonstrate your knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry.
- Develop integrity, sportsmanship and decision-making skills.
- Learn more about food safety issues concerning swine production, and appreciate the nutritional value of pork.
- Develop public speaking skills and promote the swine industry.
- Explore dynamic career and leisure opportunities.

Requirements for participation

To participate in a swine project, you must complete at least six learning experiences, such as:

- Project meetings

- Surveys/interviews
- Web site development
- Tours
- Workshops
- Exhibits
- Publication and Web site review
- Experienced-based activities

Resources

Check these sources for more information on selecting, feeding, caring for, breeding and marketing swine:

Texas 4-H Swine Guide, 4-H AS16-2, Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Swine Curriculum Set: Growing with Swine, Becoming Swine Smart, Entering the Arena, Helper's Guide and Pig Pattern. Produced by the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System in 1998, this set costs \$12.75. For information, call (612) 625-8173.

E-mail: order@extension.umn.edu

Showing Character. Produced by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, this set of two curricula costs \$30.

Web site: <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/wwwac>

Pork Quality Assurance, Levels I-III, Texas Pork Producers Association

National Pork Producers Council Curriculum Catalog, www.nppc.org

CEV - Multimedia - Curriculum Catalog, (800) 243-6598 www.cev-inc.com

Texas 4-H Member Achievement Plan, <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

Texas 4-H Project Club Management Guide, <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

Other publications from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service: <http://texaserc.tamu.edu>

Texas 4-H Swine Project Web sites, <http://tysin.tamu.edu> and <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/swine.htm>

Texas A&M University Extension Animal Science Web site:

<http://animalscience-extension.tamu.edu>

Career development

You also can learn about many potential careers associated with swine production, including:

- Swine producer
- Veterinarian
- Nutritionist
- Extension agent/specialist
- Research scientist
- Sales representative
- Ag science teacher
- Swine magazine/newspaper writer
- Marketing specialist
- Swine processor
- Herdsman
- Farm credit adviser
- Breed association representative
- Government regulator

Volunteer leader opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of 4-H programs, providing leadership to members in a variety of roles:

- Club manager
- Project leader
- Master volunteer
- Community service adviser
- Program coordinator
- Instructor
- Tour host
- Tour guide
- Record book leader
- Agri-Food Master Volunteer
- Illustrated talk/demonstration coordinator
- Quiz bowl coach/coordinator