



Hog Project Guidelines

Project Goals

To aid the development of young people into responsible adults by:

- Teaching responsibility through working with animals that depend on them to provide proper feed and care.
- Teaching the value, use and management of money through its investment in animals, feed, equipment and when applicable, receiving a return on investment.
- Teaching sportsmanship and cooperation through participating in working with other members and shows.

To help young people gain an appreciation for:

- The place of livestock in agriculture and its contribution to people.
- The anatomy and physiology of hogs.
- The importance of proper growth and development of breeding and market animals.

To help young people gain skills in:

- Selecting the kind of animal that will make rapid, efficient gains and produce a high-quality product.
- Feeding animals for optimum growth and proper development, while considering health and welfare.
- Grooming and showing barrows, gilts, and boars.
- Keeping accurate and detailed records.



General 4-H Requirements

1. Youth interested in enrolling in the 4-H Hog Project must become fully enrolled in the Dutchess County 4-H Program, including completing the enrollment process in 4-H Online.
 - a. This includes signing the Code of Conduct and their individual club bylaws.
2. All 4-H members are required to complete one public presentation at the club level or higher per 4-H enrollment year.
3. All 4-H Hog members must complete a project record book for each type of project they are enrolled in (i.e. DCYLS, Market, etc.).

Record Books

- All enrolled 4-H Beef members are required to complete a 4-H Record Book each year to be evaluated by club leaders and CCEDC 4-H Team. Record books are required whether an animal is owned/leased by the member or not. Failure to complete a 4-H Record book in consequences upheld by each club's bylaws.

Ownership

- All animals must be owned OR sponsored/leased by the 4-H member/exhibitor.
- Sponsorship/lease agreements must be completed and submitted to the CCEDC 4-H Office by the May weigh-in for hogs
- Sponsored/leased animals are permitted in accordance with the NYS 4-H policy. For regulations and policy pertinent to sponsoring/leasing swine please refer to the NYS 4-H Project Animal Forms at the following link:
 - <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/state-events/project-animal-forms>

Registration

- All animals must be registered with the CCEDC 4-H Office by the following dates:
 - May 15th
- Youth may register up to four (4) owned animals for their project as they would like*
 - *4-H youth may not own and lease animals at the same time



○ Youth

may only tag up to four (4) animals with 4-H tags

- All hogs must be born on or after January 1st of the current year-no exceptions.
- Any animal registered at May weigh-in must be in the care/lease of the 4-H member from that date forward.
- All Purebred and Bred and Owned eligible animals must be declared and identified by the May tagging & weigh-in.

- Hogs that are not weighed in by this date will NOT be eligible to show at the Dutchess County Fair

Dutchess County Fair Policies

- 4-H members must complete entries for the DC Fair 4-H Hog Show(s) in ShoWorks on the required dates (determined by the Dutchess County Ag Society and CCEDC 4-H Team).
- 4-H members are responsible for all animal care during the DC Fair. The following guidelines are set to promote 4-H member independence and assist them throughout the week:
 - Chores-
 - Parents/mentors may assist any time there is an unsafe environment or there are no other 4-H members available to assist.
 - Parents/mentors may assist during show days if no other 4-H member is available
 - Members should be available throughout the day to care for their hogs and promote the DC 4-H Program to barn visitors. “Care” includes cleaning of the pen and surrounding areas
 - Hog Advisory members may suggest to 4-H Staff that any exhibitor treating their animal in an inhumane manner be expelled from the fair.
 - Neglectful care of animals is a violation of the 4-H Code of Conduct and may result in removal from the 4-H Hog Shows and the fairgrounds.
 - Water-exhibitors must use the nipple watering system provided. It must always be operational and will be checked by Hog Advisory members, fair staff, and CCEDC 4-H Staff.



- Weigh-In-
 - Exhibitors and a parent or club leader must be present at the scale as the hogs are weighed
- Fitting-
 - 4-H members are responsible for fitting their own animals. Parents/mentors may observe and advise as needed; any physical assistance (holding adhesives, brushes, etc.) should come from another 4-H member*
 - Assisting 4-H members may be from another county or state with valid proof that they are enrolled in an established 4-H program (i.e. valid membership card)
 - Observance of a non-4-H member fitting an animal will result in disqualification from showing.
- Showing-
 - Each 4-H member MUST exhibit their owned/leased/sponsored animal in Showmanship if they have successfully completed the online registration to participate in the Dutchess Co Fair*.
 - *Incomplete online registrations will result in ineligibility to participate in 4-H Hog Shows.
 - Dress code for 4-H Hog Showmanship:
 - White or dark solid colored pants/jeans in good repair (no holes, rips, etc.)
 - Short or long sleeved collard shirt without logos (club or farm), no writing, and no graphics
 - Youth qualifying for Master Showman at the DC Fair will need to wear a white collared shirt during the contest.

Ag & Market Guidelines*subject to annual review

- The following documents are required for market animals:
 - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)
 - Official ID (matching registration cert if applicable) must be applied to animals prior to regulatory testing and completion of CVI.
 - Official identification includes 840 series Radio Frequency ear tags (RFID) and USDA approved tags and tattoos.
 - CCEDC 4-H ID tag(s)



- Vaccination record for hog related diseases with a product administered in a manner and time frame adequate to confer protective immunity for these diseases for the duration of the show season. The administration date and product should be documented.

Dutchess County Youth Livestock Sale

- The following requirements must be met for 4-H members to be eligible for the Youth Livestock Sale (YLS) at the Dutchess County Fair:
 - Be a member in good standing with their respective club and CCEDC 4-H
 - Be 8+ years old as of January 1st of the current enrollment year
 - Attend the weigh-in scheduled by the Dutchess County YLS Committee
 - Adopt and abide by all rules and requirements set forth by the Dutchess County YLS Committee
 - *sponsored/leased animals are NOT eligible to be sold in the DCYLS
 - Showing-
 - Up to, but no more than, 12 hogs may sell in the DCYLS. All Champion and Reserve Champion animals MUST sell. All animals will be placed by a judge and sold in quality order. Only animals deemed appropriate quality for sale by the judge will sell. The judges' decision is final.
 - Youth will be allowed to sell two (2) animals in a species or division if there are not enough youth whose animals qualify for the sale. The judge will place all animals entered and youth with more than one qualifying animal will sell the higher placing animal first.
 - Hogs sell by the pound
 - Commission-
 - 10% up to the first \$1,000
 - 7.5% for anything over \$1,000 per unit
 - Commission is automatically deducted from seller's check



- Antibiotics/Drugs-
 - Any animal testing positive for drug residue will be replaced by the seller.
 - The seller will forfeit their eligibility to sell indefinitely.
- Trucking/Transportation-
 - Trucking is secured by the DCYLS Committee
- Slaughter/Processing Fees-
 - These fees are the responsibility of the buyer; youth must pay the processor and obtain an invoice which will be submitted to the buyer for reimbursement.
 - Delivery of meat to buyer-the responsibility of the seller unless buyer requests alternative arrangements.

*see YLS documents for further information: <https://www.dutchessfair.com/participate/exhibitors-competitions/>

These guidelines have been amended and approved by the 2025-2026 Dutchess County 4-H Hog Advisory Committee.