

Maryland 4-H Requirements and Tools For Exhibiting 4-H Swine Projects

When preparing to show livestock in 4-H, the Maryland 4-H program rules and guidelines and those of your county, can seem overwhelming at times. If you carefully read all of the rules and guidelines and have open communication with your 4-H Extension educator, 4-H Meat Goat Department superintendents and your club leader, it becomes an easier process to ensure a positive experience.

Each County 4-H Livestock Program is Unique

It's important to ensure that you are meeting all the requirements in order to show (breeding or market swine) and potentially sell your market hog.

1. Animal Ownership - For your market hog or breeding swine project to be eligible to show in the current year, it must meet the ownership deadline of the Maryland 4-H program.

- Market swine – must be owned by June 1st of the current year.
- Breeding swine – must be owned by July 1st of the current year. If you are exhibiting a breeding hog, the association registration papers must list July 1 or earlier as date of ownership.

Take note of deadlines in your county 4-H program, particularly if the county has an earlier county fair. In that case, the ownership deadlines may be set sooner than the state deadlines.

2. Livestock Registration Form – The Maryland 4-H Program requires that the owners of each 4-H market swine must complete a Livestock Registration Form (Figure 1). The form will ask you for your contact information, local 4-H club and your 4-H age. If you are keeping your animals at a location other than your home, you need to include the address of the


farm where your 4-H swine project is housed.

In the box at the top of the form, check off if you are weighing market swine. You need to complete a separate form for each animal. You need to complete as much information as possible, including:


- *Official U.S. tag number*: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag has a 16-digit number. The breeder of the swine will obtain the tag.
- Personal ear tag/tattoo number:
- Breed: (Berkshire, Hampshire, Crossbred, etc.)
- Sex: (male/Barrow or female/Gilt)
- Bred and owned: Indicate if you owned the sow who farrowed your hog or purchased the animal;
- Date of birth – When was your hog born?
- 4-H tag number – You will leave the 4-H tag column blank, as a 4-H ear tag number will be assigned when you attend the county weigh-in and tagging.
- Tag day weight – The swine will be weighed at weigh-in and the weight be recorded at that time. This will be considered your beginning weight for your swine project.
- Signatures required – On the front of the Livestock Registration Form, the 4-H member and parent/legal guardian will need to sign confirming the information. Signatures are also required on the back of the form from the 4-H member and parent/legal guardian acknowledging they have read and understand to abide by the Maryland 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics.

Depending on which county 4-H program you are enrolled in, there may charge for the number of ear tags you will need for tagging day. The cost of the tags is minimal. The Extension office will have information regarding any charges by the county.

Figure 1. You will need to complete the Maryland 4-H Livestock Registration Form prior to attending weigh-in/tagging days in your county¹



MARYLAND 4-H LIVESTOCK REGISTRATION FORM



Please print neatly with a pen! Year _____ Date Due to Extension Office: _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Club Name _____ County _____

ONE Registration Form PER CATEGORY

Check Category:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Steers | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Beef Heifers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy Steers | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Breeding Sheep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market Hogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Meat Goats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market Lambs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Indicate what) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market Goats | |

IF ANIMAL IS HOUSED AT A DIFFERENT ADDRESS THAN ABOVE, PLEASE PROVIDE NAME AND LOCATION BELOW. MUST BE APPROVED BY COUNTY/CITY 4-H OFFICE.

Name _____ Phone _____ County _____
 Address _____

| 4-H Tag Number <small>(Leave Blank)</small> | Official US Tag Number / Scrapie Tag Number | Personal Tag Number/Tattoo/ Ear Notch | Breed(s) | Sex | Check One | | Date of Birth | Tag Day Weight | Comments |
|--|--|---|----------|-----|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | | | | | Bred & Owned | Purchased | | | |
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Date Weighed _____ Weigh Master Signature and Verification _____

My signature indicates that the above animal(s) are under my care, I own them, and I have correctly and honestly filled this form out to the best of my knowledge.

4-H Member Signature: _____ Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: _____

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¹ Maryland 4-H Animal Science Resources, <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>

Figure 2. The 4-H member and parent/legal guardian must sign to acknowledge they read and agree to abide by the Maryland 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics

University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics

4-H members enrolled in animal science projects (e.g., beef, camelids, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, small pet, and swine) shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship, including while with their projects and at all 4-H animal science activities and events. Their conduct should always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members, as well as parent, UME volunteers and others working with them, are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts; and their conduct and values must serve as a positive influence on others.

This Code of Ethics applies to all 4-H members who are enrolled in animal science projects, and to others (4-Hers, parents, volunteers, owners, etc.) who participate in the animal science program; and it covers daily animal care, as well as participation in competition and other 4-H animal activities and events.

4-H members and others who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members who violate the code of animal science ethics are subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and/or auction proceeds and may be prohibited from participation in 4-H or 4-H/UME events or activities; other violators may also be subject to sanction, as appropriate. Infractions may be reviewed by 4-H and/or UME (on the local or state level, as appropriate to the infraction and to the event and/or activity in question), and/or may be subject to a fair oversight committee or other entity that oversees an activity or event. In addition, some acts may also be subject to review based upon the *Maryland 4-H Youth Code of Conduct* and/or other UME policies.

The following is a list of standards and requirements for all 4-H animal science projects, at all times, whether at home, at animal exhibitions or events, or any other 4-H event or activity.

1. The care of all 4-H project animals is the responsibility of the 4-H member. 4-H members must properly care for and groom their animals for the duration of their project.
2. All project animals must be housed at the 4-H member's residence unless a different location is submitted to and approved in writing by the local 4-H staff. Any change in location must be approved in writing by the local 4-H staff; however, it is not necessary to report direct transport to and from shows or other events.
3. Upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials, 4-H members must present proof of ownership, length of ownership, identity and/or age of all 4-H project animals owned or leased. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or identity of animal, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. If a 4-H project animal is sold in a livestock sale, it is no longer eligible to be shown in a 4-H event in Maryland in that year.
4. 4-H members must provide appropriate animal health certificates upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials.
5. 4-H project animals must be presented to competition, activities and/or events, where they will enter the food chain, free of volatile drug residues. Animals which are presented to competition, events and/or activities that do not culminate with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules. 4-H project animals shall not be exhibited if drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and rules may affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. At any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises, a licensed veterinarian must administer or, in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials, direct the administration of any treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications. Drenching at any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises is prohibited, except when performed or directed by a licensed veterinarian in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.
6. The act of enrolling in a 4-H animal science project, and/or entering a project animal in a 4-H competition, show, activity, or other event, gives consent for 4-H or UME or event authorities to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, hair, tissue, or other substance from the animal to be used for testing purposes including, but not limited to, drugs or identification. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood or other substance tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved, and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the 4-H owner to prove otherwise at any review in regard to the matter conducted by a fair or other event or the 4-H program. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, hair, tissue or other sample, taken from a 4-H animal science project, indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally.
7. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counter irritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
8. Using ice, ice packs, cold packs, or cold compresses, internally or externally, other than those prescribed to relieve heat stress or a medical condition as diagnosed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
9. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices, such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical devices, or other similar practices, are not acceptable and are prohibited.
10. All judges, fair and event officials and/or UME/4-H staff and volunteers shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them or toward exhibitors or others participating in the activity. In addition, direct criticism or interference with a judge, fair, show or event official, exhibitor, breed representative, or UME/4-H staff or volunteer before, during, or after an event or other activity is prohibited.
11. No one shall violate this Code of Animal Science Ethics or conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this Code of Ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this Code of Ethics.
12. The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition to the 4-H member whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this Code of Ethics.
13. By enrolling in an animal science project and/or entering an animal in a fair or other 4-H event or activity, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, consent to have disciplinary action taken by appropriate authorities (including UME, 4-H, fair, event and/or other activity officials) for violation of this Code of Animal Science Ethics and/or any other applicable rules of UME, 4-H, a fair, activity or other event, without recourse against UME, 4-H and/or other authorities. In addition, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, further understand and agree that any action which contravenes these rules, and is also in violation of federal, state, or local laws, statutes, regulations, or rules, may be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

By signing this form the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian each verify that they have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics and the consequences of and penalties provided for violations of the Code.

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT ENROLLMENT STATEMENT

I have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics, and I consent and agree to abide by the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics. I understand this Statement must be signed by both the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian, will be kept on file in the local 4-H office, and will apply to all 4-H animal science activities and events. I understand that if I do not agree to or sign this Code, my 4-H youth may not be eligible to enroll in a 4-H animal science project, may not receive associated materials, and/or may not be allowed exhibit or participate in covered activities.

| | | | | | |
|---|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 4-H Member Signature | Date | Printed Name of 4-H Member | Parent or Guardian of the 4-H Member | Date | Printed Name of Parent or Guardian |
| This Code of Ethics has been adapted from the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics; LNHR, JW/S, JW/L 2001; JW/L 2002; JW/L 2007; CWA, Revised by DA 3/2009; CWA 11/2009; CWA, Revised by CP 12/2017. | | | | | |

Livestock weigh-in and tagging – All counties hold an initial weigh-in and tagging for market swine. Dates will vary around the state and are available from your local Extension offices. When arriving to the swine weigh-in/tagging, you should be prepared to help with the care of your hog(s). Some tips to improve your weigh-in experience include:

- **Paperwork:** Be prepared with all your paperwork beforehand. Check with your local Extension office if you need to pre-register for weigh-in and tagging. Most offices will request your Livestock Registration Form beforehand to ensure enough tags have been ordered. If you are showing a purebred market hog, read the rules pertaining to how your county fair/show wants registrations papers turned in for inspection/documentation.
- **Inspection:** Prior to bringing any animals to weighing/tagging, inspect your animals. They should be healthy and

male hogs should be showing signs of healing from castration. Do not bring unhealthy hogs that could be contagious to tagging.

- **Work with your hog(s):** Working with your hog before weigh-in will help you get through the weigh-in line quickly and safely and keep volunteers working at the weigh-in safer.
- **Communication:** During weigh-in/tagging, you will be asked questions related to your project and given directions that may be as simple as moving vehicles and trailers or allowing other families behind you to move into the weigh-in/tagging line. If someone is not listening and paying attention, the weigh-in process will take longer for everyone.
- **Tagging:** Ensure that your animal has been properly tagged based on the information you have provided (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Everyone who comes into weigh-in/tagging with a market hog(s) will receive a new Maryland 4-H ear tag in their animal's ear



Market Hogs—
Yellow Maryland
4-H ear tag

3. Animal Husbandry Quality Assurance (AHQA) Program

– Maryland 4-H members are required to participate in the AHQA online program to ensure they use best management practices in caring, grooming and showing safely and ethically. The program is designed to be completed one time per 4-H age division (junior, intermediate and senior).

Junior members (8-10 years old as of January 1st) must complete one AHQA program, which will cover them in all livestock species they plan on showing. Intermediates (11-13 years old as of January 1st) and Senior's (14-18 years old as of January 1st) are required to participate in the AHQA program when they age up into a new division. The program for intermediates and seniors will consist of a general program which then becomes species-specific. Therefore, these individuals will have to take a swine-related AHQA when moving into older age divisions.

Read the Fair Requirements as Soon as They are Available

To ensure you are moving in the correct direction with your project, make sure you read your fair rules, including the swine department rules, the general fair rules and livestock sale rules as soon as they are available. Many fairs leave their department rules from the previous year posted online and by spring of the current year, the new rules for your fair should be available. If you are showing for the first time, talk with your club leader, swine superintendent or Extension educator about the major rules and guidelines you need to follow.

1. Fair entry system – To be eligible to exhibit at fairs, you must pre-enter your swine. Most fairs use an online entry system and your county Extension office will release the

information when the entry system is open. When making your entries, you will need to complete the following steps:

- Register the 4-H member as an exhibitor. The 4-H member must be registered in the member's name;
- Enter the correct classes with your swine projects, especially if you are exhibiting several hogs. Make sure that your hog (s) are entered into the correct divisions (breed divisions or crossbred). Enter extra classes such as showmanship, bred and owned divisions (if applicable) and if offered, rate of gain (market swine only);
- Enter the correct Maryland 4-H ear tag number for each animal;
- Market swine classes will ask for your animal's beginning weight and date of weigh-in. Make sure to enter the date and weight your hog was when you attended the county weigh-in/tagging day.
- When you have finished entering all classes for your swine project and you are ready to check out, make sure to pay any costs associated with the entry and confirm that you have entered. You should print out a confirmation number for your entry, along with receiving a confirmation email. Keep these in your records just in case there are problems with the fair entry system.

2. Health papers – The Maryland Department of Agriculture requires that all livestock entering fairgrounds in the state have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI or health papers). You will need to have a veterinarian come to the farm where your animals are kept to inspect them for good health.

Make sure to have the following information written down for the veterinarian:

- Name, address and phone number of 4-H member. If the animal is not kept at your home, you must include the address of where it is housed;
- Name, address of fairgrounds and date of first fair; and
- Information on the livestock being inspected (ear tag numbers (4-H and farm numbers, if applicable), RFID number, breed, sex, date of birth.

When the veterinarian completes the health papers, you will receive a pink copy. Keep the papers with your records and

they must accompany your swine project to all shows. If you are showing in Maryland, the health papers are valid for 120 days and you must complete a health check on your hog (s) before entering the fair. This will be verified by filling out the back of your health papers prior to each fair or show.

If you are planning to exhibit your swine project outside of Maryland, you will be required to have a new set of health papers for interstate exhibits. You will follow the same procedures as above, but these health papers are only valid for 30 days and are for the specific fair/show at which you are exhibiting.

3. Breed registration papers: If you're showing a purebred hog, it is common practice that you provide the swine superintendent with papers from the various breed associations proving registration, ownership and lineage of the purebred animals prior to the show. It is typical at 4-H shows that ownership of the animal be in the exhibitor's name. Some breeders will take care of transferring ownership for you as agreement when you purchase the hog. Other breeders leave registration for you to do. Simply signing the back of a registration paper does not transfer ownership. It must be mailed to the appropriate breed association for official transfer. There are fees involved. Once you receive the transferred registration papers, verify the information is correct, including the owner's name, the sex of the animal and that the ear notches recorded on the paper match those in the hog's ear.

4. Rate of Gain (ROG) (market swine only) – Maryland 4-H has a set ROG that your hog must achieve in order to be eligible for most of the fairs and livestock sales throughout the state. Rate of gain for Maryland 4-H is set at 1.5 lbs. daily (your county may have a different ROG). To calculate ROG, use the following formula:

1. **Calculate number of days from initial weigh-in through the final weigh-in at county or state fair** (when calculating your days, include day of both weigh-ins);
2. **Subtract initial weigh-in weight from final weigh-in weight;**
3. **Divide the total weight gained by number of days between weigh-ins to get the daily ROG for the market hog.**

4. EXAMPLE:

Initial weigh-in: May 1st, the market hog weighed 103 lbs.
 Final weigh-in: July 30th, the market hog weighs 285 lbs.

Number of days between weigh-ins = 90 days

Market hog gained = 182 lbs. (End weight – beginning weight = pounds gained)

Final ROG = 182 lbs./90 days = 2.02 lbs. per day

5. Minimum/maximum weights – Check with your local county or state fairs on the weight requirements for market swine projects. Each county may have a set requirement for what your hog needs to weigh when it arrives at the fair. Weight requirements are often used to determine if your hog is eligible for the local 4-H livestock sale.

6. Project records – Accurate recordkeeping is an important part of raising your 4-H swine project. Using the Maryland 4-H Market Livestock Project Records or the Maryland 4-H Breeding Livestock Project Records (Figure 4.) will help you keep appropriate records and give thought to what you are learning throughout the year. You will be asked to complete the following information for your swine project:

- *Goals:* At the beginning of raising your hog(s), what goals did you set for yourself for the year and did you achieve them?
- *Learning:* What did you learn throughout the year about your swine project?
- *Improve or do differently?* What would you like to improve on next year or something you learned you need to do differently for your project in the future?
- *Life skills:* Using the life skill wheel provided on the project record, what skills did you learn and how did you learn that skill?
- *Project activities:* What activities did you attend that relate to your swine project, such as swine workshops, livestock judging, Spring 4-H show, county fair, etc.?
- *Project communication:* Most counties require 4-H members to have some sort of communication about their project. This could be a speech about “Why I chose to show a Berkshire market hog” or a demonstration on “What equipment I need to show my breeding hog project.” Most of the time you can give your speech or demonstration at a club meeting, a county demonstration or public speaking event.

- **Exhibits:** Where did you exhibit your hog(s)? Write down all the shows you went to and each class you entered.
- **Information on project animals:** Keeping records on each hog(s) you raise is important so you know where you started to where you will end with the project.
- **Expenses:**
 - **Feed** – A daily expense during your project year.
 - **Other expenses** – There are many other expenses to think about with your swine project from equipment to entry fees for shows.
- **Health records:** You should keep records of every veterinarian visit and exactly what was needed, even if it's a vet visit for health papers.
- **Income:**
 - **Sale income** – At the end of your market swine project, you will have income from either a county/state livestock sale or selling your hog at the stockyards.
 - **Other:** This includes premium money you have received from exhibiting at fairs.

7. Livestock sales (market hogs) – Each county livestock sale is handled differently and will have different requirements. Most sales will have similar rules that hogs need to reach a minimum weight and not exceed a maximum weight. Pigs will need to make the rate of gain requirements (The state standard for rate of gain is 1.5lbs/day). Your hog will also need to grade, which means the pig will be evaluated for fat cover by a professional. Some sales will also stipulate that you need to complete project record forms for the current year to be eligible for the next year's livestock sale. Always read over the livestock sale rules to be sure you are meeting the requirements to sell your 4-H market swine project.

• It is the exhibitor's responsibility to write "buyer's letters" asking for support at the livestock auction. Introducing yourself, your project and your goals is important. It is essential that new buyers continue to be brought into the livestock sales arenas. Once you sell your animal, it is equally important that you write a thank you letter to the buyer. Additionally, if you won any trophies during at shows, you need to write thank you letters to the sponsors thanking them for their sponsoring and support of the program.

Figure 4. Front pages of Livestock Market Project Record Form and Large Animal Breeding Project forms, which are requirements of 4-H swine projects ^{1/}

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Maryland 4-H Animal Science – Livestock Market Project Record

Name _____ 4-H Age _____
 Primary Club Name _____
 Years in 4-H _____ Years in this Project _____
 I have completed this record and believe all information to be complete and accurate.
 Member's Signature _____ Date _____ Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Please indicate your Animal Science Project Area
 Beef/Dairy Steer Market Goat Market Sheep Market Swine

What goals did you set for your project this year and did you achieve them?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

What were two things you learned from completing this project this year?
 1. _____
 2. _____

What is one thing you would like to improve or do differently with your project next year?

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

Maryland 4-H Animal Science – Large Animal Breeding Project Record

Name _____ 4-H Age _____
 Primary Club Name _____
 Years in 4-H _____ Years in this Project _____
 I have completed this record and believe all information to be complete and accurate.
 Member's Signature _____ Date _____ Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Please indicate your Animal Science Project Area
 Beef (Breeding) Goat (Meat Breeding) Goat (Dairy Breeding) Horse (Breeding)
 Sheep (Breeding) Swine (Breeding)

What goals did you set for your project this year and did you achieve them?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

What were two things you learned from completing this project this year?
 1. _____
 2. _____

What is one thing you would like to improve or do differently with your project next year?

^{1/} These records can be found on your individual county extension websites or the Maryland 4-H website (<https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>).

Enhancing Your 4-H Educational Swine Experience

1. **Livestock Workshops** – Your 4-H county Extension office or the fair may hold swine workshops or field day opportunities. These events offer a variety of educational topics, including grooming, washing, showing, and animal health and nutrition. Guest speakers may enhance the experience of attending the workshops. If your county offers a field day, there will be a small show where 4-H members can focus on their skills in and out of the show ring.
2. **Spring 4-H shows** – Throughout the state, regional shows are held for 4-H members. These shows offer 4-H members of all ages and experience levels a chance to bring their hog(s). By participating in regional shows, 4-H member learn how to prepare their equipment and hogs(s) for their county and state fairs.
3. **Livestock skillathon** – It’s important to consider other options to enhance your experiences in the 4-H swine project. One way to expand the learning process is through the livestock skillathon program, which emphasizes the variety of items needed to raise livestock. The skillathon program gives you a chance to learn about livestock breeds, equipment, meat cuts, feed (grains and hay), animal quality assurance and opportunities to learn about judging. The program expands your understanding of the different parts of your swine project.
4. **Livestock judging** – Participating in livestock judging helps you learn more about qualities that make good quality cattle, sheep, swine and goats. Through judging, you will not only learn how to place classes of livestock but will gain important public speaking skills through reasons.

Source:

Animal Science Guidebook. February 2011. <https://www.extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>

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This publication, *Maryland 4-H Requirements and Tools for Exhibiting 4-H Swine Projects* (FS-1124), is a series of publications of the University of Maryland Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development.

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