

**Date: March 28, 2024**

**To: All 4-H Swine Members, Leaders and Parents**

**From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator - 4-H Youth Development**

**Re: 2024 Swine Project Changes and Updates**

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2024 fair season within the swine department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

- **Countywide Tagging:** All swine will be tagged with a county tag at the countywide tagging events on **Wednesday, June 12 or Thursday, June 13, 2024**. These events will be 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. A NUES or 840 ID tag will be required for swine to exhibit at the 2024 St. Joseph County Grange Fair. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure their hog has official ID and the fair will no longer be providing NUES tags.
- The St. Joseph County Grange Fair is a non-terminal fair. If a member chooses to take their swine animal home and it is NOT the Grand/Reserve Grand Barrow or Gilt, they may do so with the completion of the Animal Removal Authorization Form. This must be given to the Swine Superintendent, Kevin Yeager, by 9:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, September 17, 2024.**
- **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.
- Each swine pen will use only shavings to bed with. Straw, bark, and sawdust are not permitted. Use of anything other than dry shavings could result in yellow/red tagging.
- Hogs weighing less than 225 lbs. or more than 320 lbs. are ineligible for exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at weigh-in.
- From Saturday, September 14 through Sunday, September 22 **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.
- **Clipping Pigs:** All Pigs that are clipped must have at least 3/8 inch hair.



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

## Important dates, deadlines, and events

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Countywide tagging and registration	Wednesday, June 12 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. or Thursday, June 13 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 additional animal can be shown in the Carcass Contest</li> <li>Animals can be cross-registered within the immediate family.</li> </ul>
Carcass Contest Hog Entries Due	Sign-up at tagging dates in June	
Live Carcass Weigh-in	Saturday, September 7 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farigrounds</li> <li>Hanging evaluation TBD</li> </ul>
Fair Check-in and Weigh-In	Friday, September 13 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, September 14 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>225 - 320 lbs weight requirement for animals.</li> <li>All hogs will be weighed at the time of unloading. No re-weighing.</li> <li>Any swine not within the weight range will be sent home at weigh-in.</li> </ul>
Skill-A-Thon	Sunday, September 15 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Tent</li> </ul>
Interview	Sunday, September 15 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All members are <b>required to complete the skill-a-thon and an interview</b> to be eligible to show their animals at the fair.</li> </ul>
4-H Market Swine Show	Monday, September 16, 9:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member meeting before the show at 9:00 a.m.</li> <li>Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Market Barrows, Market Gilts, Cloverbuds, Grand Drive Barrows, Grand Drive Gilts, Home Born &amp; Raised</li> </ul>
4-H Market Livestock Sale	Thursday, September 19 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swine will sell first in 2024</li> </ul>
Animal Loading and Barn Clean out	Sunday, September 22, 5:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members must help clean and put away the pens once pigs are shipped out.</li> </ul>