**Raising a Show Pig**

*Project Length: October - February*

**Selection Day:**

Pig selection will be in October. Students and 1 parent will get 30 minutes in the pens to look at each animal and take notes. During this 30 minute, you are ranking each animal from your first pick to your last pick. After the 30 minutes, students will draw a number for selection order. When it is your turn, you will get 2 minutes to make your final selection of the available animals. Only the student is allowed in the pens to make the selection.

**Helpful links for animal selection**

* <https://u.osu.edu/livestockjudging/swine-resources/>
* <https://extension.tennessee.edu/henderson/Documents/%2713%20Livestock%20Judg%20Guide%20Module%205%20Swine%20(1).pdf>

If you would like some more help prior to selection I am happy to talk to you about what you are looking for in ta show pig.

**Supplies Needed:**

Attached is a sheet with visuals of needed supplies. All of the needed supplies can be purchased at Katy Feed and Tack.

**Prior to selection day, please have the following:**

* Feed – (Whatever they are currently being fed – then you can switch)
* Feeder that hangs on the gate with carabineer clips
* Carabineer to lock you stall.
* Pig Whip
* Shampoo
* Feed Bucket & Scoop

**Other supplies you need to purchase:**

* Soft Bristle Brush
* Rags/Trash towels for drying your pig in the cold
* Fly traps/Fly spray
* Heat lamp/Fan (depends on season)
* Oils/Skin Conditioner

A little pepto is always good to have on hand. It’s a good 1st step if your pig gets diarrhea.

**Feed:**

Each pig and each feed varies, so no program is fool-proof. Everyone will need to start on Linders 632, but if you don’t want to you do not have to stay with that brand of feed. The Linders website, along with most of the feed producer’s websites, has a lot of helpful information. Make sure you are purchasing a show quality feed.

**Always make sure that your pig has access to water. Check to make sure they are working on a regular basis.**

**Your pig should be gaining between 1.5 – 2.5 pounds per day depending on what you are feeding and how much.**

**Working With your Animal:**

* Start early and go slow and let your animal get comfortable around you. Just sit in the stall with it, then work on touching it all over. Rub its head, belly, legs and back.
* Then introduce the pig whip. Gently tap your pig on either side of the face to make it turn. Start in your stall, and then walk up and down the aisle
* After they are consistently walking up and down the aisle with you take them into the pig yard (the grassy area outside the pig barn. – **YOUR PIG SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE PIG YARD**. The pig yard is for working your pig.
* Exercise your animal when it is cooler out, early morning/late evening
* You can walk around outside of the pig yard, but be mindful of other animals, and don’t go into other animal’s areas with your pig.
* You will want to work up to your pig being able to show for about 30 minutes with your animal, but be cautious that they don’t get too hot. You want to build up to the 30 minutes
* When walking your pig you want to keep his head up and your goal is that they are continuously walking.
* This video will help you get started <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJem_WB03x4>

**Skin and Hair**

You should also use soap to bath the pig at every few days. Moisturize the skin regularly brushing the product into its skin with a brush. When it is cold outside make sure you have towels to dry the pig off. Light colored pigs need to be protected from the sun, they can get sunburnt.

**Stall Maintenance**

We use wood shavings in the stalls for bedding material. Students are responsible for cleaning stalls EVERY DAY. Shavings will need to be fully replaced every week to week and a half you should also wipe down your walls/gates to remove feces and food. I recommend using a shovel/pooper scooper to scoop out poop morning and evening. This will make your shavings last longer.

**Other Helpful Information:**

**Things to look for:**

If at any point your animal stops eating, isn’t pooping, or your having any other major problems please let me know. Do not wait till Tuesday to tell me your animal hasn’t pooped since Thursday. We do have a few Vets phone numbers listed in case you need them.

**Veterinarian and contact information:**

Dr. Moore (will travel)……………..979-251-1151

Dr. O’Banion (will travel)………….281-639-5635

Dr. Choyce (Katy)……………………..281-579-7083

Dr. Baker (Prairie View)…………….936-857-3207