



4-H Market Swine Project

THE BASICS

PROJECT LENGTH 6-8 months

The market swine project is approximately 6-8 months long but can be longer depending on factors such as age of the pig, date of the show, etc.

COST \$3,000.00

The average total cost of the market swine project is \$3,000 per animal. This includes purchase price, feed costs, supplies, veterinary care, show entries, etc. First time members should also consider costs of facilities and other one-time purchases.

TIME COMMITMENT 1-2 hrs/day

Expect to spend 1-2 hours in the barn everyday. Animals need to be fed and have waters checked at least twice a day and should be walked/exercised and practiced with at least once a day.

FACILITIES

At a minimum animals should have a well-ventilated shelter to get out of the elements and a fenced area with approximately 20 square feet per animal. Fence height should be at least 42 inches tall and should be predator proof. Additionally, considerations for electricity, water, flooring, drainage, and waste disposal should be made.

PURCHASING ANIMALS.... WHEN

Market swine are typically 6-7 months old at the time of show. Determining which show the animal will be shown at is critical to determining when the animal should be purchased. Common examples are:

<u>Show</u>	<u>Suggested Purchase Dates</u>
WCJLS, LVJLS, Spring Major Shows.....	August-October
Fall Major Shows.....	May-June

Note: All animals MUST be purchased/owned by Validation deadlines.



BEGINNER

This is a great project for beginners, though special considerations for facilities and equipment should be made when first starting.



EXPERT TIPS

PURCHASING ANIMALS... WHERE

Market swine can be purchased anywhere, both in or out of state, in person, at auctions, or online. Look for reputable producers with whom you can develop a good working relationship. A list of producers in Texas can be found at the Texas Youth Livestock website, however, there are many more in Texas.

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/livestock-connection/>

VALIDATION

Market swine are required to be state validated for Wilson County Junior Livestock Show, La Vernia Junior Livestock Show, and all major livestock shows. Tags are purchased in late summer and validation is in November*.

(*Requirements differ for State Fair and Heart o' Texas.)

KNOW YOUR SHOW

Knowing which show(s) you plan to show at and the rules and regulations of those shows will be **critical** to the success of your market swine project. Show dates, whether or not the show is terminal, and how many animals can be shown are all major factors to consider at the **beginning** of the project.

FEEDING

Feeding will begin with a high protein, low fat feed then gradually switch to a low protein, higher fat feed. Market swine will typically weigh between 24-280 pounds by the end of the project.

HEALTH CARE

The best veterinary care is preventative care. Start by building a working relationship with your local veterinarian. Work with them to determine proper vaccinations and de-worming protocols.



For more information about the Texas 4-H Swine project, visit:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/swine-2/>