

140BR – BREEDING SWINE

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To complete a project in 4-H, member must annually:

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in “Good Standing” by completing county and club requirements
- Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training (*not required for breeding swine*)
- Complete Livestock Skillathon
- Breeding Swine Livestock project must be in member’s possession by May 1

*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Breeding Swine Project/Record Book (#140BR)** and a **Swine Resource Handbook (#140R)**. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (*mandatory for Market Hogs; not required for Breeding Swine*):

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance
 - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will “test out” of QA for next three years.
 - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
 - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

3. SKILLATHON

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete a Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
 - Location: Fairgrounds
 - July 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
 - Junior (8-11 years)
 - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
 - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): Optional contest. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter by March 1
 - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
 - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA members in “Good Standing” by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Have possession of breeding swine by May 1
- ☑ Submit online breeding registration by May 15
- ☑ Submit online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries

*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **Market Hog Show:** Tuesday of fair, 8:00am
- **CBBR (County Bred, Born & Raised) Hog Show:** Tuesday of fair, 2:30pm
- **Swine Showmanship Show:** Wednesday of fair, 8:00am
- **Breeding Swine Show:** Wednesday of fair, following Swine Showmanship
- **Breeding Swine Move-OUT:** Thursday of fair, 6:00am – 7:00am

BEFORE THE FAIR:

1. **POSSESSION.**
 - A. All breeding gilts must be farrowed **December 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.**
 - B. Breeding gilts must be in the possession of the youth, owned or continuously cared- for including showing rights by **May 1**, current year.
 - C. The youth’s name must match exactly as the owner’s name on the registration paperwork or showing rights paperwork.
 - D. Partnership and family-owned pedigrees will be accepted.
 - E. Ownership will be considered lost if by May 1, the animal is consigned or sold through an auction or any type of transaction, even if the youth “buys back” his/her animal.
2. **REGISTRATION & NUMBER OF ANIMALS:**
 - A. Only gilts may exhibit and be shown in the Jr. Fair Swine Breeding Show. No sows or boars permitted.
 - B. Exhibitors may take **two (2) breeding GILTS** to the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - C. Each exhibitor may register up to three (3) breeding gilts.
Note: Only two (2) gilts can be exhibited at the Jr. Fair; the other gilt will be an alternate.
 - D. Exhibitor is **NOT permitted to register or exhibit a gilt as both a market entry and breeding entry.**
Youth cannot exhibit a gilt weighed/tagged as a market animal in the breeding show.
 - E. Swine are **required to have an 840 EID Tag.** An 840 EID Tag from the breeder you purchase/lease your animal from is acceptable.
 - F. Exhibitor must register breeding gilts by **May 15** (link TBA). Must include following information:
 - i. Any showing rights paperwork
 - ii. Purebred registration paperwork
 - iii. Breed; Registration Number (purebreds); 840 EID Tag Number; Sire; Sire of Dam; Ear Notch; Birthdate; Breeder Name; Youth’s name & address; Premise ID Holder’s name & address
3. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
 - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form July 15 to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
 - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

Breeding Swine: page 2 of 3

AT THE FAIR (read all rules in the Fair Book!)

1. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE:** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements **at all shows and sales** at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves **AND** without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).

2. **FAIR VETERINARIAN.**

The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (clarification that the Fair Veterinarian gets final say)

3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian. (ODA, 2016)

4. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.

5. **DUNF FORMS** (*not required for breeding swine*)

6. **BREEDING SWINE FAIR MOVE-IN / MOVE-OUT.**

A. **Fair Move-in:** first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00noon

B. **Fair Move-out:** Thursday of fair, 6:00am – 7:00am

7. Youth **cannot** exhibit a gilt weighed/tagged as a market animal in the breeding show.

Youth are NOT permitted to exhibit breeding gilts in Showmanship.

8. All *rules for grooming and care that apply to the market swine, shall apply to breeding gilts.

*EXCEPTION Hair Length - There is no hair length rule for BREEDING GILTS.

9. **Swine Breeding Show Divisions & Classes**

A. Crossbreds:

- a. Gilts will be shown by weight – lightest to heaviest. Declared crossbred weight will be determined at the fair weigh-in on move in day. Crossbred breeding gilts must weigh **200 lbs. – 350 lbs.**

B. Purebreds:

- a. Purebred breeding classes will be shown by age – youngest to oldest.
- b. Each breed will exhibit as its own division. For each division, there must be at least four (4) gilts to make an individual class.
- c. If there are not enough gilts to make an individual class, the gilts will be shown as a division (All Other Breeds AOB).

C. Placings

- a. Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve Grand Champion
- b. Breed Grand Champions and Reserve Breed Champions (Note: the Grand Champion for each Breed Division will compete for the Overall Grand Champion and the Overall Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Gilt)
- c. 3rd Place Overall; 4th Place Overall; 5th Place Overall

JR FAIR HOG SHOWMANSHIP

Breeding gilts are NOT permitted to be shown in Showmanship.