Swine Exhibitor's Project Guide
(5 - 6 Years of Age)

Matthew C. Claeyss
Extension Livestock Specialist

Sharon B. Rogers
Extension Livestock Technician

General Knowledge Information

Taking part in a 4-H Livestock Project can be an exciting and rewarding experience. Through the swine project you are given the opportunity to learn about taking care of an animal, working with other young people, and developing sound judgment skills. When beginning with any new project or activity it is a learning experience for all involved. More knowledge is gained by taking part than by watching others.

Below are the most important aspects that you should know about your project animal to make your learning experience complete. Remember that the more you work with the swine project the more knowledge you can gain.

Items to Learn and Know

- Breed of animal exhibited and/or other breeds in the class
- Date of birth / Age of animal
- Current weight of animal
- Feeding (what and when)
- Gender of animal

Body Parts To Know

Ham
Loin
Hock
Shoulder
Basic Equipment To Know

- Feed pans
- Nipple waterer
- Water hose
- Brush
- Cane

Swine Showmanship Danish Standards
for 5 and 6 Year Old Exhibitors

Showmanship provides the opportunity to show an animal to the best of your ability. You are judged on how well you show your animal. Judging for showmanship does not include the conformation of the animal. Practice and planning will help you improve your showmanship skills. A “Swine Showmanship” fact sheet (ANS 96-805S) and a “4-H Market Hog Manual” are available from your county Cooperative Extension office for more in depth coverage of showmanship styles and care of the project animal.

Below are the showmanship standards for 5 and 6 year old youth. These standards are established to provide youth with guidelines of the more important aspects of developing showmanship skills.

Showmanship Skills to Develop

1. Have animal clean and presentable.
2. Wear appropriate show ring attire.
3. Keep good eye contact with the judge.
4. Display good sportsmanship and polite conduct.
5. Answer age-appropriate questions.
6. Control animal.
7. Learn to follow directions from the ring steward and/or judge.
8. Attempt to pen the animal when the judge requests, with the help of the ring stewards.

Description of Group Ribbon Colors

Purple  Far exceeds established showmanship standards
Blue   Exceeds established showmanship standards
Red    Meets established showmanship standards
White  Does not meet established showmanship standards

Special acknowledgment is extended to the following individuals for their valuable contribution to the development of this educational material:
Frank Bolick, Watauga County; J.D. Brooks, Buncombe County; Kathy Bunton, Alexander County; Walter Earle, Wilson County; Michael Hobbs, Buncombe County; Brinton Hopkins, Ph.D., Department of Animal Science; Ronald Hughes, Johnston County; Kenneth Vaughn, Iredell County.