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A Guide for Exhibiting and Evaluating 4-H Swine Projects for 4H Swine Leaders and Judges

Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

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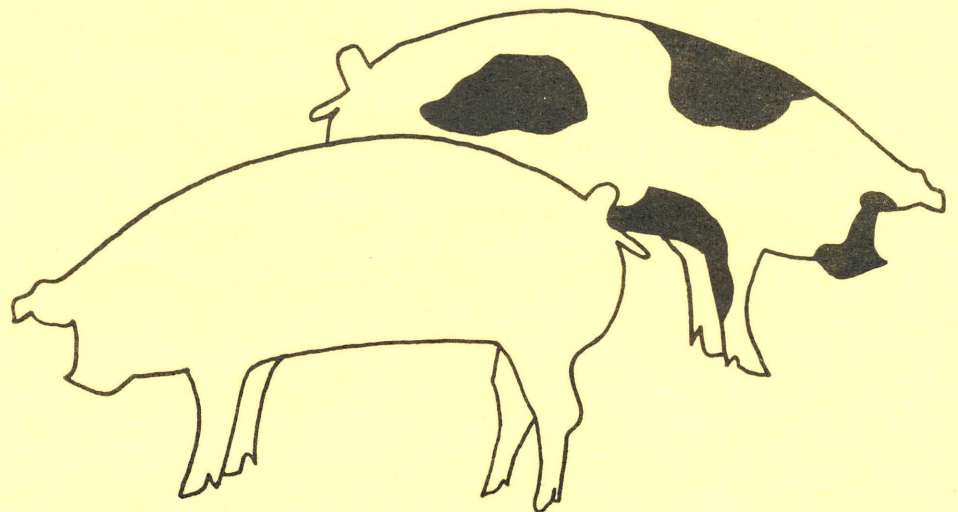
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A GUIDE FOR EXHIBITING AND EVALUATING 4-H SWINE PROJECTS

for 4-H Swine Leaders and Judges



4-H—Youth Programs
Cooperative Extension Service
Michigan State University

This guide was revised by Kenneth Geuns, Extension Specialist in Animal Science, with suggestions by Maynard Hogberg and Richard Dunn, Extension Specialists in Animal Science. The original guide was prepared by E. Dale Purkhiser, Dale C. Brown, and E. C. Miller, Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University. The Michigan 4-H Livestock Developmental Committee helped develop guidelines for this bulletin. The approval and support of the Livestock Developmental Committee has made this guide much broader in its scope and usefulness.

Gratitude is expressed to Margaret Wooden of Cassopolis and Dorothea Mulholland of Charlotte for their recommendations and critique of the original guide.

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook is intended as a guide for 4-H leaders, Extension agents, show managers, show judges, and other individuals responsible for planning and conducting 4-H swine shows in Michigan.

The purpose of this handbook is to help establish uniform regulations and procedures in judging and evaluating 4-H swine shows and events throughout the state. It is hoped that all counties will work toward the use of this guide in their local and county shows. The extent to which it is used should be the decision of the county.

If counties do not use the regulations and procedures in this handbook, or if they make revisions or changes in them, it is important that they have the changes available to those conducting and involved in the show in their counties. County regulations and procedures in judging and evaluating should be available to leaders and members in the county, and a copy should be sent to the judge who will be evaluating the projects at the fair or show. It should be sent early enough so that the judge will have ample time to go over it before the fair or show.

The knowledge the member has gained through the training and care given his/her animal during the year as indicated by its appearance and response in the show ring should be emphasized. The 4-H Swine Show should assist in evaluating the member's progress rather than be the major emphasis of the project.

Objectives of the 4-H Livestock Project

1. To acquire information and an understanding of scientific livestock production and management practices and to acquire skill in executing these practices through the experiences of keeping records and owning and caring for livestock.
2. To provide a business experience and an insight into values and principles of purchasing, marketing, record keeping, and securing credit which will provide an income sufficient to permit savings.
3. To encourage integrity, sportsmanship, cooperation, and ability to speak in public through participation in related activities, such as demonstrations, talks, judging events, tours and exhibits.
4. To learn and employ the efficient procedures and methods in the marketing of livestock and their products.
5. To develop a clear understanding and appreciation of the livestock-meat industry and its role in the agricultural and commercial economy of the country.
6. To explore the livestock industry as a career.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURES

The following changes are suggested so that judging and evaluation will be more meaningful, more helpful, and more clearly understood by the members, parents, and spectators and that it will more clearly identify and separate the achievement of the member from the merits of his/her project animal either as a market animal or a purebred breeding animal.

Blue, red, and white ribbon awards would replace the present A-B-C awards in all classes.

Members would exhibit their animals only twice and for two distinctly different purposes, namely: (1) Fitting and Showmanship, and (2) Live Animal Evaluation.

FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP

In the 4-H program, evaluating the member is considered to be more important than evaluating the animal; therefore, it is recommended that the fitting and showmanship class be held at the beginning of the show while the members are fresh and at their best instead of at the end of the show. It might be a special evening event held the day previous to the breed show. In this case, a different judge could be used. All the emphasis would be given on evaluating the care, attention, training, and preparation given the animal by the member and the member's ability to properly display the animal. The breed type of the animal would not be considered. Separate classes would probably be provided for different age groups of members. Each member would be eligible to show one of his/her own project animals already entered in the show. It is recommended that the show begin with the Senior Division so that the Junior participants might learn some tips before they show.

All members would be placed into blue, red, and white ribbon groups. First- and second-place ribbons could be awarded to the top two members in the blue classification. Champion or Reserve Champion showmen could be selected from first- and second-place winners. Trophies and special awards could be made. Substantial cash premiums could be awarded to each individual in each group with the largest amount to the Blue group and correspondingly less to the Red and White groups. Other than the first- and second-place individuals in the Blue group, it would be optional whether members were placed in descending order within the groups, but judges would be encouraged to discuss the correct and incorrect procedures and preparation made by each member.

GUIDELINES FOR FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP OF SWINE

The showman is being evaluated. Evaluation includes indication of care, attention, training, and preparation given the animal, and the appearance of the exhibitor.

Blue, red, and white ribbons will be awarded according to the following point system:

<u>Appearance of Exhibitor</u>	<u>Perfect Score</u>
<p>The exhibitor should be neat and clean. He/she should be appropriately dressed for the occasion. Suitable wear would be neutral slacks for showing light-colored hogs and dark slacks for showing red or black hogs. A white shirt or blouse is suitable. Dresses and shorts are unsuitable. Leather boots or shoes should be worn for protection. Canvas shoes and dress shoes should not be worn because they do not provide enough protection for the exhibitor. Expensive or elaborate clothing is not preferred over neat, clean, more conservative apparel.</p>	10
<p><u>Appearance of the Hog</u></p> <p>The hog should be thoroughly washed, including the ears and feet, with a mild soap such as Orvus, castille, or similar nondetergent soaps.</p> <p>White breeds and light-colored crossbred hogs should be powdered with white talcum or cornstarch. Excess powder should be brushed away.</p> <p>Black and red breeds and dark-colored crossbreds may be oiled with light mineral oil or a suitable commercial preparation. The white points of Polands and Berkshires may be powdered with talcum or covered with white paste shoe polish.</p> <p>The long hair on the inside and outside of the ears and all the tail except the switch (last two inches) may be clipped. Clipping is optional.</p> <p>Long and uneven toes should be trimmed at least two weeks before the fair.</p> <p>Hogs should show proper size for age. Evidence of good health as indicated in a young hair coat is necessary.</p> <p>Animals should be healthy and free from internal and external parasites.</p>	40
<p><u>Show Ring Procedure</u></p> <p>Showmen should enter the ring promptly with the hog under control at all times. Showing a hog at his best advantage takes precedence over all other things.</p>	50

Two things exhibitors must know: (1) Where the hog is, and (2) Where the judge is.

When driving the hog, an exhibitor should have a cane or whip in one hand, a small brush in his/her pocket, and one hand free to open gates, etc.

If using a cane - The participant should hold the straight end and guide the animal with the curved end. This gives more surface to guide the hog, and the hook can be used to pull the hog from a fight. The hook of the cane should be used only to separate hogs that are fighting.

If using a whip - A lightweight whip, not more than three-feet long with a small switch on the end, should be used.

A hog may be driven by gently tapping him on the shoulder or neck. An exhibitor should tap the hog gently behind the front flank or on the side to move him forward. *He/she should never hit the animal on the back, rump, or snout, never place his/her hand or cane around a hog's tail or hind legs, and never shove or knee him to make him move.*

An exhibitor should keep the hog between him/herself and the judge. He/she should never get between the animal and the judge or between another exhibitor's hog and the judge.

Hogs should be kept in the judge's view and not too close or too far away. Generally speaking, the animal should be kept 10 to 15 feet away from the judge.

When showing the animal, exhibitors should stay out of bunches or large groups. Hogs should be kept in the open area where the judge can see them. Exhibitors should try to anticipate every movement of the judge and have their hogs where the judge is looking and will be looking.

Hogs should be walked at a slow walk, since they look better at a walk than while standing still.

Courtesy - Exhibitors should never do anything that will distract attention from another showman's hog. They should be courteous to the judge and try to do as he/she asks. After the judge has placed the hog, the exhibitor should give him/her a quiet "thank you."

TOTAL

100

LIVE ANIMAL EVALUATION OF BREEDING AND MARKET CLASSES

In these classes *only the animal* would be considered, either as to its desirability as a breeding animal or as a market animal. Blue, red, and white groups would be indicated according to the guidelines below. Appropriate ribbons could be awarded. Cash premiums could be available with a different amount in each group.

The blue ribbon group in both breeding and market classes should be placed in descending order. First- and second-place animals are eligible to show for champion and reserve champion awards. A system of establishing the sale order for market classes should provide for all blue ribbon animals to sell first, red ribbon animals next, and the white ribbon group last. Sale order in the blue group should follow the live placings while a drawing may be held to determine the sale order for both the red and white ribbon groups.

GUIDELINES FOR RIBBON PLACINGS OF SWINE BREEDING CLASSES

1. Blue Ribbon Group

- a. Animals in purebred breeding classes should conform to breed standards. Freedom from observable inherited defects, including inverted nipples, swirls, ruptures, etc., is essential.
- b. Hogs should have adequate size and scale for their age. They must be correct in their feet and legs and sound in their skeletal structure.
- c. Hogs must show thickness in muscling of the ham and loin with minimum excess fat.
- d. Hogs in this group are considered suitable for use as replacements in both purebred and commercial herds.

2. Red Ribbon Group

- a. Animals should be free of inherited defects, including inverted nipples, ruptures, etc.
- b. Hogs in this category may have slight faults in their skeletal structure.
- c. Hogs may be more moderate in their muscling with slightly more condition than the blue group.
- d. Hogs may lack some in size and scale for their age.
- e. In general, this group may be suitable for commercial swine production rather than breeding stock for purebred production.

3. White Ribbon Group

- a. This group will consist of animals having serious muscular and skeletal faults.
- b. These animals are light muscled and/or overfat.
- c. Hogs in this group may lack size and scale for their age.
- d. Animals in this group are undesirable as replacements for either purebred or commercial production and should be sold for market purposes.

LIVE ANIMAL EVALUATION
BREEDING SWINE SCORECARD*

<u>GENERAL APPEARANCE</u> (25 Points)	<u>Perfect Score</u>
Type: heavy-muscled, clean, trim, firm, smooth, long-bodied, uniform width but ham and rump should be wider than rest of body, moderately deep, uniformly arched top, well-balanced and stylish with a high degree of development in the valuable region of the ham and loin, same standards as for the market barrow	13
Size: ample size, scale, and ruggedness for age	12
<u>CONFORMATION</u> (45 Points)	
<u>Hindquarters</u> (26 Points)	
Hind legs: set wide apart, out on the corners, giving an indication of abundant muscling	3
Ham: wide, deep, long, full, meaty, clean	11
Rump: long, wide, uniformly turned, high tail setting, meaty	5
Loin: muscular turn, long, clean	7
<u>Forequarters</u> (14 Points)	
Back: muscular turn, long, clean, uniformly arched, full spring of rib	6
Shoulders: smooth, muscular, free from fatty creases and wrinkles, no evidence of fat deposit at the elbow	2.5
Neck: medium length	0.5
Head: clean-cut, clean and firm jowl	2
Chest: wide, full and deep forerib	3
<u>Middle</u> (5 Points)	
Deep, roomy middle but not loose or wastey; belly trim and firm; deep-ribbed	5

* Ritchie, Harlan D., *Livestock Judging and Evaluation Manual*, Michigan State University Press, 1969.

BREEDING QUALITIES (30 Points)

Underpinning (12 Points)

Legs:	straight as viewed from side, front, and rear; squarely set under corners of body	5
Pasterns:	strong; straight, but not buckled over	3
Feet:	strong, straight toes	2
Action:	free, easy, unhindered walk; not stiff or "peggy"	2

Mammary System (12 Points)

Six (6) sound nipples on a side, nipples prominent and evenly spaced, no evidence of inverted or blind teats	12
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Breed Character (6 Points)

Head:	varies with the breed, wide between the eyes, sows feminine and boars masculine	3
Ears:	relatively refined, not large and coarse, thereby hindering vision; breeds having erect ears should show no tendency for drooping; breeds having drooping ears should show no tendency for being erect	3

TOTAL 100

GUIDELINES FOR RIBBON PLACINGS OF MARKET SWINE

1. Blue Ribbon Group

- a. Hogs in this group should be sound in their skeletal structure.
- b. They should show sufficient size and scale for their age with adequate muscling and a minimum of fat.
- c. Hogs in this category should yield a carcass 75 or more centimeters (29.5 or more inches) in length with 3.6 or less centimeters (1.4 or less inches) of backfat, yield 53 or more percent lean cuts (ham, loin, picnic shoulder, and Boston butt), and have a minimum of 29 square centimeters (4.5 square inches) of loin eye.

2. Red Ribbon Group

- a. Hogs in this group should be generally sound in their skeletal structure.
- b. These hogs may lack some in size and scale for their age and be somewhat lighter in their muscling.
- c. Animals may carry more finish and wastiness in the middle.
- d. The carcass should yield 50 to 52.9 percent lean cuts and be 4.3 or less centimeters (1.7 or less inches) in backfat. No specific length is required.

3. White Ribbon Group

- a. Hogs in this group may be small for their age. They may carry an excess of finish and be short in body length.
- b. The carcass will probably yield less than 49.9 percent lean cuts and be in excess of 4.3 centimeters (1.7 inches) of backfat.

MARKET PIG SCORECARD*

<u>CONFORMATION</u> (56 Points)	<u>Perfect Score</u>
<u>General Appearance</u> (10 Points)	
Heavy-muscled, lean, trim, firm, smooth, long-bodied, uniform width but ham and rump should be wider than rest of body, moderately deep but not wastey, uniformly arched top, well-balanced and stylish with a high degree of development in the valuable region of the ham and loin, adequate size for age	10
<u>Hindquarters</u> (29 Points)	
Hing Legs: set wide apart, out on the corners, giving an indication of abundant muscling; straight and correct	4
Ham: wide, deep, long, full, firm, meaty	11
Rump: long, wide, uniformly turned, high tail setting, meaty	6
Loin: muscular turn, long, lean, uniformly arched	8
<u>Forequarters</u> (11 Points)	
Back: muscular turn, long, clean, uniformly arched, uniform width, full spring of rib	6
Shoulders: smooth, muscular, clean	2.5
Neck: medium length	0.5
Head: clean-cut , refined, clean and firm jowl	2
<u>Middle</u> (6 Points)	
Side: long, moderate depth, smooth, free from wrinkles	3
Underline: trim, firm, no evidence of looseness or wastiness (belly)	3

* Ritchie, Harlan D., *Livestock Judging and Evaluation Manual*, Michigan State University Press, 1969.

FINISH (40 Points)

Ham:	firm and free from wrinkles at the base, firm in the crotch	4
Rump:	no evidence of a countersunk tail setting	4
Back & Loin:	clean and meaty turn, evidence of abundant muscling accompanied by minimum amount of backfat	20
Shoulders:	firm and smooth, free from fatty creases and wrinkles, no evidence of fat deposit at the elbow	4
Jowl:	trim and firm	4
Belly:	trim and firm	4

QUALITY (4 Points)

	Smooth throughout, not creased or wrinkled	2
Bone:	ample substance of bone, definitely not fine	<u>2</u>

TOTAL 100

APPENDIX I

Part A. Suggestions for Better 4-H Swine Shows

1. The county 4-H livestock show can be a very important segment of the total educational program and should emphasize the progress the member has made during the year. Each show should be the best learning situation possible for the 4-H members, leaders, and parents.
2. Counties should try to select the best judges they can find. In obtaining judges for youth shows, care should be taken to select those who, in addition to understanding swine, are aware of the philosophy of the 4-H program, understand boys and girls, and are able to express themselves adequately. An attempt should be made to get judges to give oral reasons on the classes judged over a good loudspeaker system. They should also be encouraged to counsel individually with the members about their animals and their fitting and showing techniques. Again, be sure that judges have a copy of the premium list and rules to be followed at the show. Do not hesitate to instruct the judge prior to the show on things to be emphasized, past problems in the county, etc. Good communications make for a better running and more educational show.
3. One of the most important people in a smooth-running swine show is the ringmaster. The responsibilities of a ringmaster include all of the activities in the show ring having to do with showing swine. He/she should assist the judge, help and give directions to the exhibitors without showing favoritism, and conduct the class in the best manner for all concerned. He/she should become familiar with the premium list before the show and, if there are questions, consult the superintendent of the show.
4. The ring clerk is responsible for checking in entries and recording all the winners. The ribbon clerk distributes ribbons to the winners.
5. A good show announcer can increase the interest of the spectators and the cooperation of the exhibitors. Also, an opportunity that has only been pursued in the past in a limited way is the use of the announcer as an educator to explain to the public what is going on at the show and what the judge is looking for. This would have to be limited to comments that would not interfere with the judge but might open up a whole new area of swine show education.
6. Shows should provide ample time for the judge to give oral reasons and counsel with the members. They should not drag but should not be so fast that adequate help cannot be given to the members and leaders.
7. Until recently, subjective methods of evaluation were used in livestock shows. As modern swine technology is increased, new developments should be incorporated into our 4-H swine shows. Carcass evaluation and rate-of-gain contests can be used to supplement subjective judging. To be successful, they will need at least as much emphasis as live judging classes. Suggestions on these classes are provided.
8. From an educational standpoint it is preferable to sell 4-H market swine by grade and yield, with buyers placing a bonus on the hogs if they choose to do so.

Part B. Suggestions for a Swine Carcass Show

The purpose of a swine carcass show is to better inform both youths and the general public on the desirable characteristics of market hogs. The following information should be collected for quality pork carcass contests:

1. Weight range - 90 to 110 kilograms (190 to 240 pounds). The live evaluation class may be split at 100 kilograms (220 pounds) if deemed necessary. Accuracy will be increased by adjusting all carcasses to a live weight of 100 kilograms (220 pounds). Information on these procedures can be obtained from the Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University, 105 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824.
2. Entries should be limited to barrows only.
3. All exhibitors should be required to evaluate at least two live animals for carcass length, backfat, loin-eye area, and percent of ham and loin.
4. All carcass entries should be evaluated and discussed before going to slaughter.
5. Requirements should be set that animals should be not more than 6 months of age by the date of the live show.
6. Any barrow found by the judge or committee to be unsound or to have any blemish that might affect the desirability of the carcass shall be disqualified and will not be slaughtered.
7. Carcasses should be placed in groups according to the following:

a. Blue Ribbon Group:

Length - 75 or more centimeters (29.5 or more inches) from the front of the first rib to the aitch bone

Backfat - 3.6 or less centimeters (1.4 or less inches) taken by averaging the measurements taken over the first rib, last rib, and last lumbar vertebra

Loin-eye Area - A minimum of 29 square centimeters (4.5 square inches) measured at the 10th rib

Percent Lean Cuts - 53 or more percent (ham, loin, picnic shoulder, and Boston butt as a percent of carcass weight)

NOTE - Percent of ham and loin may be used rather than percent lean cuts. In this case 40 or more percent of ham and loin should be used.

b. Red Ribbon Group:

Length - No specific requirement

Backfat - 4.3 or less centimeters (1.7 or less inches) of backfat

Loin-eye Area - No specific requirement

Percent Lean Cuts - 50 to 52.9 percent

NOTE - 36.0 to 39.9 percent ham and loin may be used rather than percent lean cuts

c. White Ribbon Group:

No specific requirements on length, backfat, and loin-eye area.

Percent Lean Cuts - 49.9 or less percent

NOTE - 35.9 or less percent ham and loin may be used rather than percent lean cuts

8. Carcasses in the blue ribbon group should be placed in descending order according to the system used at the current Michigan Spring Barrow Show or Michigan State Fair. Information on these procedures can be obtained from the Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University, 105 Anthony, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Part C. Suggestions for Swine Rate-of-Gain Contest

The economic factors of swine production should be an important part of swine projects. Keeping records that show rate of gain, feed efficiency, cost of rations fed, veterinarian charges, etc., will determine your profit or loss on a swine project. Following are some suggestions that might be included in a rate-of-gain contest:

1. Market hogs should be weighed and tattooed or ear tagged between 18 to 32 kilograms (40 to 70 pounds) approximately 90 to 100 days prior to the fair. The end of contest may be when pigs reach an average weight between 90 and 100 kilograms (200 and 220 pounds) or at the fair.
2. Display the following information above the live exhibit:
 - a. Member's name, age, and club
 - b. Picture of animal at start and end of record period
 - c. Ration fed
 - d. Feed consumption and cost
 - e. Daily rate of gain
 - f. Cost per pound of gain

	<u>Perfect Score</u>
3. Example scorecard:	
a. Daily Rate of Gain -- .8 kilograms (1.8 pounds) per day (for each 0.2 kilograms (.05 pounds) per day over .8 kilograms (1.8 pounds), add 1 point; for each 0.2 kilograms (.05 pounds) per day under .8 kilograms (1.8 pounds), subtract 1 point)	45
b. Feed Efficiency -- 136 kilograms (300 pounds) feed per 45 kilograms (100 pounds) of gain (for each 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds) over 136 kilograms (300 pounds), subtract 1 point; and for each 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds) under 136 kilograms (300 pounds), add 1 point)	25
c. Cost Per Pound of Gain (all costs) -- 30 cents per pound* (for each 1/2 cent per pound over 30 cents, subtract 1 point; for each 1/2 cent per pound under 30 cents, add 1 point)	15
d. Neatness, completeness, and accuracy of the display	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	100
e. Ribbon Placing:	
Blue - 85 points or more	
Red - 70 to 84 points	
White - 69 points or less	

Various modifications may be made in this program to suit the individual objectives and conditions of the county involved.

Part D. Suggestions for Show Ring Classifications

Breeding Animals

Breeding animals should be shown by breed with crossbreds in a separate class. In some cases where there is no competition in some breeds, it may be desirable to show them with crossbreds in a class identified as "Other Breeds."

Suggested Classes for Breeding Animals

- Class 1 January Gilt - born in January of year shown
- Class 2 Senior Spring Gilt - born in February of year shown
- Class 3 Junior Spring Gilt - born March 1 or thereafter in year shown
- Class 4 Champion Gilt
- Class 5 Reserve Champion Gilt

* The cost of gain shown is a guideline. This was approximate at the time this bulletin was revised but will change with price changes. Check with your local county Cooperative Extension Service office or the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University for the current cost of gain.

Market Hogs

Market hogs should be broken into classes by weight. The range should be from 90 to 110 kilograms (190 to 240 pounds). Hogs not within this weight range should be evaluated in separate classes and not considered for champion and reserve champion animals.

Suggested Classes for Individual Market Hogs

- Class 1 Lightweight - 90 to 100 kilograms (190 to 215 pounds)
- Class 2 Mediumweight - 100 to 110 kilograms (216 to 240 pounds)
- Class 3 Champion
- Class 4 Reserve Champion
- Class 5 Less than 90 kilograms (189 pounds and less) (feeder class)
- Class 6 Heavyweight - More than 110 kilograms (241 pounds and more)

Suggested Classes for Pair (2) of Market Hogs

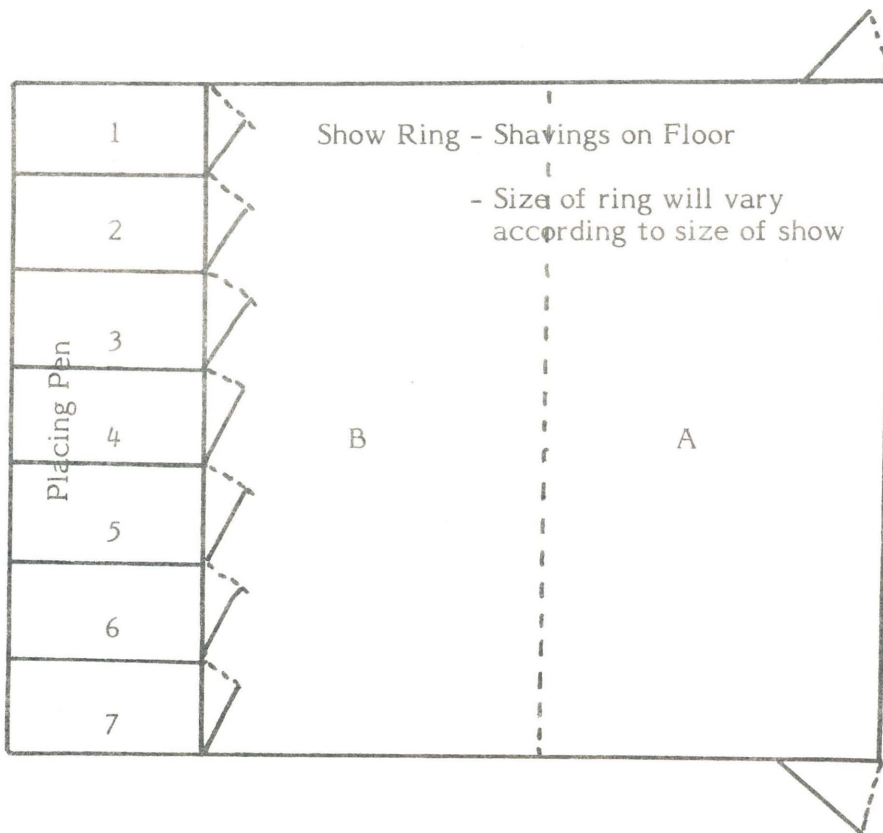
- Class 7 Lightweight Pair 170 to 195 kilograms (380 to 430 pounds)
- Class 8 Mediumweight Pair - 196 to 220 kilograms (431 to 480 pounds)
- Class 9 Champion Pair
- Class 10 Reserve Champion Pair
- Class 11 Pair under 170 kilograms (380 pounds)
- Class 12 Heavyweight Pair 220 kilograms (481 pounds and over)

APPENDIX II

Some Suggestions for a Better Show Ring for Swine

At many fairs, show ring facilities are very inadequate and lower the dignity of the show. Nothing is more disappointing than to work five to six months or longer in preparing an animal for exhibit and then have to exhibit in a poorly organized and prepared show ring. A few ideas on what makes a suitable show ring follow:

1. The ring should be large enough to permit all animals to be driven to their best advantage, no matter how large the class.
2. The gating should be permanently in place so the hogs cannot get out.
3. The ring should be well lighted and have sawdust or shavings on the floor to give the ring brightness.
4. A series of holding pens should be available so the judge can put animals into them as he/she places them.
5. The ring should be so organized that spectators can follow the judging with ease, thus knowing at all times what the judge is doing.
6. Since the show is an educational event for both the showman and spectator, bleachers should be available for spectators so they may watch the show.



Approaches to show ring should be well built so hogs cannot get out

If you have a large class, the judge may want to have all the hogs brought into Pen A, where he/she will sort out the top end and then go over to Pen B for the final placings. Therefore, gates should be available for dividing the show ring if necessary.

A good show ring can serve as a tonic for bringing out the best in projects.

NOTES