

# PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H/JUNIOR FAIR

## SWINE RULES

Revision Date: Revised 11/2025

The following rules established and approved by the Portage County Junior Fair Swine Council (hereafter referred to as the Swine Council), and the Portage County Randolph Senior Fair Board are binding upon all Portage County Junior Fair Swine exhibitors. Changes may be made as needed by the Swine Council in cooperation with the Portage County Randolph Senior Fair Board. Exhibitors will be notified of any changes. (01/2020)

**The responsibility of knowing and understanding any and all rules pertaining to the Portage County Randolph Junior Fair shall belong to the junior fair exhibitor and their parents/legal guardian. Failure to Comply with these Rules may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Council (11/2025).**

Anyone attending events either as an exhibitor, advisor, volunteer, parent, spectator, superintendent, judge, committee member or fair official must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct and according to the Rules and Regulations of the Portage County Agricultural Society, DBA Randolph Fair. The Code of Conduct and Rules are not limited to the show ring, but are applicable to any location on the fairgrounds and to any event held at the Portage County Randolph Fairgrounds including, but not limited to meetings, workshops, clinics, contests, shows, county fair, etc. (02/2013)

### **MEMBERSHIP AND EXHIBIT ELIGIBILITY**

Exhibitors will adhere to the rules outlined by the Swine Council and the Portage County Randolph Fair for junior fair swine projects. Exhibitors must also adhere to the rules adopted by the Portage County Randolph Fair in accordance with the Ohio Livestock Show Reform Act and Ohio Livestock Tampering and Exhibition Rules and the Portage County Junior Fair Code of Conduct. (01/2020)

Exhibitors **MUST** be between the ages of 9 (or 8 and in the third grade) and 18 based on their age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Each exhibitor may bring market hog projects to the Fair based on the following schedule:

- First-year junior fair swine project participants may exhibit one live hog (11/2025).
- Second year and above junior fair swine project participants may exhibit up to two live hogs (11/2025).
- All junior fair swine project participants are eligible for swine carcass class, see additional carcass rules in a later section for more information.
- Note: Years are defined as total years exhibiting a junior fair swine project and need not be consecutive in nature. (02/2013)

All swine exhibited must be sold through the Junior Fair Livestock Sale and be in compliance with the Sale Committee 2-1-1 rule. The 2-1-1 rule states that a market livestock exhibitor may only sell 2 animals of one species, one animal of a second species and one animal of a third species throughout all of the market livestock auctions. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion carcass projects will sell exclusively of the 2-1-1 rule. For additional information on Sale Committee rules, see their current rules.

*All Jr. Fair Exhibitors in Market projects are expected to exhibit and sell their own animals. Exhibitors must be present to show in their market or showmanship class in order to be eligible to sell. Another Portage County Jr. Fair Exhibitor within the same species may show in the market class or in the sale, but not both.*

*Any Jr. Fair Market Exhibitor that will miss either market show or sale must submit a form to the Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee for review. Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee decision is final. If a form is not submitted and the show or sale is missed, the exhibitor will be paid market price. The remainder of their market proceed check will be donated to the Jr. Fair Market Livestock Sale Scholarship Fund.*

(01/2019)

### **ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION**

A date no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, a time and a central location to be determined by the Swine Council will be set for the hog ear tagging. The date is normally the Saturday before Memorial Day. At this time and place a custom designed Swine Council tamper proof ear tag will be administered. If this ear tag falls out, the council must be notified within 48 hours. An assigned council member will go out and re-tag the pig with a new ear tag and new number within a time frame deemed appropriate by the Swine Council. (01/2019, 01/2020, 1/2021, 01/2025, 11/2025)

Tag In and or Weigh In is mandatory for Market Beef, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Market Swine and Market Small Animals during assigned day, time and location. Exceptions must be approved by Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee. (01/2019)

A swine tag council member or designated volunteer must be present at each trailer during tag-in. (11/2025)

Tags will be assigned per the Household/Family Unit, defined as per OHIO REVISED CODE 901-19-01-(P). Tags will be declared to the individual exhibitor when the animals come across the scale. Each household will not be subject to a tag limit (11/2025).

A fee of \$10.00 per hog tagged or declared will be collected by the Swine Council (12/2009). Each club must pay tag in fees by the completion of Weigh In. or those animals are not eligible to participate in this year's market show. (02/2016, 01/2020, 11/2025)

### **MANDATORY QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING**

All Portage County Junior Fair Market Hog exhibitors must complete an approved OSU Extension Quality Assurance program prior to the deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> in the year in which they will exhibit. Junior Fair Market Hog exhibitors not meeting this requirement will NOT be permitted to bring their Market hog project to the fair. (01/2015, 11/2025)

### **MANDATORY STATE HEALTH/DRUG FORMS**

All Junior Fair Market Hog exhibitors must completely fill out and submit a legally binding drug use notification form online (DUNF) for **each** market hog brought to the fair. Champions will be required to fill out an additional form at time of specimen collection. (01/2015, 02/2018, 01/2020, 01/2021, 01/2022, 01/2023(01/2025)

### **EXHIBITOR ENGAGEMENT**

Every Junior Fair Market Hog exhibitor is required to meet all current eligibility rules. (02/2016) A representative from each family must participate in at least one Swine Council Event, this can include barn cleanings, show help, sale help, or other events that arise throughout the year. Each club will be fined \$50 per family unit for those who do not participate in Swine Council Events. (01/2024, 01/2025)

## **DAILY CARE**

The hog **MUST** be under the daily care of the junior fair swine exhibitor; however, it is not necessary to keep the hog at the owner's premises (10/2001).

The Swine Council can make project visits, exhibitors will be contacted in advance (01/2025). Hogs can be kept at premises other than the owners at the discretion of the Swine Council. Each junior fair swine exhibitor who will **NOT** be keeping their project hog at their residence will be required to complete a "Housing for Swine Projects" registration form obtainable from the Swine Council. This form must be submitted to the Swine Council by its April meeting date. The Swine Council will review the requests and will decide to either accept or deny them. (02/2013) Hogs **MUST** remain in Portage County, unless previously approved by OSU Extension and/or Portage County Randolph Fair Board (10/2001; 11/2007, 01/2020). Any hogs not housed at your own residence may not be housed at an operating, breeding, or sale facility unless immediate Family or Grandparents. (01/2022)

## **FAIR PROCEDURES**

### **WEIGH-IN AT FAIR (move to beginning of fair procedures)**

All market hogs that will be exhibited at the Fair **MUST** be in place in the Swine Complex according to the guidelines set forth by the Portage County Randolph Fair Board. All market hogs will go through an official weigh-in on the designated date and time before Fair week. Each hog's official weight will then be used during all of the shows and sale during the Fair. Once an exhibitor has weighed a hog, that animal is then assigned to that specific exhibitor and may not be reassigned to another (11/2025). The Swine Council and Sale Committee will conduct the weigh-ins according to a time schedule set up by those groups. The date, the place, and the time for the weigh-in will be provided to all of the clubs with market hog exhibitors. (01/2022) Any Market Hog that does not meet the weight requirements will be sent home immediately and are ineligible for participation at the fair. (01/2024).

### **RE-WEIGH PROCEDURE AT FAIR WEIGH-IN**

**ONLY** the person taking the hog over the scale can ask for a weigh-back and **MUST** do so before the hog goes to its pen. The person taking the hog across the scale will be given the weight and asked if they agree or disagree with the weight. If the weight is accepted (a **YES** answer), the weight stands, and the hog can proceed to their assigned pen. If the weight presented is not accepted (a **NO** answer), the hog returns to the scale and is re-weighed immediately. The second weight becomes the official weight. The weight recorded on the Fair Entry Card will be the official weight and will not be changed. (01/2022) (01/2025)

No pigs are to be out of their pens between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM unless approved by a swine council member. Pigs are restricted from walking in any area outside of the swine complex. (02/2016, 01/2020, 01/2023) The barn will be closed daily at 11pm through 6am the following day. (01/2023)

Pens **MUST** be cleaned by 9:00 AM daily (except Wednesday, market show day it must be completed by show time) . (11/2011, 01/2015, 01/2020) Council members will conduct daily inspections. Pens that are in violation will be marked and must be cleaned as soon as possible. (01/2015, 01/2020)

No animal handling electrical devices will be used on any junior fair swine project. (Fair Board Policy Development Committee, May 2004) (01/2022)

No fans requiring an outlet are permitted to be used in the swine complex unless approved by the building superintendent. Any battery-operated fans used must be hanging from the pen's frame and secured. No charging of batteries within the Swine Complex. (01/2023)

No unapproved peoples are to be standing, sitting, or otherwise loitering on the designated tack areas above the pens. (01/2023)

Once hogs are checked in at the fair, it is the exhibitor's responsibility groom, fit, feed, exercise or otherwise care for their own project unless otherwise approved by the Swine Council. (02/2014, 01/2020) On show days the exhibitors are allowed one additional person to assist them in entering the show area. Exhibitors must enter holding pens in the order they appear on the show program (01/2025).

Bagged pine shavings are the only acceptable bedding option for exhibitors. (02/2016) No sawdust or straw is permitted. Approved shavings are purchased at the discretion of the Swine Council and are billed accordingly. The council will invoice clubs and payment is due by the completion of fair weigh in. (01/2015, 01/2020, 11/2025)

Adult volunteers should not work in the show ring when an exhibitor who is an immediate family member is showing. If a volunteer is in the ring with a relative, then the volunteer will be asked to step out of the ring by a member of the Swine Council and should leave the ring immediately. (02/2014, 01/2022)

### **CLASS SIZE-MARKET AND SHOWMANSHIP**

Class sizes for showmanship and market classes will be split by draw by the Portage County Junior Fair Swine Council with a goal of an average of nine (9) hogs per class. The final drive of a class may be split in size according to the discretion of the subcommittee. (01/2020)

### **MARKET SHOW**

All market hogs must meet the weight limits set forth by the Swine Council. The lower weight limit for market hogs to be exhibited at the fair is 210 pounds. (11/2025) The upper weight limit for market hogs to be exhibited at the fair is 325 pounds. Any animals that do not meet the weight requirements will be ineligible and will be sent home immediately (01/2024).

The number of market classes and the number of hogs per class will be determined by the discretion of the Swine Council. (02/2013, 01/2020)

The judge will place five hogs of their choice in each market class. Market classes will be split by weight into divisions at the discretion of the subcommittee. (10/2004). The judge will place the top five hogs in each division. The class winners from each class within a division will come to the ring to be evaluated for division champion. As a hog is selected in the division final drive, the next placed hog from its class will be brought to the division final drive. This process will continue until the top five hogs in the division have been placed. If an exhibitor cannot be found to bring their hog into the final drive, the show will proceed without them based on the discretion of the Swine Council. (01/2010, 01/2020, 01/2022)

If exhibiting a registered breed hog, exhibitors have the opportunity to be entered into an additional breed class. Requirements:

This follows the 2-1-1 Rule.

Must Show in Market Class

Must be registered and a copy of registration papers given to Swine Council by completion of fair entry (11/2025).

Must be Entered into Fair Entry reflecting the breed.

These classes will take place after Market Divisions and prior to Final Market Drive.

Classes will be decided at Swine Council discretion. These winners will not be eligible for the overall final drive. (01/2025)

Only market hog divisional winners will return for the initial final drive for Grand Champion Market Hog. (10/2004). In the champion final drive, the judge will place five hogs. As a hog is selected in the champion final drive, the next hog from its division will be brought to the champion final drive. This process will be continued until the top five hogs overall have been placed or at the judge's discretion. (01/2015) If an exhibitor can not be found to bring their hog into the final drive, the show will proceed without them based on the discretion of the Swine Council. (01/2010, 01/2020, 01/2021).

## **SHOWMANSHIP**

All junior fair market swine exhibitors interested in competing will be required to sign-up via Fair Entry for participation in swine showmanship (10/2006, 01/2023).

Junior fair market swine exhibitors MUST show their own hog during the showmanship class. If the exhibitor has two hogs at the Fair, the exhibitor MUST show the same hog throughout the entire Swine Showmanship contest. (01/2020)

The winner of a division automatically advances to the next age division the following year. Exhibitors will compete in that division until they advance by age or by winning that division. For the 17 & 18 age division winners, they will go back to that division the following year. The Showman of Showmen Winner will fall into age division above the division they won in the previous year. Once they reach the 17 and 18 Aged Division they will remain here. (01/2025)

Class sizes within a division are split according to the discretion of the subcommittee. (01/2020)

All age divisions are based on the exhibitor's age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

NOVICE: 1<sup>st</sup> year exhibitors, this is a non-placing and noncompetitive class for educational purposes. (01/2023)

Remaining Classes will be broken down as follows by 4-H age:

- 8, 9, and 10
- 11 and 12
- 13 and 14
- 15 and 16
- 17 and 18

(01/2023)

## **SHOW OF SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST**

Exhibitors that will participate include:

1. Current year age division winners. (01/2023)
2. The Top 5 in each division will be pulled as winners are chosen.

## **SWINE CARCASS**

All junior fair swine participants are eligible for participation. All junior fair market swine exhibitors interested in competing will be required to sign-up for participation in swine carcass on 4-H online and Fair Entry during eligibility windows. (01/2023)

One carcass class entry per participant is allowed. Each carcass class participant must pay a \$10 carcass class fee to the Swine Council prior to unloading. (01/2024) All other fees are determined by the processor and are the responsibility of the exhibitor. (01/2024)

Hogs must be tagged by the junior fair swine identification (tagging) date (01/2021).

Tagged hogs are eligible for the live show at Portage County Randolph Fair.

Hogs must weigh between 230 and 325 pounds live weight (01/2026) to be eligible. In order to place in the carcass class, the carcass entry must make the rail. (01/2025)

To be eligible for carcass class, the junior fair carcass participant **MUST** exhibit a live hog at the Portage County Randolph Fair or they are ineligible to bring a carcass animal to the Fair the following year at discretion of the Swine Council. (01/2025)

Only Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion carcasses will sell at the Portage County Randolph Fair livestock auction. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion carcasses are sold as split carcasses. (01/2019) Champion carcass hogs are sold by carcass weight, not live weight. (01/2025)

Buyer pays processing fees for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion carcass hogs.

Barrows and gilts only are eligible. Cryptorchids and late castrations will be disqualified.

If the number of Carcass Entries through fair entry is greater than 60, hogs over and under the weight limit can be sent home by the Swine Council. In the event that this number is reached, the Swine Council will notify exhibitors prior to the event. (01/2026)

All hogs must be transported by designated haulers assigned by the Swine Council. (01/2020)

Hog placing will be according to the standards presented to the judge and agreed upon by the Swine Council.

(07/2007) Carcass Grading Standards:

Backfat –minimum of 0.50 inch (02/2013, 01/2019) to maximum of 1.00 inch.

Loin Eye Area – minimum measurement of 5.00 square inches

PSE – carcasses determined to be PSE per judge's discretion will be disqualified.

Custom processing instruction cards must be completed by the night of the carcass weigh in or the carcass will be processed according to standard cut instructions. (01/2012, 01/2019, 01/2025)

### **SKILL-A-THON (11/2011)**

The Swine Council will provide an educational opportunity for market swine exhibitors to increase their knowledge and understanding of the market swine project. This educational experience is usually held at the Fairgrounds on a date to be determined by the Swine Council (02/2017, 01/2020).

All age divisions are based on the exhibitor's age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year (01/2023).

**JUNIOR:** Up to and including those 11 years of age (02/2013)

INTERMEDIATE: 12 years to 14 years (02/2013)

SENIOR: Ages 15 and up (02/2013)

**SALE**

**Sale order (revised 11/2025): Wednesday**

Market Swine Grand Champion  
Market Swine Reserve Grand Champion  
Carcass Swine Grand Champion  
Carcass Swine Reserve Grand Champion  
Donated hog/hogs, if any are present  
Third Place Overall Market Hog  
Fourth Place Overall Market Hog  
Fifth Place Overall Market Hog (01/2021)  
Division Champions – lightweight to heavy  
Division Reserve Champions – lightweight to heavy  
Division Third Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Division Fourth Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Division Fifth Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Breed Champion (01/2025)  
Breed Reserve Champion (01/2025)  
Skill-a-Thon – Senior Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)  
Skill-a-Thon – Intermediate Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)  
Skill-a-Thon – Junior Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)

**Sale order (revised 11/2025): Saturday**

Market Swine Grand Champion  
Market Swine Reserve Grand Champion  
Carcass Swine Grand Champion  
Carcass Swine Reserve Grand Champion  
Donated hog/hogs, if any are present  
Overall Outstanding Market Exhibitor (OME)  
Showman of Showmen  
Third Place Overall Market Hog  
Fourth Place Overall Market Hog  
Fifth Place Overall Market Hog (01/2021)  
Division Champions – lightweight to heavy  
Division Reserve Champions – lightweight to heavy  
Division Third Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Division Fourth Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Division Fifth Places - lightweight to heavy (01/2024)  
Breed Champion (01/2025)  
Breed Reserve Champion (01/2025)  
Senior OME Winner  
Intermediated OME Winner  
Junior OME Winner  
Skill-a-Thon – Senior Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)

Skill-a-Thon – Intermediate Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)  
Skill-a-Thon – Junior Winner (02/2014, 02/2016)  
2nd Place Overall Showmanship  
3rd Place Overall Showmanship  
4th Place Overall Showmanship  
5th Place Overall Showmanship  
Remaining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Age Division Showmanship Winners, Oldest-> Youngest

Remaining order will be a lottery draw of family units starting with the oldest in the family. (01/2021)

### **Donated Hog**

A market hog may be donated by an exhibitor and their family to be sold through the Market Hog auction at Fair. The proceeds from the sale of the donated hog/hogs will go to the fund recommended by the donor and approved by the Swine Council and Sale Committee on an annual basis. (02/2022) The donated hog/hogs MUST follow all Fair procedures such as weigh-in but will not participate in the Market Show or Showmanship contests. (01/2022)

### **Purchased Hog Donated back by its Buyer (11/2011, 02/2018)**

Buyers at the market hog auction can choose to donate their purchased hog to one of the designated programs, scholarship, or clubs as outlined in the Market Livestock Auction rules. The buyer pays the full winning bid price for the hog. The hog will then be re-sold at the end of the auction and the money from the second sale price per pound goes to the program, scholarship, or club that the buyer designated. (02/2018)

### **Purchased Hog Donated to a Food Shelf or other charities (11/2011)**

Buyers who choose to donate the meat from their purchased hog to a Food Shelf or other charity pay the full winning bid price for the live hog. The buyer chooses the processor and is responsible for the processing fees. The buyer, processor and charity must make arrangements amongst themselves for the meat to be transported to its final destination.

### **OUTSTANDING MARKET EXHIBITOR (01/2012)**

The Swine Council will keep records and track each exhibitor's efforts to reward an exhibitor in each of the three age divisions (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) with an award of Outstanding Market Exhibitor (OME) and an Overall Outstanding Market Exhibitor for the one with the highest score. An exhibitor is eligible for the Outstanding Market Exhibitor award regardless of any previous winning of the award. An exhibitor's total score is the sum of their score in each of the three competitions described below. The Overall Outstanding Market Exhibitor award is given to the exhibitor with the highest total score. Each exhibitor earns their score based on the following point system. (01/2020)

### **Skill-a-thon – 80 points (02/2014, 02/2016)**

A written test to evaluate the exhibitor's knowledge of the swine project will be given to each exhibitor. The person scoring the highest will be given 60 points. Their actual score will be adjusted to equal 60 points. All other participants' scores will be adjusted by this same adjustment amount (example: top test score actual points = 55.  $60-55 = 5$ -point adjustment, which will be added to all scores).

Hands-on stations worth a total of 100 points will be set up on skill-a-thon night to test the exhibitor's knowledge and understanding of their market swine project. Each exhibitor's score will be pro-rated down to the maximum 20 points (total stations score x .20) which will then be added to the test score to achieve the 80 possible points. (02/2014)

**Showmanship contest – 100 points (01/2012) (01/2023)**

The hog shown by the exhibitor in the Showmanship contest will be designated as the OME hog. Only the points from its placing in Showmanship and Market classes will be used in the determination of the OME award. In order to be eligible for the OME award, the OME hog must be shown by the exhibitor in showmanship and market classes themselves. The exhibitor will receive their points from the age division contest according to the following schedule;

Age division placing

1 <sup>st</sup> place	100 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	95 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	90 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	85 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place	80 points

Age class ‘held’ exhibitors 75 points- that don’t place in division

All other participants-70 points

(Updated 01/2024)

**Market Hog Class (live placing) – 60 points (01/2012)**

The exhibitor will receive their points from their market class contest according to the following schedule;

Weight class placing	1 <sup>st</sup> place	60 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	58 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	55 points
	4 <sup>th</sup> place	51 points
	5 <sup>th</sup> place	46 points
	All others	40 points

**Tie Breaker**

The Swine Council will ask skillathon related questions of those exhibitors tied for first place after the showmanship judging in order for the Outstanding Market Exhibitor winners to be announced on the day of the swine showmanship show. (01/2023)