



**Title:** Exploring Swine Health and Husbandry

**Type of 4-H Material:** Group Curriculum; Information Sheets

**Grades:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (Ages 10-13)

**Format:** Project manual

**Category:** Science, Engineering, and Technology

**Focus Area:** Animal Science, Livestock

## Summary

The printed activities and information sheets included in the *Understanding Swine* curriculum are designed to help youth develop the requisite knowledge and skills associated with raising and showing beef cattle. Activities are youth centered and include opportunities for the application of knowledge and skills at three different levels of experience: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Each activity also includes background information and an easy-to-use template to help leaders facilitate guided inquiry. Life skills emphasized include: communication, cooperation, social skills, empathy, sharing, contributions to group effort, teamwork, disease prevention, learning to learn, decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, service learning, planning and organizing, wise use of resources, and record keeping.

Some of the topics youth will learn about through this curriculum include:

- bio-security risk assessment and mitigation strategies.
- budgeting decisions associated with raising and housing swine.
- dietary needs of pigs at different life stages.
- elements of swine conformation.
- pre-show preparation; showmanship; and judging.
- strategies for crossbreeding swine.
- ethical decision making in caring for and showing swine.
- tip-to-tail health assessments.

To purchase National 4-H Curriculum: [www.4-hmall.org/curriculum](http://www.4-hmall.org/curriculum)