



April 4th, 2024

Re: Swine Identification for Iowa County Fair

Dear Swine Project Members and Leaders,

Welcome to all new and existing swine exhibitors! It is that time of year when you will need to identify your animals to show at the fair. Enclosed you will find directions for identification as well as general swine project information.

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS:

To exhibit your pigs at the fair, every animal needs to first be “identified”. If pigs are not identified, you cannot enter them to be shown at the Iowa County Fair in August. NO exceptions!

We will again be using the RFID tag identification system. Every pig that is going to be identified for the show will need an electronic Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag. Superintendents will check ear notches and tag numbers with identification forms at fair check in. Please follow the steps below to correctly identify your animals.

Step 1: Request tags. Tags can be requested/purchased from the Iowa County Fair, a local veterinarian, Wisconsin State Fair, or a tag distributor. Wisconsin State Fair RFID tags are acceptable even if your animal wasn't exhibited at Wisconsin State Fair.

- Iowa County Fair has tags for purchase at \$3.00 per tag. If purchasing from the fair, request your tags by emailing, calling, or texting Morgan Worek **by May 3rd, 2024**.
 - Email: morgan.pittz@gmail.com Phone: 608-553-2196

Step 2: Obtain Tags. If purchased through the fair, you will need to pick up and pay for your tags on the date listed below. If you cannot make any of this time, please contact Morgan to make other arrangements or have tags mailed to you.

- **Saturday, May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Iowa County Fair Office in Mineral Point**

Step 3: Place RFID tag in pig's ear. Please see attached sheet for information on how to tag your animal. Note that it needs to be placed in the animal's right ear (if you are standing behind your animal). We have ear taggers available if needed.

Step 4: Take a rear-view full head picture showing the RFID tag (in the ear) AND the pig's ear notches. Then, fill out the Identification Form.

- If your animal loses its tag throughout the show season, please contact Morgan immediately for a replacement.

Step 5: Turn in all ID materials by May 20th, 2024.

- If your identification paperwork is not submitted by May 20th, 2024, you **will not** be able to exhibit at the Iowa County Fair.
- Mail or drop off all materials to the Iowa County Extension Office (address below) OR email them to morgan.pittz@gmail.com.



Iowa County Extension
Attn: Dan Brandt
303 W Chapel Street, Suite 1200
Dodgeville, WI 53533

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The swine show will still be a non-terminal show which requires animals to have a negative PEDv/PRRS test. There will be more information about testing in the coming months.

All show pigs will need to meet certain weight requirements. Show weight classes start at 230 lbs. with no upper weight limit. The minimum auction selling weight is 230 lbs. and maximum auction selling weight will be 285 lbs. If your animal exceeds this weight, it will still be allowed to sell, but the exhibitor will only be reimbursed for up to 285 lbs.

Youth will be allowed to sell **one animal** in the Iowa County Fair livestock auction.

WEIGH-IN: Swine weigh-in/ check-in for the fair will be held Wednesday, August 28th from 6:30- 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 29th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the swine barn.

SHOW DATE: Gilt show is Thursday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. Barrow show followed by showmanship on Friday, August 30th at 8:00 a.m.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN SWINE BARN:

Pee Wee Showmanship will follow the gilt show on Thursday, August 29th. It is open to youth who are too young to show in 4-H. We ask that participants be at least 3 years old. Interested kids should gather around the swine barn bleachers at the conclusion of the gilt show for directions.

Bacon Buddies will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 30th. This show gives individuals with disabilities a chance to show a pig with our youth swine exhibitors. More information to come.

RULE REMINDERS:

- **We ask that animals not enter the barn until fair check-in on Wednesday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m. We need to receive all health papers prior to animals entering the barn to ensure that animals are disease free and cleared by a veterinarian.**
- If your animal is not being sold in the auction, then you will have to provide your own transportation for that animal on Monday, September 2nd. Swine will no longer be able to get on the trailer provided by the fair due to liability reasons- even if it is going to the same packing plant.
- For animals that are not sold in the auction, the release time (dictated by the state of Wisconsin) is now 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 2nd.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Barrows AND gilts that were shown at the Wisconsin State Fair **WILL BE** allowed to exhibit at the Iowa County Fair in 2024.
- If you're planning to have a substitute show person, you must notify the superintendent in advance.



900 Fair Street- P.O. Box 92

Mineral Point, WI 53565

E: iowacountyfairwi@gmail.com

P: 608-987-3490

- The use of oils is no longer prohibited at the show.
- If a home born and raised pig wins the Overall Champion award, it is eligible to return to the ring to compete for the Home Born and Raised Champion.

PREMISE ID: All farms or locations that house animals in Wisconsin are required to have a Premise ID Number. If you do not have one, go to <https://wiid.org/premises-registration> to register. There is no cost associated. You will need this number for your entry form.

YQCA: ALL exhibitors showing either dairy, beef, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry at the Iowa County Fair are required to attend Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) either in person or online. This is required to exhibit at state fair also. You can complete the course online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/> or you can attend an in-person seminar- summer 2024 dates to be announced in the next 4-H newsletter.

- **FFA members-** You are responsible for notifying the Fair office to let them know when you complete YQCA. Your advisor will no longer be contacting the office to notify them. Please email iowacountyfair01@gmail.com or call 608-987-3490 to let them know of your certification.

More information will be sent out in the coming months regarding entries, health requirements, etc. If you have any questions or concerns about anything pertaining to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Morgan Worek at 608-553-2196 or Todd Schmitz at 608-444-0399.

Sincerely,

Todd Schmitz & Morgan Worek

Iowa County Fair Swine Superintendents