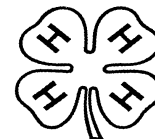


2025/2026 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK LITTLE BUDDY SWINE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS



1. **Age Requirement:** The 4-H Member must have reached their **5th birthday by January 1, 2026** to participate in the Little Buddy Swine Project.
2. **Eligibility to Sell Following Year:** 4-Her's must have achieved a B or better on their most recent market animal notebook if they are planning to sell animal the following year.
3. **4-H Enrollment Forms and Participation Fee:** 4-H'ers must have a completed 4-H Enrollment Form through <https://v2.4honline.com/>
4. **Registration Time Frame:** Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis at the MSU Extension Office on October 22, 2025. Applications may be submitted via email at wassonj3@msu.edu, fax (873-3710), mail or by dropping them off. The registrations will be dated and numbered as they are received. Little Buddy registration will end on June 1, 2026.
5. **Big Buddy Declaration:** Little Buddy participants should declare their Big Buddy 4-H'er on the application at the time of registration. If this pairing should change during the project, the MSU Extension Office must be notified. There will be a maximum of two (2) little buddy participants per big buddy participant. The Little Buddy will be expected to help care for and feed the hog as well as work with the Big Buddy to learn proper showmanship skills.
6. **Selling in the Small Animal Auction:** A 4-H Market Livestock member will be permitted to participate in the 4-H Small Animal Auction in project areas that are not filled. Upon completion of the registration process for those 4-H members participating in 4-H Small Market, Large market members may sign up during April 1—8th, 2026 for projects that are not currently filled. All guidelines for these Small Market Project related to animal weights, breeds, non-club points, buyers names etc. will apply. Limit to one (1) animal project.
7. **Notebook Requirements:** Each member must complete a **project notebook** documenting time and care spent with their animal. The notebook must include: **Table of contents** (in order), **appendices** for extra materials, a **mandatory "Journal of Care"** record. To qualify for next year's project, your notebook must earn a **"B" ribbon or better**. **Bring notebook at weigh-in**; failure to do so = **ineligible to sell** at the auction. Submit your notebook to the **4-H Exhibit Building by 5:00 p.m. on Entry Day**. **No edits** allowed after submission. If the fair is held virtually, notebooks must still be completed and submitted to your leader for **pass/fail** review.
8. **Potential Buyer's Names:** *For members age 7+ as of Jan 1, 2026*
Due Date: Submit in person to the Extension Office by **Friday, July 31, 2026**.
List must be **legible, complete**, and use the **provided notebook sheet** (not one name per page). **Must include for each buyer: Full mailing address** (with zip code), **contact person** and **phone number**.
Three (3) unique buyers required — different from siblings' lists.
Incomplete submissions will: Be returned for correction. **Returned mail due to incorrect addresses** is the 4-Her's responsibility. The Extension Office **will not verify** or correct addresses. Inaccurate addresses = **buyer removed from mailing list**. **Failure to submit a complete list = not eligible to sell** at the 2027 Market Livestock Sale.
Members age 5–6 are not required to submit a buyer list.
9. **Entry Day/Weigh-In:** Hogs must arrive and be placed in their assigned pens by 11:00 a.m. on Entry Day. **All animals must be washed prior to arriving and ear tags must be clean and visible**. All animals must be weighed at a central scale designated by the 4-H Market Livestock Committee or a designated weigh master. Weighing of hogs will begin following the weighing of all available lambs or no later than 11:15 a.m.
10. **Animal Care During Fair:** You and your Big Buddy are responsible for feeding, cleaning and removal of your animal until the end of the Fair. The 4-H Market Livestock Committee permits the use of sawdust (provided by the Fair Board) or kiln-dried wood shavings (you may provide) as bedding material. **NO STRAW PERMITTED! All pens/stalls must be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. each day the Fair is open**. Failure to comply with the rule can result in forfeiture of premiums, \$50.00 disciplinary charge from sale proceeds and/or a one year suspension of 4-H Market Livestock Project privileges. Borrowing of cleaning equipment should be done with permission granted by equipment owner. If your animal requires a veterinary exam during fair, the 4-H'er will be responsible for the cost of the vet service.
11. **Non-Club/Club Points:** Members must earn **9 total points** to sell a market animal:
6 points from club meetings,
1 point from a fairgrounds workbee (*max of 2 workbee points may count towards the non-club points*),
2 points from non-club 4-H events (must be on approved list or pre-approved by Extension Staff/Superintendents).
For events requiring **Extension Staff signatures**, you must fill in the **event name, location, and date**. **No signatures will be given on fair setup day or entry day**. **Failure to earn all 9 points = ineligible to bring a market animal to the fair**. *Project participants between the ages of 5-6 are required to earn six (6) club meeting points only. Non-club points are not required for this age group.*

12. **Showing Requirements:** All youth members between the ages of 5-7 must be assisted by either a parent, guardian, adult or older youth volunteer who is in the show ring or nearby. Special considerations may be granted by the 4-H Market Livestock Committee should a health issue conflict happen prior/or during the scheduled showing and selling times for the 4-Her. Pre-approval must be requested no later than 1 week before the fair. Failure to seek pre-approval may result in disqualification from the project. Considerations based on health issues may require a physician's letter of confirmation.
13. **Disciplinary Action:** If disciplinary action is warranted, the 4-H Market Livestock Committee reserves the right to impose one or more of the following actions: additional percentage deducted from 4-H'ers Animal Sale proceeds, suspension from 4-H Market Livestock Project areas and/or forfeiture of premiums.
14. **Rules/Requirements Acknowledgement:** By signing the 4-H Market Livestock Hog project application and being accepted into the project, indicates that you have read all the rules and requirements for the project in addition to the Oceana County Animal Project Code of Ethics and agree to abide by these rules.
15. **Issues/Complaint Process:** In questioning project rules or issues with your project you should contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) MSU Extension - 4-H Program Coordinator; 3) 4-H Market Livestock Committee. If you should have any issue related to your project during Fair, please contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) Leader will contact Barn Superintendent; 3) Barn Superintendent will contact Executive Committee of project area; 4) Executive Committee will contact Youth Council Members.
16. **Final Authority:** The 4-H Market Livestock Committee will be the final authority on all matters of concern and can grant exceptions to the above rules. They will consult with Youth Council if necessary.

Market Swine Project Dates

All deadlines are by 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

Market Swine Project Automatic Enrollment for returning members who meet requirements:

Tier 1 - 10/22/25 - 10/29/25 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook and sold at auction)

Tier 2 - 10/30/25 - 11/5/25 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook, but had extenuating circumstances such as did not make weight, age 8 and successfully completed previous year as a little buddy)

Tier 3- 11/08/2025 from 8:15 a.m.– 8:30 a.m. (new to the project, graduated High school or did not meet requirements) and 11/10/25- 06/01/26

4-H Small Market Animal Project Sign-Up—**Wednesday, April 1—Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

Pictures/Bred/Ear Tag Numbers - **Monday, June 1, 2026**

Little Buddy Registration Deadline - **Monday, June 1, 2026**

Replacement Request Deadline (death or special issue) - **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

Paperwork for Replacement Animal - **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**

Potential Buyer's Names - **Friday, July 31, 2026**

Written declaration of switch to "back-up" animal - **Monday, August 3, 2026**

Entry and Weigh-In at Fair - **Animals in pens no later than 11 a.m. Monday, August 24, 2026**

Notebooks - **Monday, August 24, 2026 at time animal is weighed and then entered in the Youth Exhibit Bldg. by 5:00 p.m.**

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