

Should I take a MARKET HOG as a 4-H project?

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- 12 square feet per animal in confinement

COMFORT ZONE

- 60-75° F for optimal performance

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 3 - 4 gallons per day

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 3 - 8 pounds of feed per day (amount increases as animal grows)
- Will gain from 1.5 – 2.3 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 3.2 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Should weigh 220 - 270 pounds when finished
- Should reach this weight at approximately 5 - 6 months of age

BUDGETING

- Approximate purchase cost is \$1.50/lb for 40 lb. pig (more for show pigs)
- Projected market price is \$ 0.64 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$ 120 and includes:
 - Corn
 - Soybean Meal
 - Salt & Mineral

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