



# DISCOVER



## 4-H Market Hog Project Equipment and Care

Joshua J Dallin, MS- USU Extension, Box Elder County

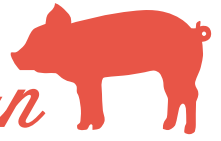


**EXTENSION**  
UtahStateUniversity

Have your Project Game Plan ready before you bring your Market Hogs Home!

---

# Project *Game Plan*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where do I plan to house my hog?

2. Does my location fit the requirements?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is there space to exercise my hog?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is water available?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does keeping my hog here comply with county and city ordinances?

3. What type of fencing will I use?

4. Where will I get my fencing? How much will it cost?

5. How will I get this fencing? How will I construct my pen?

6. What type of shelter will I provide for my hog? What will it cost?

7. What type of bedding will I provide for my hog?

8. Where will I get bedding? (feed store, local farmer, etc.) What will it cost?

9. What will I use as a feed trough? How will I get the feed trough and what will it cost?

10. Where will I get the grain? What is the cost per bag? What types of grain will I need as the hog grows?

11. Am I committed to feeding and watering my hog TWICE a day EVERY DAY?

## Below are essential equipment items that are needed to properly raise your hog:

- **Space**

Before purchasing a hog, make sure you have the space to raise one. The space you provide for your hog needs to be cool, dry, and draft free. You will also need space to exercise your hog. Be sure that keeping your hog in that space complies with all city or county ordinances.

- **Fencing/Panels**

Fences should be at least 48 inches high. When building a pen for your hog, it is important to be aware that dogs can be a danger. Consider selecting materials that will keep your hog in and also keep dogs out.

- **Shelter**

The shelter needs to keep the hog dry and provide it with shade during hot weather. It can be a barn, shed, or any type of structure that will cover the animal.

- **Bedding**

Sawdust, wood shavings, or straw can all serve as bedding for your hog.

- **Water**

When selecting the area for your pen, remember that your hog needs 2-3 pounds of water per pound of food it eats. You need to select a location that has fresh, clean water readily available. If you are using a bucket, the water will need to be changed daily. It might be best to install a constant source of water, like a nipple watering system.

- **Feed Trough**

You will need to make sure the feed trough is easily accessible and is also kept clean. Hogs will not eat dirty feed.

- **Feed**

Complete rationed show hog grain

Complete pelleted growing rations that range from 16-22 percent protein are adequate and easily accessible through many commercial feed companies. Check your local feed store. This type of ration can be fed to your hog until you market it.

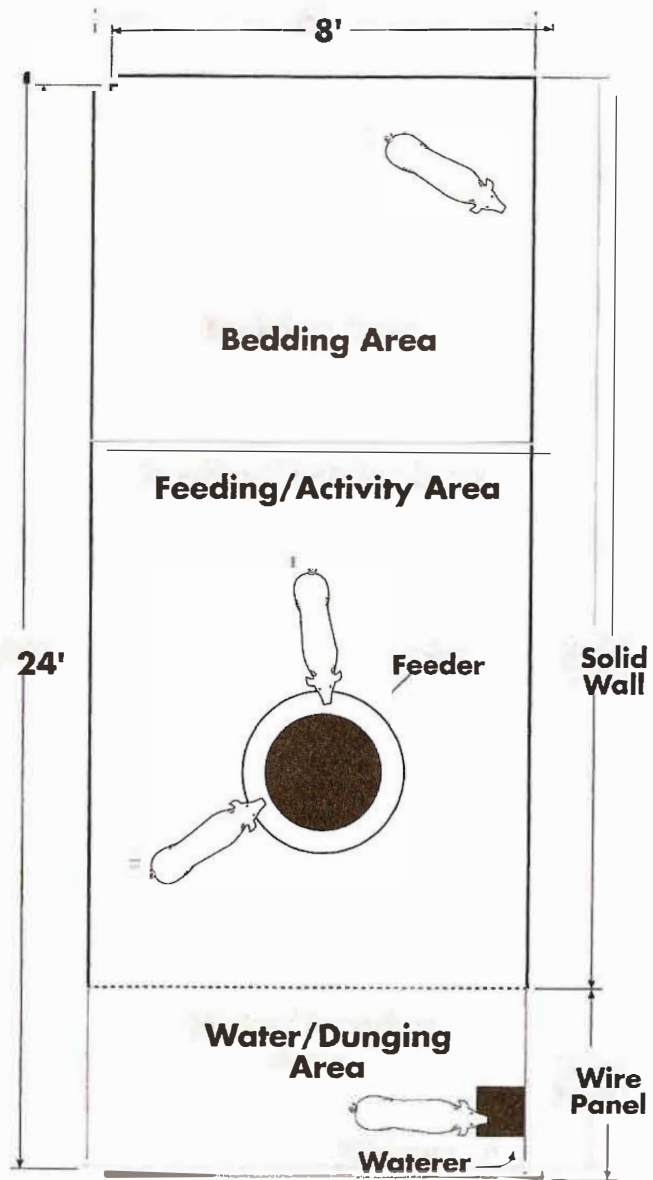
## Facilities

For optimal growth and performance, your pig needs adequate space. Proper facilities are relatively inexpensive and simple to set up. A good sized pen will be 6 feet by 12 feet. If possible, pens should be set up in a rectangular shape because pigs will “toilet train” there better than in square pens. A small 3-sided building with a sloped roof will make a good shelter for your pigs. Pigs need a shaded area, as pigs do not have sweat glands. The following is a list of other considerations for your project:

- The sleeping area needs to be cool in the summer and warm in the winter, it should also be dry and draft free.
- Bedding area should not be too large; otherwise pigs will use it as the manure area.
- Pigs need to have access to shade in the summer.
- Keep waterers clean and filled with fresh water.
- The ideal temperature for a growing pig is 60-75 degrees. Bedding can be used if the temperature falls below ideal. Water and ventilation can be used when the temperature is above ideal.

A diagram taken from the Ohio State University Swine Resource Handbook is shown on page 6.

## Example of Facility for 2-3 Market Pigs



Source: Ohio State University Swine Resource Handbook

***Fair Checklist:***

- Bedding for the pen, if it is not provided.
- Fair Book
- Extension Cords
- Whip or cane
- 2 sets of show clothing, in case you get one dirty
- Fan
- Feed trough
- Water Bucket
- Sprayer
- Pig board
- Grain
- Brush
- Hose and spray nozzle for washing
- Mild soap
- Pitchfork and broom
- Record Book
- Chairs
- Small clippers
- Small brush to use in show ring
- Wire, zip ties and duct tape (all three can serve many practical uses!)
- Health certificate and other necessary paperwork

***Remember to:***

- Keep your pens clean
- Keep your pigs clean
- Feed and water your pig regularly
- Make sure your pig isn't too hot. Looks for signs of heat stress like heavy breathing and panting
- Keep your area neat and tidy
- Give yourself plenty of time to prepare yourself and your pig for the show

## Appendix 5-PQA Plus 10 Good Production Practices



**PQA PLUS**  
Our Responsibility, Our Promise.

### 10 GOOD PRODUCTION PRACTICES

1



**GPP #1** Establish and implement an efficient and effective herd health management plan.

**GPP #6** Properly store, label, and account for all drug products and medicated feeds.



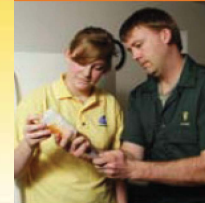
6

2



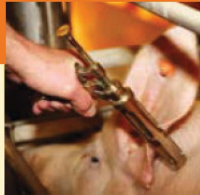
**GPP #2** Use a veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR) as the basis for medication decision-making.

**GPP #7** Educate all animal caretakers on proper administration techniques, needle-use procedures, observance of withdrawal times, and methods to avoid marketing adulterated products for human food.



7

3



**GPP #3** Use antibiotics responsibly.

**GPP #8** Follow appropriate on-farm feed processing and commercial feed processor procedures.



8

4



**GPP #4** Identify and track all treated animals.

**GPP #9** Develop, implement, and document an animal caretaker training program.



9

5



**GPP #5** Maintain medication and treatment records.

**GPP #10** Provide proper swine care to improve swine well-being.

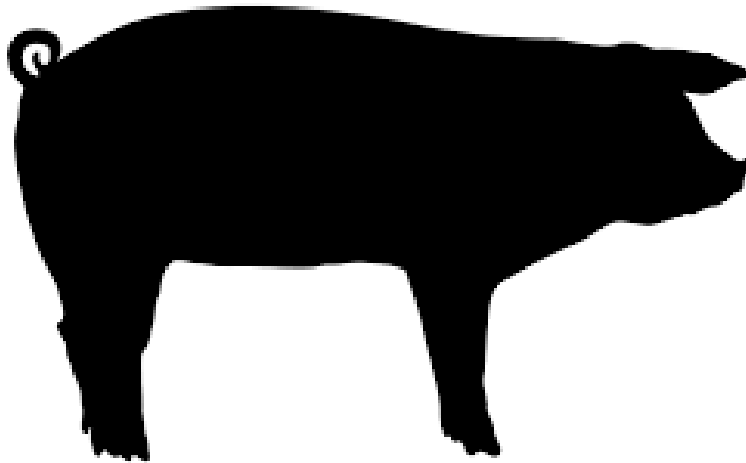


10

**It is very important that you medically treat your hogs properly. Make sure to follow all label and withdrawal times correctly for vaccines, antibiotics, and dewormers. If you have questions, make sure to talk with a veterinarian before administering medications.**



# Questions?



Please contact Joshua Dallin, USU Extension Agent:

I would be happy to help you with any of your project questions. You can reach me by email: [Joshua.Dallin@usu.edu](mailto:Joshua.Dallin@usu.edu) or phone 435-695-2545. I look forward to working with you and your project!