



Prepping Livestock for County Fair

# Swine Edition

## FAQs

### When do I get there?

Animals need to be in their pens by 9 AM on Wednesday, August 27

### Where do I put my animals?

Pens are assigned based on the entries received. A pen map will be shared via email and posted at the fairgrounds.

### How long do my animals have to stay?

Fair livestock are not released to be removed from the fairgrounds until Sunday, September 1st after all packer trucks are loaded. You are responsible for feeding and caring for your animal for the entirety of the fair.

### Where do I find the Jr. Livestock Rules?

Everyone should be familiar with the Jr. Livestock Rules. They can be found on the extension office website at [socorroextension.nmsu.edu](http://socorroextension.nmsu.edu)

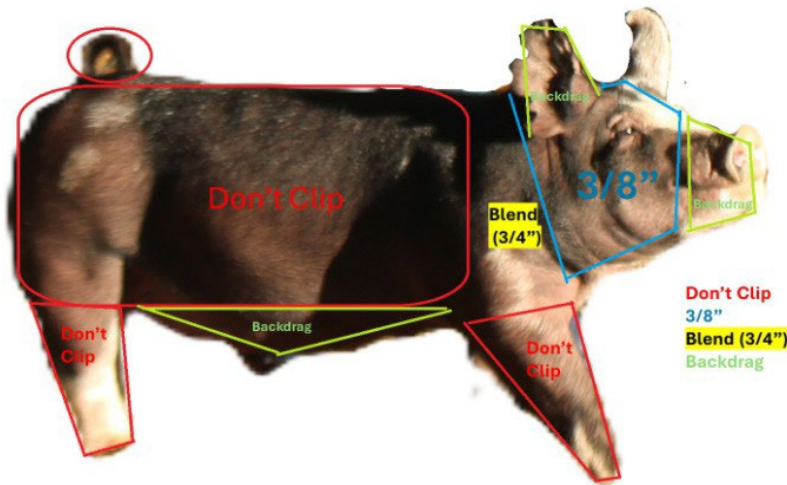


## What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair

- Ensure animal weights are on track - swine must weigh between 200 and 290 pounds at check-in. Out of weight animals will not get to show. If you need scales to weigh your animals contact the extension office.
- Have a plan for getting animals clipped - pigs need to have their hair clipped prior to the county fair. You can do this with clippers, a 10 blade, and various sizes of guards. If you plan to clip your own animals, be sure you order all equipment in plenty of time, sometimes things are hard to find here in Socorro. Plan to clip your pigs 2-4 days prior to arriving at the fair. Training your pigs to getting used to your clippers is important! Once pigs are comfortable you can typically clip them while laying down or eating. Pigs that will not stand still can be snared. If you would like assistance in clipping your pigs, let the extension office know by August 8, 2025 to be added to the schedule. If you want to purchase clipping equipment here are some links to what we recommend:
  - Clippers - cordless varieties available
  - Clipper blades
  - Clipper Blade Guards

# What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair (continued)

- Here is a guide on what to clip and at what length (using a 10 blade with a the corresponding guard; backdragging is done by flipping the blade over and going with the hair):



- Practice showmanship and ensure you have the necessary equipment - showmanship is one of the single most important aspects to project success at the fair. Be sure you are practicing showmanship with your animals daily and that you have all of the necessary equipment (pig whips and brushes) on hand. You want to practice with these prior to getting to the fair.
- All livestock projects must be entered for the Socorro County Fair. Entries are completed online and do carry a cost. Entries will open August 1 and can be done by visiting [socorro.fairentry.com](http://socorro.fairentry.com). Entries must be completed by 10:59 PM on August 15, 2025.

## At the Fair

- What to take - you should pack everything you will need to feed your pig, groom your pig, show your pig, and help them look their best! Keep in mind the only thing that is provided to you is a pen. That means you need to bring feed pans, watering pans, buckets, feed, any supplements you are using or plan to use, a hose, soap, conditioners, towels, brushes, pig whips, etc.
- What should I expect during the show? - when your animal is checked in on Wednesday morning, your animal will be weighed and classified. Classification is a process in which an official will decide the breed of your pig. Your pig will then be placed in a class with other pigs of similar breeds and weights. The classes will be posted prior to the pig show so you know when your pig(s) will be entering the show ring. During the class immediately prior to yours, you may take your pig from its pen to the washracks where you can wash it and ensure it is ready to enter the show ring. Your class will be called from the washracks to the showing holding area. Once your class begins, pigs will enter the showing one at a time until all the pigs from your class are in the ring. Keep in mind if you win your class, you may need to come back to the showing for a breed drive (chooses best of breed). All breed champions will return to the showing at the very end for selection of the grand and reserve grand champion.
- What if I make the sale? - at the conclusion of all the market shows (Friday after the pig show), fair officials will determine animals eligible for the sale based on class sizes and class placings. Check with officials to see if your animal has made the sale (animals below 6th place are not sale eligible. If you make the sale, you can make the

## At the fair (continued)

decision to either sell your animal or pull your animal from the sale (if you want to take it on for further fairs). The Jr. Livestock Sale will happen at 3 PM on Saturday, August 30. You will need to complete and turn in a thank you note and exhibitor bio before noon on Saturday (look for the table next to the show ring). A sale order will be posted and your animal will enter the ring to be sold when it is its turn. After sale of the animal, your photo will be taken at the backdrop. Animals will be loaded on their respective trailers to be taken away on Sunday morning.

- What if I don't make the sale? - if you don't make the sale, your animal will remain yours and you may do what you please with them. We suggest trying to sell your animal directly to a buyer. If you find a buyer who would like to buy your animal and wants them to be processed, you can arrange for you animal to go on the meat packer trucks on Sunday morning. Be aware that the fair is not responsible for the handling of any animals that are sold outside of the sale. You will need to work with your buyer to pay the packer processing fee, etc.

## Final Tips for Success

1. Familiarize yourself with the Jr. Livestock Rules located on the [socorroextension.nmsu.edu](http://socorroextension.nmsu.edu) website under Socorro County Fair
2. Ask for help if you need it! Many experienced families are willing to help others and the extension office is always a resource for you. If you need help or have questions, please reach out to us.
3. Youtube and feed company websites such as showright, sure champ, etc. have great resources on how to clip, train, and show your pigs.
4. HAVE FUN! This is a learning experience that should be fun for your whole family. The 4-H Livestock Project imparts many amazing skills into the youth who participate, so please work together as a family and enjoy all the work you have put into your animals.
5. Sportsmanship is key. Please remember that no matter if you win or lose, you have accomplished a great deal by getting an animal to the fair and getting it shown. Cheer on your friends and enjoy your own successes.



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**College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences**  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Socorro County Extension Office

## Contact Us

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