

Sonora High School
Agriculture
Market Swine Project
Parent Manual



The Sonora Market Swine Project is designed to teach the practical elements of raising pigs to show and sell at the Orange County Fair in July.

The pigs arrive in mid April and are the responsibility of the student until the pig is sold. The responsibilities include; cleaning the pen, feeding & cleaning the pig, farm chores and learning how to show the pig. These activities are in addition to regular classes, after school meetings and fundraisers.

***ONCE A STUDENT HAS RECEIVED AN ANIMAL IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY! IF THEIR ANIMAL IS NEGLECTED, THE PIG WILL BE REMOVED FROM THEIR CARE. THE STUDENT WILL STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF THE PIG.**

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

There are some costs associated with the Market Swine Project. These include (all costs are approximated based on last year's program) Costs are paid before receiving the pig, unless noted.

Pig	200.00 (Purchase Price)
Feed	150.00 (Over the length of the project) (Feed paid at the end, after auction)
Insurance	11.00 (Start-up)

Students are also responsible for supplying shavings for the pig boxes while the temperatures are still cool in the evenings. Shavings need to be changed every few days.

Show Uniform

White Pants	30.00
White Polo Shirt	15.00
Jacket	80.00 (optional)
Tie/Scarf	15.00 (optional)

Note:

Sonora can loan jackets, ties and scarves when needed. The purchased jackets have student's names on them. If your student will be continuing in agriculture/FFA a purchased jacket is a good idea. The jackets can be purchased through a teacher in the department or on the FFA website, but allow 6 weeks for delivery.

FUNDRAISERS

There are four fundraisers during the school year. These are poinsettias, the pig raffle, a

car show and a golf tournament. These fundraisers are designed to raise money to help purchase animals at the Orange County Fair. It is strongly recommended that all students take an active role in all fundraisers in the event that the auction buyers do not hold out until the end of the sale.

ADD-ONS

Students can also obtain addition funding through "add-ons" to collect the monies they collect. Add-on funds are donations from relatives, friends and/or businesses. The funds are tax deductible. Students are given a sponsor sheet to record the names, addresses and amounts of the add-on donations. Add-on funds are collected around the end of the school year and turned in to the Ag department. The students will receive the sponsor sheet and receipt book the last week of school.

DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES

Once the pigs have arrived they must be cared for daily. The pigs are kept 2 in a pen. The pens need to be cleaned every day. The pigs must be fed 2 times a day. No water after 3:30 p.m. to reduce the risk of sickness. The pigs need to be washed down daily. (Some days with shampoo) The students whose pigs share a pen can share these duties. (One student cares for the pigs before school; the other student comes after school.) The pigs have to be cared for on weekends and holidays.

Each student is responsible for training his/her pig for showing at the fair. This includes taking the pig out of the pen and training it to walk and respond to a show stick/cane. Training needs to occur 3 or 4 times a week. As the fair date gets closer pigs need to be handled everyday.

Supplies to make the day-to-day activities easier:

- Shampoo (something cheap is ok)
- Show stick (or cane)
- Boots or old shoes worn when cleaning pens

Students received a record book at the beginning of the school year which they are expected to maintain through out the year The record book includes:

- Calendar of Activities
- Budget
- Business Agreement
- Journal of Financial Activities
- Record of FFA Activities.

The record book is a requirement of the Agricultural Education program in the state of California.

THE FAIR

The pig will be auctioned off at the Orange County Fair, during the week of July 10-16. There will be a packet of information sent home with event schedules and work details in

the middle of May. All students must be at the fair everyday, sometimes all day. There are mandatory times, such as showmanship, and the auction itself. The Fair is the final activity in the Market Swine Project and is pretty exciting! All of the other schools in Orange County participating in FFA will be there as well as a number of 4-H Chapters.

There are many pigs auctioned at the fair. The ones that place highest in front of the judge go first, and bring a higher price per pound than pigs that are auctioned later. **HAVING A BUYER IN ADVANCE OF THE AUCTION FOR YOUR STUDENTS PIG WILL HELP INCREASE YOUR STUDENTS PROFIT!** Again it is strongly encouraged that all students participate in fundraising activities to increase the likelihood of someone will purchase their pig at the fair.

Once the pigs are auctioned, the buyers will make processing arrangements. Mr. Hunt or Mr. Pacia can help with additional information regarding the auction and processing.

Checks from the auction are typically sent to Sonora 2-4 weeks after the fair. They include monies from the sale of the pig as well as add-ons. Some add-ons are donated the week of the fair. There will be a list generated of those add-ons for the students. Before the checks can be distributed the following conditions must be met:

- 1) Thank you letters for all add-ons must be written. The addressed and stamped envelopes must be turned in to the teachers for mailing.
- 2) The completed record book is turned in to the teachers.
- 3) Payment is completed on the feed account.

All listed information will be posted and updated on the chapter web page, which is (www.sonoraffa.org)



The agriculture program at Sonora follows the guidelines of the National FFA Organization. The student participating becomes a member of FFA and has many opportunities as part of the membership.

The National FFA Organization started as the FFA (Future Farmers of America) in 1928. The Federal government granted it a charter in 1950 making it a part of public agriculture instruction. In 1988 the name changed to the National FFA Organization. There are over 490,000 members around the country.

The FFA Motto:

Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve

The agricultural education program at Sonora is based on 3 core areas:

Classroom/Laboratory Instruction
Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs
FFA Student Activities

The classroom/lab instruction is a part of the course work students take as a part of their high school education. These classes typically count towards the science requirements for graduation/college.

The supervised agriculture experience programs which may include raising and selling of the pig, projects around the Sonora farm and participation in other events, such as observing animal treatments, births, etc.

FFA student activities are usually after school meetings. The primary goal of the FFA is to develop leadership skills. There are also Orange Section FFA meetings as well. The Section meetings can include public speaking opportunities and exposure to parliamentary procedure and many other career development activities.

There are many well-known people in FFA including Don Henley (from the Eagles), Lyle Lovett, Tim McGraw, Willie Nelson, Jimmy Carter, and Jared Hess (writer/director of "Napoleon Dynamite")

For more information please visit the FFA Website (www.ffa.com) which explains about careers, and college opportunities.