



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION



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TO: Potential Grady Co. 4-H Market Hog Show Participants  
FR: Lisa Pollock, Grady County CEC/4-H  
John Sodrel, Grady County 4-H PA  
RE: Show Pig Buying Tips



August 29, 2024

Dear Parents and 4-H'ers:

I'm writing to let you know that it is time to start looking for pigs for the **2025 Grady County 4-H/FFA Market Hog Show**. The show is scheduled for **Monday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00am** with the boosted sale being held **Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:00pm** due to the NACAA Football National Championship game being played the evening of January 20<sup>th</sup>. Weigh-in will still be held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 3:00pm.

*\*\*The Livestock Show Committee voted to allow students in grades 1 - 12 to show in the County Hog Show starting in 2025.* Students in Kindergarten and below can borrow a pig and participate in a Pee Wee Showmanship class. Students still have to be in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to exhibit cattle, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up to show sheep and goats.

The Livestock Show Committee approved the official **ownership, possession, weigh, & tag-in deadline** for the 2025 show is **Monday, November 11, 2024**. What this means is that by November 11<sup>th</sup> you must have ownership/possession of your pig(s) and either myself, Mrs. Robbie, Mr. Alan, Ms. Erin, or Ms. Tara must have tagged your pig(s) at your home or where ever you are keeping your animals.

The situation with getting the pigs sold after the show hasn't changed; as a matter of fact it is becoming more difficult. Our options are limited and buyers only want to pay #1 price for pigs weighing 230 – 290 pounds.

One step to help ensure your pig(s) will be heavy enough on January 20<sup>th</sup> is to make sure your pigs are heavy enough when you purchase them. I've included a chart listing a few weight guidelines to go by when purchasing your pigs, assuming you are shooting for a 230+ pound or heavier pig. (The official show weight range this year is 215–290 pounds.)

<u>Date of Purchase</u>	<u>Days till Show ADG</u>	<u>Minimum Wt. to Buy</u>	
September 1	140	1.5 lbs/day	20 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	- lbs.
September 15	125	1.5 lbs/day	42 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	11 lbs.
October 1	105	1.5 lbs/day	65 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	37 lbs.
October 15	95	1.5 lbs/day	87 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	63 lbs.
November 1	79	1.5 lbs/day	111 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	91 lbs.
November 11	68	1.5 lbs/day	128 lbs.
		1.75 lbs/day	111 lbs.

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What this chart is telling you is that by **November 11<sup>th</sup>** your pigs need to weigh a minimum of 128 pounds (at 1.5 lbs./day ADG) in order to make the minimum "suggested" show weight of 230 pounds on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pig's Birthdate:** A pig's birthdate can also be a deciding factor if it will make show weight. Today, judges want pigs that have that "mature, blown-out" look. To get that "mature" look judges are wanting, you may want to consider purchasing pigs that are a little older than what you may be used to purchasing; pigs possibly born mid-June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. But be aware if you purchase pigs this old, you will have to monitor their weight closely and probably have to hold them towards the end of the growing season.

**Other factors to consider:**

- Keep your pigs healthy – listen for coughing, watch for signs of your pig limping, de-worm your pig monthly during the growing season
- Keep your pigs warm and dry during the cold winter months
- Keep plenty of fresh water in front of your pig at all times
- Make sure your pig has access to the correct amount of fresh, high quality show pig feed. According to your pig's body type, this feed could range in protein levels from 16% to 18%.
- Call me to check your pig's weight a couple of times during the growing season. We can use the scales to track your pig's progress.

If you need assistance locating your pigs, please let me know ASAP. Mr. Deron is still available to help locate and select your show pig. If you are locating your own pigs, local breeders you can contact are:

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Website</u>
Garry Childs	229-378-0749	Cairo	
Southern Select Show Pigs	386-688-3741	Omega	<a href="http://www.southernselect.com/">http://www.southernselect.com/</a>
Frank Morgan	229-938-5334	Vienna	
Bryant Oliver	334-534-6690	Reidsville	
Southern Pride Show Pigs	912-539-0299	Alamo	
Bruce Herndon	912-293-4088	Swainsboro	
K and H Show Pigs	229-424-5649	Ocilla	Check them out on Facebook
Lyons Show Pigs	386-647-7696	Mayo, FL	lyonsshowpigs.com
Matt Barnes	229-319-1100	Sale City	

<u>County Grown Eligible Pigs</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Location</u>
Donnie Turner &	229-224-3235	
Jeremy Jones	229-327-4487	Cairo

**County Grown Eligibility:** The Livestock Show Committee voted to transition the "Homegrown" division into a "County Grown" division. That means any litter of pigs that were born & raised in Grady County are eligible for the County Grown class. It simply means more opportunities for pigs born & raised within the county. If your pig was born & raised in Grady County, please make your 4-H Agent or FFA Advisor aware of this at tag-in.

**Double-entering pigs for County & State Show:** This year, you will again be able to double-enter a pig for our County Show and the State Show. You will be allowed to take your double-entered pig home after the County show, have it blood tested, and then take the same pig to the State Show in Perry the February 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. This way you can participate in the State Show without technically having to purchase a second set of pigs. It is suggested that pigs weigh below 250 pounds at the County show in order to make weight a month later at the State Show without having to severely hold them off feed.

If you know of someone new who wants to show this year, please pass this information on to them or give me a call and let me know who they are so I can do so. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 377-1312.