



Learn About This...

Looking for new ways to grow your BEEF, SHEEP, or SWINE project knowledge? Need inspired ideas for a captivating talk/demonstration topic or an attention-getting animal science exhibit? Explore something NEW about your project this year! Choose a topic from the list below, or generate your own!

General Topics

- How **smart** is my project species compared to others? What does research say? Can they learn tricks?
- How much can my animals remember? Do researchers think they have the **ability to plan**?
- Do my animals see **in full color**?
- How do my animals compare to other species when it comes to **caring for their young**?
- What are some **amazing facts** about my project animal species?
- What unexpected household items are **byproducts** of my project animal species?
- What **Guinness Book records** have been set by my project animal species? Biggest? Smallest? Oldest? Most Famous?
- What country *grows* the most animals of my project species? *Consumes* the most?
- How has my animal project species, and breed, changed over the years?
- When it comes to my project species, **how much space** is needed per animal?
- What jobs exist related to my project animal species? Which is most interesting to me?
- What groups or organizations advocate for my project animal species?



Beef Topics

- What are the **parts** of a beef cow?
- What are the differences between beef cows and dairy cows?
- Which three beef breeds most intrigue me? Why?
- What makes a **ruminant** animal special? How are their needs different from other animals?
- What is the difference between a **primal cut** and a **retail cut** of meat?
- Which retail cuts sell at the highest prices? Why?
- What's on the label of a package of fresh meat? What does it all mean?
- What should I look for when **selecting a high-quality beef animal**?
- What are the **dietary needs** of my beef animals? How does that change as they mature?
- What **health practices** should I follow to keep my beef animals healthy?



- How do *my* show skills compare to top showmen? What can I work on to **become a better showman**?
- How should I best prepare my beef animals **for the show ring**? When should I begin?
- How do beef operations vary?
- What are the best practices for **caring for newborn calves**?
- How much money is needed to start a BEEF project? How much money will I need to **budget** for my project this year?

Beef Service Ideas

- Provide beef to a homeless shelter.
- Prepare a beef dish or appetizer for a 4-H volunteer event.
- Volunteer to help a neighbor with his or her beef operation.
- Help fellow members with barn duties or animal prep at the fair.
- Help at the county Beef Project Steak Cookout.
- Take your animal to a farm day event to teach others about beef.



Sheep Topics

- What are the **parts** of a market lamb?
- What breeds classify as **wool, meat, dairy, and dual-purpose** sheep?
- Which three sheep breeds most intrigue me? Why?
- Why makes **ruminant** animals special? How are their needs different from other animals?
- Which retail cuts of meat sell at the **highest prices**? Why?
- What types of **recipes** are various cuts of meat best suited for?
- What's on the label of a package of fresh meat? What does it all mean?
- What should I look for when **selecting a high-quality breeding animal**?
- What are the **dietary needs** of sheep at various life stages?
- What **health practices** should I follow to keep my sheep healthy?
- How do my show skills compare to top showmen? What can I work on to **be a better showman**?
- How should I best prepare my sheep **for the show ring**? When should I begin?
- How do **sheep operations** vary?
- What are the best practices for **caring for newborn lambs**?
- How much money is needed to start a SHEEP project? How much money will I need to **budget** for my project this year?

Sheep Service Ideas

- Provide lamb to a homeless shelter.
- Prepare a lamb dish or appetizer for a 4-H volunteer event.
- Volunteer to help a neighbor with his or her sheep operation.



- Help fellow members with barn duties or animal prep at the fair.
- Take an animal to a farm day event to teach others about the sheep industry.
- Make a craft with wool for distribution at a nursing home or assisted living facility.



Swine Topics

- What are the **parts** of a live hog?
- What should I look for when **selecting a high-quality pig**?
- What are the **wholesale** and **retail cuts** of a hog?
- Which retail cuts sell at the **highest prices**? Why?
- What are the **dietary needs** of my pigs? How does that change as they mature?
- What **health practices** should I follow to keep my pigs healthy?
- How do my show skills compare to top showmen? What can I work on to **be a better showman**?
- How should I best prepare my pigs **for the show ring**? When should I begin?
- How are hogs **processed**?
- How do **farrowing operations** differ?
- What are the best practices for **caring for newborn piglets**?
- How much money is needed to start a SWINE project? How much money will I need to **budget** for my project this year?

Swine Service Ideas

- Provide pork to a homeless shelter.
- Prepare a ham dish or appetizer for a 4-H volunteer event.
- Volunteer to help a neighbor with his or her swine operation.
- Help fellow members with barn duties or animal prep at the fair.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair Pork Chop Dinner.

Youth Project Leader Opportunities



- Enroll as a Youth Project Leader in your project; ask the UW-Extension office how you can help.
- Plan and lead a workshop or workshop series for younger members on a project topic that interests you!
- Coordinate a tour of a farm, meat processing facility, wool mill, or other location to help other members learn more about the project area.
- Help with county DNA envelope and tag sales for your project species.
- Assist with county weigh-in.
- Act as a species “Ambassador” during fair week, answering questions and welcoming barn visitors.
- Teach a class at the county *4-H Ag Technology Day* event.
- Give a presentation about your project animals for a classroom of young students.