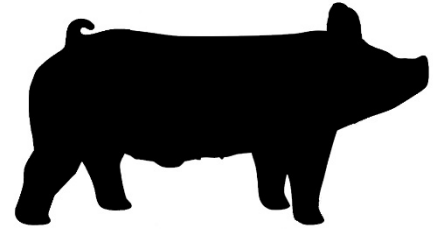


# Market Hog 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

## Show Breaking Calendar and Technique



- Early to mid-July
  - Start getting pigs outside
  - Let them explore their surroundings
  - Usually 5-10 minutes
  - Let the pigs 'direct' their own walk
  - Can be brought outside in groups or pairs
  - This is just a start of getting them out of the pen and used to walking with you
  - Can start out at just a couple of days a week
  - Allow them to get comfortable with you, your showing tool (pipe, whip, etc.), and the walk
- Second Week of August
  - Start walking the pigs longer and more often to start building endurance
  - Work the pigs up to about 20 minutes per walk
  - Make sure you let the pigs know you are in charge when you are walking them
    - The pigs need to go where you want them to go – establishes you as the leader and in control of the walks
- Fourth Week of August
  - Walk the pigs every day - individually
  - Practice showing to parents, siblings, or even a tree!
  - Work up to 30+ minutes of walking to build endurance
    - Walking the pigs for longer amounts of time allows them to prepare for the show
    - The pigs are like marathon runners, and you have to train them to build up endurance and prepare for their 'race' (the show)
- Two weeks before show
  - Continue working on endurance and practicing showing to parents/siblings/tree/etc.
    - Pigs need to be walking 40-45 minutes a day
      - Can be broken into two walks if you wish – one in the morning and one in the evening

## Showmanship Summary

- Preparing for Showmanship
  - Make sure your pig is clean and ready to go
  - Make sure you are professionally presented
    - Collared shirt tucked in, long jeans, close toed shoes, belt
  - Be sure to watch the classes before you
    - Observe what the judge is looking for, and watch what older/more experienced showman are doing
- Going to the ring
  - Listen for your class – you don't ever want to be late!!!
  - Entry Pens/Makeup Area
    - Calmly walk your pig up to the show ring

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- Don't fight other exhibitors for an entry pen, be patient and calm – your pig can sense it
  - The judge is always watching – even when you're in the entry pens!
- Keep your eyes on the judge while in the holding pen
- In the Ring
  - As you enter, be sure to make solid eye contact with the judge
  - Stay away from the entry pens once you enter, so you are out of the way of the other showmen still coming into the class
  - Always keep your pig between the you and the judge as you show
  - Look between your pig and the judge as you show
    - Don't want to stare at the judge and lose your pig, so find a nice balance
    - The judge may motion you to go to a pen, so you need to be aware and watching
  - Be aware of your surroundings
    - Don't cut another exhibitor off
    - Keep an eye out for corners so you can turn the pig away before you get to one

### Exercise

- Walking vs. Driving Your Pig
  - Walking
    - Walking is best used in the early stages of breaking your pig
    - During this, your pig is directing the walk and you are following
    - This usually occurs when there are two or more pigs out walking at once
    - Pig is in charge
  - Driving
    - Necessary in the mid to end stage in the breaking/fair prep process
    - You are in charge
      - The pig walks where you want it to walk
    - You are showing the pig like it is in the show ring at all times
      - This allows the pig to know that when it goes out for a walk that you mean business and it is not play time. Helps when you take it into the show ring, because the pig knows it's job and knows you are the boss.
  - 15-20 Minutes of Drive Time > 40 Minutes of Walking Time

### Grooming/Fitting

- In order for your pig's skin and hair to look good in the ring at the fair, you need to begin prepping it in the weeks and months before
  - As the fair gets closer, you will want to wash your pig to keep its' body and hair fresh and clean
    - Start washing your pig at the end of July or early August

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- Can use a variety of products to wash your pig; some possibilities listed below:
  - Sullivan Supply's Samurai Show Pig Soap
  - Weaver's Mild Foam Shampoo
  - Bright Lights or Whitening Shampoo, from Sullivan Supply and Weaver, respectively
    - Be extra careful with this because if you leave the soap on for too long the pig (if white) can turn purple. It would be a good idea to water the soap down, and just be sure to be quick and timely if you choose to use
  - Dish soap
    - Dish soap is also an option to wash your pig, but it can cause dry skin so be sure to keep a close eye on them if you choose this option.
  - If you wish, you can also use skin conditioners or oils to help keep the pig's skin and hair fresh and healthy
    - There are a variety of products to choose from, including some of the following:
      - Champion's Choice from Sullivan Supply
      - Smolder from Sullivan Supply
      - Swine Conditioner and Shine from Weaver Leather Livestock
      - Swine Conditioning Spray from Weaver Leather Livestock
    - Brushing your pig will also be an essential part of upkeep for the pig's skin and hair. This will help get rid of dead skin and hair, and also helps train the pig's hair to lie where you want it to
- Clipping is allowed
  - Your pig must have a measurable  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of body hair, underline included. The ears and tail may be a shorter length.
    - Use a guard on your clippers to ensure the correct length. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch guard,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch guard, or even a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch guard will work
  - Plan to clip your pig 4 – 6 days prior to showing. This allows you to continue to condition and brush the skin and hair after clipping to keep it trained and laying in the right place

### Finish

- As you near the fair, your hog may need a little more fat cover or need to burn some fat off
  - If the hog is too skinny, there are a variety of supplements that you can give your pig to try to put some extra cover on
    - These feeds will need to be lower protein with a higher fat content
    - A few options:
      - *Purina's* High Octane
      - *Purina's* Power Fuel
      - *Show-Rite* Fat-N-Fluffy
      - *Sunglo* LiquaFat
      - *Sunglo* Game On
      - *Sunglo* Sumo
      - *MoorMan's* MoorFat

## Market Hog 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

- If you are struggling with your hog needing to burn some fat off, you need to find a feed with a high level of protein to burn off the extra cover
  - A few options include:
    - Read up on Paylean (ractopamine) before giving it to your pig- Delaware County Fair is a ractopamine free fair
      - <https://www.purinamills.com/show-feed/education/detail/paylean-for-show-pigs>
    - *Purina* High Octane Champion Drive Topdress
    - *Purina* High Octane Fitter 35 Topdress
    - *Purina* High Octane Showpig Paylean 900 Medicated Supplement
      - \*\*\*\*be especially careful- read the label and do not exceed the mixing directions
      - Follow the directions for use very carefully (legal levels 4.5 to 9 grams per ton of complete feed)
    - *Show-Rite* Rite Muscle
    - *Show-Rite* M-n-M Topdress (Muscle-in-Motion)
    - *Lindner* 613 (contains Paylean – see above comments)
    - *Sunglo* Star-Glo
    - *Sunglo* Explode (contains Paylean – see above comment)