



March 10, 2026

Dear Junior Fair Market Swine Exhibitors,

This information is about identifying your market swine animals for the 2026 Mercer County Junior Fair. If you are a new family to this program, please know that identification of these animals is a mandatory requirement.

Animal Identification Rule

Each exhibitor will be allowed a maximum of 5 animals for identification. Families do not need to designate animals with specific member names. All animals will be identified under a family name. The family name/unit is composed of legal siblings (brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters).

For example: The “Clover” Family has 3 children - they could tag up to 15 hogs for their family (3 children times 5 hogs).

An exhibitor may show any of the family identified animals at the county fair. Member’s will identify what animal(s) for the county fair on Fair Entry in July before Livestock judging. Please note that an exhibitor may bring a maximum of 3 hogs of which 1 hog must be a purebred hog. Possible combinations: An exhibitor may bring 2 crossbred hogs and 1 purebred hog or may bring 1 crossbred hog and 2 purebred hogs or may bring 3 purebred hogs.

Identification Process

In 2026, there are two options for completing swine identification

1. **County Tags:** After **April 1st** and before your appointment with the veterinarian, you will need to pick up paperwork and tags from the OSU Extension Office. We encourage you to call or email ahead of time so that we can have your tags ready for you.

OR

2. **RFID 840 Tags:** If your market swine has an official ear tag that is visually and electronically readable (ex: RFID 840), exhibitors can use that for identification. Exhibitors still must obtain official paperwork and signature by licensed veterinarian by May 29th. The Veterinarian is responsible for verifying the tags are in place and swine is identified.

The deadline to return completed paperwork to the Extension Office is May 29th at 4:00 PM.

Animals are to be tagged by a Mercer County DVM at the expense of the exhibitor (see list below for veterinarians who have been sent information concerning this procedure).

Coldwater Animal Clinic	110 Harvest Drive	Coldwater	678-4071
Ft. Recovery Veterinary Center	119 State Route 119	Ft. Recovery	375-2684
Celina Animal Hospital	7100 Havemann Road	Celina	586-3109
Maria Stein Animal Clinic	8155 State Route 119	Maria Stein	925-4212
Chickasaw Vet Center	PO 144	Chickasaw	925-4910
Four Star Veterinary Service	108 West Franklin	Chickasaw	925-9300

Procedure for Retagging: It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to monitor their animal’s ear tags. In case of a lost tag, please contact the Extension Office at (419) 586-2179 and have the animal re-tagged.

2026 Junior Fair Book: There have been several updates and changes in the Jr. Fair Book regarding rules, schedules, and the overall fair flow for the upcoming 2026 Mercer County Jr. Fair. As an exhibitor and parent, it is your responsibility to review all applicable sections of the rule book.

You can view online using link/QR code below and copies will be available in our office and at all Livestock Quality Assurance sessions.

<https://go.osu.edu/juniorfairbook>



If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

Beth Guggenbiller

Beth Guggenbiller
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
guggenbiller.23@osu.edu