**Marketing a Hog**

**Competency:** FL DOE 06.02- Analyze commercially important livestock breeds in Florida.

**Directions:** You would like to raise a piglet to show as a market pig in the upcoming school year, but your parents aren’t too sure. Using your knowledge of swine obtained from the unit so far, as well as online resources such as <https://www.pork.org/facts/pig-farming/life-cycle-of-a-market-pig/> and <https://thepigsite.com/husbandry>, write a letter to your parents to convince them to take part in your SAE. In your letter, you will explain to your parents the process of raising a market hog, as well as the steps and practices you will engage in during the project. Your paper should cover the piglet’s journey from birth to market.

Things to include in your letter:

* Procedures that happen after birth (castrating, identification, etc.)
* The location you will raise your pig in
* Feed types you will provide to your pig
* An overview/timeline of the lifecycle of market hogs
* Your purpose for the project

Supervised Agricultural Experiences are extensions of what ag students learn in their regular classrooms. It is a personal, hands on journey into an aspect of agriculture. Since this letter will be explaining the purpose of your SAE, it should also include your purpose for taking part in it; your drive behind the project should be represented in the letter as well. Make sure to include the skills you are gaining from the experience as well.

Please begin your one-page letter below. make sure your letter contains a greeting addressing who it is for, as well as a sign off. The letter should be typed in Times New Roman 12pt font with double spacing. Below is an example of a letter; this letter can be used as a reference but should not be copied.

Dear Mom and Dad,

 Part of my involvement in FFA includes participating in a supervised agricultural experience; this year I would love to show a market pig at the fair. This SAE will give me the opportunity to raise a pig from weaning age to market weight. I have done my research on the needs of this SAE and will show you this through the rest of the letter. At the end of this, I hope that I convince you both to allow me to participate in this SAE project.

Gilts are pregnant for three months, three weeks, and three days; after giving birth to the piglets, they will spend time with their mom until they are ready to be weaned. My hog will be castrated, ear notched, and his tail will be docked. These practices will ensure proper health, identification, and preparation for the rest of my project. The piglets from this herd will be weaned once they are approximately 15 pounds. They will be picked up around this time.

The pigs will be stored on school grounds in individual pens with hay, clay, a cement slab, and a roof shelter to make sure they have proper cover and temperature for themselves. I will feed my hog a corn and soybean diet complete with vitamin and mineral substitutes. As he grows, his feed needs will change depending on his daily weight gain, but I will keep up with that as we get closer to the county fair. My pig will end up weighing around 280 pounds in total.

This project will end with selling my hog at the county fair. This process will further my skills in time management, math, and animal care. This project will also teach me responsibility, dedication and love for agriculture. I hope after reading this you see my dedication to this project and will let me take part in this SAE this upcoming year!

Thank you,

Ms. B