

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SWINE SHOWMANSHIP



A free workbook from herdly.io





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WELCOME

Inside this guide you'll find host of information to help you with your swine project, whether it's your first year of 4-H or you've been showing pigs for years.

The content in this workbook is based on an online course we created with nationally renowned showmanship judge Aimee Inskeep of Shaffer's Goldrush, Albany, Ind.

Check out all her videos on *Winning at Swine Showmanship* streaming on-demand at www.herdly.io

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It all starts with **TAMING YOUR SHOW PIG**

TAKE YOUR TIME

Your showmanship team is built on a partnership between you and your pig and that connection begins as soon as you bring your pig home.

Your pigs might be timid when they first arrive, but if you take your time and spend time with them, they'll tame down quickly.

Be careful not to move quickly and scare your pigs. Do everything in the barn double quiet and double slow for a while until they get used to their new surroundings.

While putting small children in with new pigs may be fun to watch, it's probably not the best scenario for the kids or the pigs.

Pigs love treats! Cookies, jelly beans, marshmallows and more!

MAKE IT FUN

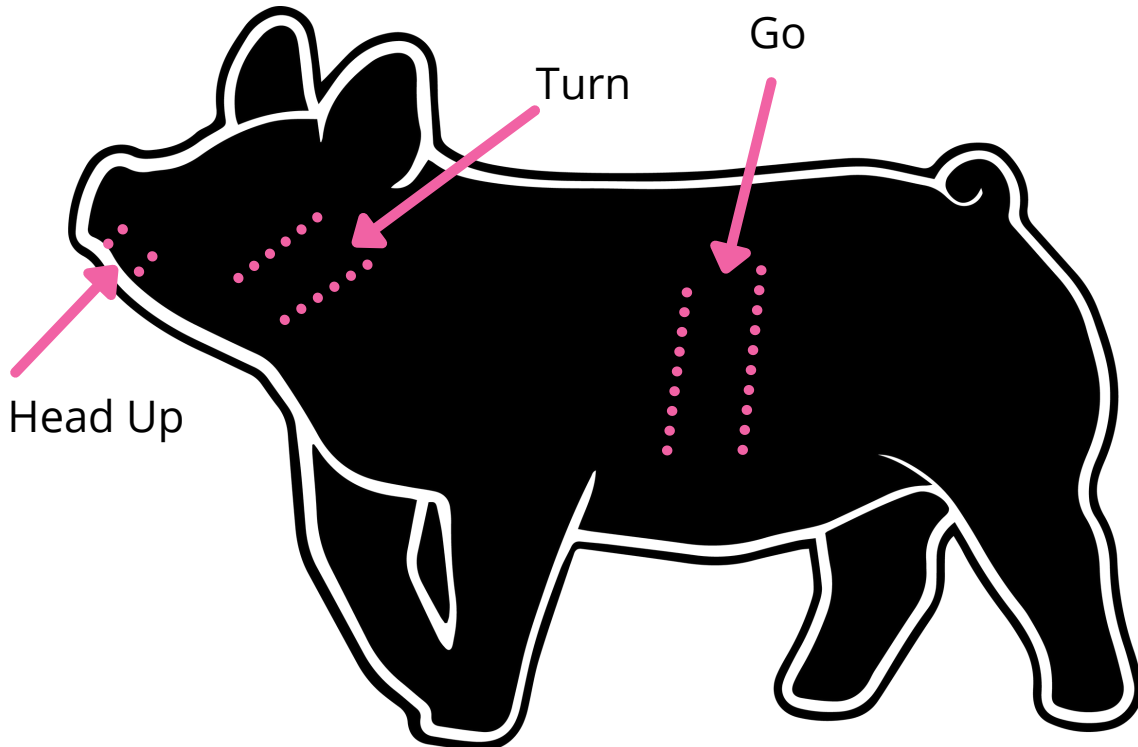
Pigs are social and very curious animals that love to play. The best way to tame your pigs is to make it fun.

Start by using a broom or whip and allowing them to chew on and play with it in their pen. If you get the opportunity, slowly reach down to touch them and scratch them behind the ears.

Stand by their feeder while they eat so they get used to your presence. When feeding, go slow and allow them to smell you and touch your hand.

When they seem ready, sit in the pen and allow them to approach you, then attempt to brush or pet them slowly. They'll get used to it quickly and soon they'll be tame!

Now it's time for
BREAKING YOUR PIG
to Drive



Where to Use Your Whip

NEVER use your whip on the top, hip, ham, or hock of your pig.

BE PATIENT

When you first start training your pigs, they won't drive like a dream. It's important to be patient with them as they learn the whip commands and get used to exploring new surroundings.

Start in an enclosed area and keep your expectations low.

BE CONSISTENT

Make a plan each time you get you get your pigs out and gradually work towards meeting bigger and bigger goals.

It's never too early to start walking your pigs. Showing up consistently each day will help them learn quickly.

The 5 Principles of **SWINE SHOWMANSHIP**

01

EYE CONTACT

Maintaining good eye contact with the judge shows you are confident in your abilities and comfortable navigating the show ring with your animal.

02

DISTANCE

Showing your pig at the right distance from the judge ensures your pig is always visible. As the judge moves throughout the ring, your ability to keep your pig at the right distance demonstrates how much work you've done at home.

03

HAM SANDWICH

Always keep your pig between you and the judge. The pig is the ham, you and the judge are the bread. This gives the judge an unobstructed view of your pig at all times.

04

PACE & POSITION

Pace is the speed at which you move around the ring. Position is where you are located in relation to your pig to help manage pace and maintain control of the drive.

05

INTENSITY

Intensity is your demeanor in the show ring, essentially your showmanship style. No matter your style, you and your pig should flow as one team, remaining calm, cool, and collected under pressure.

PRINCIPLE 1: EYE CONTACT

WHAT: Exhibitors should always have awareness of where the judge is and what they are doing, but when driving in the ring, it's critical to maintain strong eye contact with the judge. Look directly to the judge at all times while periodically checking your pig.

HOW: Making strong eye contact can be intimidating, especially for younger exhibitors. Practice by having someone film you, then watch the video back. What percentage of the time are you making eye contact with the camera?

Eye contact separates confident showmen from beginners.

See samples of eye contact, and more ways to practice in "Winning at Swine Showmanship", streaming now at www.herdly.io



PRINCIPLE 2: DISTANCE

WHAT: As a rule of thumb, the proper distance from your pig to the judge is 10 to 15 feet. While it is acceptable to go outside this range from time to time, you should do your best to stay within it.

HOW: Practice by placing a bucket in your yard to be a pretend judge, then paint marks on the ground at 10' and 15' away from a bucket.

By driving your pig between the marks you'll get a strong feel for the appropriate distance.

Distance is important, but don't get stuck in the crowd.

Watch videos and learn how to stand out in your class with "Winning at Swine Showmanship", streaming now at www.herdly.io



PRINCIPLE 3: HAM SANDWICH

WHAT: The judge should have an unobstructed view of your pig at all times. This means keeping your body out of the way. Think about you, the judge, and your pig as a ham sandwich. The pig is the ham, and the people are the bread. The ham goes between the bread - always!

HOW: Ham Sandwich is all about maneuverability. Having another person stand in as the "judge" is great, but you can also get imaginative. Set several pretend judges' positions in your yard. As the judge "moves" around the arena practice moving around your pig as needed!

Always keep the pig between you
and the judge.

Learn how to avoid what judges call "crossing over" by watching video examples in "Winning at Swine Showmanship", streaming now at www.herdly.io



PRINCIPLE 4: PACE & POSITION

WHAT: The right pace is different for every pig and body position can be slightly different for every showman. The objective of both is to comfortably maintain control of your animal. Younger exhibitors and faster animals may require you to work farther forward on the pig.

HOW: For younger exhibitors, it's best to learn pace and position with a pig that has already been trained. For older exhibitors, you can perfect your pace and position by working with a lot of pigs. Learning to deal with each individual animal will make you a better showman.

Film yourself regularly to evaluate your progress with pace and position.

See video examples of pace and position and learn to perfect your skills with "Winning at Swine Showmanship", streaming now at www.herdly.io



PRINCIPLE 5: INTENSITY

WHAT: When it's time to place the top showmen in each class, you'll often hear judges describe differences in intensity as the reason for their placings. Intensity is a broadly used term that envelops many facets of driving pigs.

HOW: Consider your posture and your mindset while driving pigs. Do you stand up, or are you more bent over while you show? Are you aggressive or laid back? From the outside, does it look like you're working really hard or do you seem to flow with your effortlessly with your pig?

It takes time to develop your own showmanship style. Get to as many shows as you possibly can!

See video examples of intensity in "Winning at Swine Showmanship", streaming now at www.herdly.io



PRACTICE ROUTINE

Developing a great practice routine will be instrumental to your success in showmanship. It's typically best to develop a practice routine that revolves around chore time. Your practice routine should take into account how you'll feed and clean the barn, how you'll work skin and hair, how you'll exercise your pigs to build their endurance, and how you'll practice your showmanship skills.

The following recommendations come from Aimee Inskip's suggestions in *Winning at Swine Showmanship*. You can watch it in its entirety, on-demand at www.herdly.io

MORNING ROUTINE

- Feed
- Wash/Rinse
- Walk for endurance
- Rinse (if needed)
- Work Skin & Hair

Building Endurance

If you're successful in showmanship, your pig may need to walk for as much as 30 minutes while the judge sorts the class.

Over the feeding period, you need to build up your pig's endurance with consistent exercise.

EVENING ROUTINE

- Feed
- Wash/Rinse
- Showmanship
- Rinse (if needed)
- Work Skin & Hair

Showmanship Practice

Evening sessions are for showmanship practice. Build your experience with the 5 Principles of Showmanship.

Set one small goal each day that you would like to accomplish and work on it. By focusing on small goals each day, you'll improve in all areas over time.

SKIN & HAIR

In showmanship, judges are evaluating the presentation of your animal, so it's important to work hard to get exceptional skin and hair by keeping pens clean, brushing, and using skin and hair conditioners daily. Learn about Aimee's skin and hair recommendations in *Winning at Swine Showmanship*, streaming on-demand at www.herdly.io

MY SHOWMANSHIP GOALS

MY BIG SHOWMANSHIP GOAL

What's the big, audacious goal you'd like to achieve while showing your pig this season?

Remember to keep it in realistic alignment with your experience and make sure it's something that's within your control. Rather than how you'd like to place on show day, think about how you'd like to perform. How do you want to look and feel?

THE SMALL GOALS I NEED TO ACHIEVE

What are the small goals I need to focus on along the way in order to achieve my big showmanship goal?

Think about the action steps between where you are today and the big goal you would like to accomplish. What are they? When do they need to be done?

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS

NOVICE & JUNIOR SHOWMEN



Have Fun!

From being around the livestock to doing chores in the barn to hanging out at the show, showing pigs is about having fun!

Learn on Trained Pigs

Learn The 5 Principles of Showmanship on pigs that are already trained. This will build a foundation of good habits and set the expectation for what driving a pig should feel like.

Focus on Position

When driving your pig, focus on a position to maintain control. Use a short whip, or choke down on your whip handle and stay toward the front!

Set Small Goals

Learn to work towards big dreams by setting small goals with your pig. Start off with getting your pig tame, then grow your goals as you and your pig grow together.

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS

INTER- MEDIATE SHOWMEN



Focus on Eye Contact

When you reach the intermediate division, the ability to maintain strong eye contact while driving your pig with ease is crucial. Practice this principle!

Make It About You

Intermediates are always the toughest age group. Focus on yourself and how you can improve your skills. The progress you're making is more important than your placings. Make it about you, not a ribbon, and your placings will quickly improve.

Be Ready for Questions

Intermediate classes are often asked questions. Be prepared to answer whatever the judge might ask. (For a list of questions, check out *Winning at Swine Showmanship* on herdly.io)

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS

SENIOR SHOWMEN



Get Back to the Basics

In the senior division, judges expect you to be perfect. In a tough class, slip up on one of The 5 Principles of Showmanship and you'll be heading to a placing pen, and not the one you want.

Stay Hooked

A lot of seniors drop out of showmanship classes and it's a huge mistake. Showmanship skills make you better prepared to take on tough market classes when you're shooting to hang a big banner.

Ask for Help (and Listen)

If you're a senior who's stuck in a showmanship rut, it's time to get some feedback. Reach out to someone who might be able to provide advice. Send them a video or invite them to your place for a practice session. One right tip can take you from a fifth place showman to first in this age bracket.

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS

PARENTS OF SHOWMEN



Train Pigs for Young Exhibitors

Yes, it's their project but, for young exhibitors, it's much easier to get a handle on what's happening and have fun with it when the pig cooperates. Give kids a better shot at falling in love with showing by training pigs for them until they are old enough to handle it themselves.

Guide the Process by Managing Expectations

A lot of resources get invested in junior livestock projects. From time to time it's easy to lose perspective. Shape the outcomes of the project by guiding goals, assisting with practice sessions, and keeping the objectives clear throughout the project.

Call in a Trusted Advisor

Sometimes, all kids need is to hear it from someone else. Call for help before things go off the rails.

THANK YOU!

Be sure to check out *Winning at Swine Showmanship*, streaming on-demand at www.herdly.io

Videos feature nationally renowned showmanship judge Aimee Inskeep, of Shaffer's Goldrush, Albany, Ind.



www.herdly.io

OTHER VIDEO SERIES AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

www.herdly.io has hundreds of video lessons streaming on-demand to help your family achieve your show ring dreams!



SELECTING SHOW PIGS with Troy Sloan

Choose the best pig to meet your project goals and maximize your project budget.



PRINCIPLES OF SHOW PIG SUCCESS

with Brent "Boots" Boland
Set up your show barn and learn to care for pigs from receiving through the growing period.



THE SHOWMAN'S GUIDE TO SHOW PIG HEALTH with Todd Price, DVM

Prevent, diagnose, and treat the most common show pig health challenges.



BREEDING & RAISING SHOW PIGS with Will Hilty

Keep your show gilt and learn to build your own breeding program.

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OTHER TOTALLY FREE

SHOWMANSHIP RESOURCES

[HTTPS://SURECHAMP.COM/PREPTOWINVIDEOS/#PIGS](https://surechamp.com/preptowinvideos/#pigs)

A series of videos (created by the team behind herdly.io) to help get you started with your show pig project and answer basic questions. [One seems to be missing - but the rest are great!]

[HTTPS://EXTENSION.OKSTATE.EDU/FACT-SHEETS/SWINE-SHOWMANSHIP.HTML](https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/swine-showmanship.html)

An extension factsheet on showmanship from Oklahoma State University that will provide insights on the competition.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/FM-X8FZSMSE](https://youtu.be/fm-x8fzsmse)

Brock Herren answers several showmanship questions in this video from Purina Feeds.

[HTTPS://WWW.SHOWPIG.COM/EDUCATION/BASICSWINESHOWMANSHIP.PDF](https://www.showpig.com/education/basicswineshowmanship.pdf)

An educational article about showmanship from showpig.com

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=IGLZ7M9KRDk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLZ7M9KRDk)

A video on training show pigs from Weaver Livestock.