

November 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: County Agents with 4-H Livestock Responsibilities
From: Larry Eubanks, Chad Carr, Wendy DeVito
Re: Hog & Ham

Please carefully review the online guidelines and registration information/changes for the 2009 Hog & Ham program. There are some new facets of the program this year, such as:

- including a beginning picture of the pig, its housing facilities, and initial feed label with the Cost Analysis Sheet,
- receiving feedback advice/recommendations from UF faculty based on the above information,
- sending another mid-feeding period update consisting of a mid-way picture of the pig, its weight, and the current feed label,
- and for the demonstrations at the end, using Power Point for any visuals as opposed to posters.

In order to participate in the 2009 program, **participation in the Hog & Ham Workshop on January 19 is required.** Please see the online workshop page for more information and preregistration details.

A maximum of 30 participants will be allowed in the program. Counties must fill out a Hog & Ham **participant application form** and mail or fax it so that it is received by **Monday, February 23**. If you have a number of youth interested, you are welcome to give input on what order you think they should be accepted. We will review the applications and notify agents by Thursday, February 26 of who has been selected. After your participants have weighed in hogs, their names should be called in to confirm that they are starting the program. If less than 30 pigs are weighed in, we will contact counties that have additional requests.

A new version of the projected cost analysis sheet is online with the application material (please do not use any older versions of this sheet). The selected *participants* (not a parent/leader/agent) should complete the entire sheet with projected costs and turn in the form after weigh-in with their \$65 entry fees. After pigs are weighed-in, the appropriate number of Hog & Ham Project Books will be mailed to each county. Please do not use any previous versions of the project book. The "Updated 2003" version that is online has been used for a few years and will get overhauled for the 2009 program. That version may be used for reference on what records to keep, but look for it to be replaced by a 2009 project book.

The beginning weigh-in of the pigs may be at any time during the weekend of March 13-16. Note that the pigs will be weighed at the county only at the beginning of the project. The 'final weight' of the pig will again be calculated using carcass weight and a standard dressing percentage. Only the carcass weight will be measured on certified scales in Gainesville.

Please be sure that potential participants can commit to all the required dates so they can complete the entire program. Youth who drop out without completing every phase of the program may not be allowed to participate the following year. All of the information is online (<http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/livestock/HogHam.shtml>) so everyone should have ample access to the scheduled dates. We look forward to another successful year.