

Note: I am enrolled in a swine project and feeding two pigs this summer just like youth members and their projects.

Title: Fit & Show!

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Siren and Adams are now weighing close to 170 lbs. I have just increased their feed to eight scoops morning and night.

I attended the "Showtime" class at Pig Camp. I learned a lot from Derrick Adams of Oakley. Here are some of his pointers I thought I could use to improve my showing.

- Keep your eyes on the Judge AND your pig at all times.
- Keep the pig between you and the judge at all times.
- Keep your pig out in the open. Do not let it crowd the judge.
- Drive your pig slowly. Do not let it stand.
- Keep a hand free when showing the pig.



Thomas driving Adams toward the judge.

One other thing I learned from the judge at the Magic Valley Classic show was an easy way to get my pig to move out is to place the palm of my hand on the pig's eye. The pig will move away in the opposite direction.

I have been practicing showing at home and have attended two summer shows so far this year. As I show Adams, I lightly tap him on the left side of the neck and shoulder to make him turn right. Tap him on the right to turn left. I gently tap him on the top of the back between the shoulder blades to walk straight. Adams and Siren are getting better at understanding my tapping. At the summer shows, I penned my pigs in the temporary holding pens at ring side. Once I was told to go to the pen I moved my pig toward the pen and opened the gate, penned my pig, and latched the gate. I then stood in the back of the pen with my pig between me and the judge. I re-groomed my pig to make sure he was clean and I gave Adams some water, he was getting thirsty. Once I was told to leave the pen I made sure I CLOSED the gate.

To groom my pigs for the show I start at home. I have been brushing Adams and Siren front to rear and



Libby Hooper, Bliss and Tucker Lowler, Caldwell washing their pigs.

slightly downward since two weeks after I got them. Brushing at home trains the hair and makes it shine plus removes the dirt and dandruff. At the show I washed the dirt and dandruff off and just before class I wet them down with a little water and brushed them again.

Some clipping can improve my pig's appearance. I looked at each of my pigs closely after they were washed. Ideally, I am trying to magnify the pigs physical qualities. Often clipping the long, coarse hairs around the edge of the ears, belly, or tail will improve the appearance of my pig without excessive trimming. I should clip my pigs at least four days before the show to allow any accidental marks to grow back. However, this summer I chose not to trim my pigs because my home facility does not protect them well from getting sun burnt. I don't want my pig's sun burnt; it hurts.

I have enjoyed my two summer shows. They are great practice for me and my pigs plus I get to see and make new friends from across the state. My pig Adams placed 8<sup>th</sup> in class, at the Magic Valley Classic, and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Treasure Valley Spectacular. Siren placed 7<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. I learned that the quality of my pig did not change much over the week but that each judge is looking for something a little different. And

that one judge's opinion is given that day. I know my project is successful if I work hard, do my homework prior to the show and my pig and I look our best. I am looking forward to the last summer show in Jerome on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Check out the website for more information.

<http://www.idahojrshowpig.com/>

How is your project going? Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- What does your pig weigh?
- How much is your pig eating? Is the water cool to the touch?
- What does your scoop of feed weigh?
- How are you practicing for the fair?
- Did you have fun at Swine Camp? I did!



Siren eating some more!