MEMORANDUM

To: County Agents with 4-H Livestock Responsibilities

From: Larry Eubanks, Chad Carr, & Chris Strong

Re: Hog & Ham

The Florida 4-H Hog and Ham Program is a statewide 4-H program which takes the participant through the total process of pork production from beginning to end. Youth select a feeder pig and grow it to harvesting weight, all the while keeping records on feed amounts and costs, health care, expenses, weights, etc. After harvesting the hog and processing it into wholesale or retail cuts, 4-H'ers cure the hams and prepare bacon and sausage for smoking. The project concludes by participating in a retail comparison project, completing a record book, and presenting a demonstration or illustrated talk to the other participants.

In order to participate in the 2015 program, participation in the Hog & Ham Workshop on January 19 is required. However, if a youth completed the 2014 program he/she is not required to attend the 2015 workshop to participate in the 2015 program. Please see the workshop memo/webpage for more information and registration details.

Enrollment in Hog & Ham is limited to a maximum of 30 4-H members. The number of youth per county will be determined by the number of counties participating. Counties must fill out a Hog & Ham participant application form and mail or fax it so that it is received by Friday, February 20. If you have a number of youth interested, you are welcome to give input on what order you think they should be accepted. If less than 30 pigs are weighed in, we will contact counties that have additional requests.

Please carefully review the online guidelines and registration information/changes for the 2015 Hog & Ham program. Some key procedures and reminders for the 2015 program are:

- There will be a Pig Selection Day at UF on March 14. Youth may choose to come to purchase their pigs at UF and will draw for an order to select their pigs. This is not a required portion of the program, but it might make it easier for youth to find a feeder pig.

- Sending beginning pictures of the pig, facilities, and feed tag are optional. These may be sent to faculty for feedback/advice at any time, but are not required.

- And for the demonstrations at the end, Power Point will be used for any visuals as opposed to posters.

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A current version of the projected cost analysis sheet is linked 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 $70 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 to turn in. The “Updated 2015” version may be slightly revised, but the information asked should be very close to what was used for the 2011-14 programs. That version may be used for reference on what records to keep, but a new 2015 project book will be provided.

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 this information, and more, is online (http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/) so everyone should have ample access to the scheduled dates. We look forward to another successful year.

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