

# Purchasing a Market Swine

## What to Know as a Buyer

At the time of the sale, market swine will weigh between 200 and 280 pounds with an average weight of 265 pounds.

Market pigs sell for between \$2.00 and \$4.00 a pound with an average price of \$3.50 per pound.

Processing fees (butchering, cutting, and wrapping) vary based on the butcher. The estimated processing total is \$400. For a precise amount, contact one of the suggested butchers.

After butchering and processing, market swine yield about 55% (+/- 10%) meat. If the average market swine weighs 265 pounds, the yield will be about 146 pounds of meat.

146 pounds of meat will need about 8 cubic feet of freezer space.

Below is a summary of what to expect when buying a market swine at the Ramona Junior Fair. (Please note, this information is an estimate and actual numbers may vary.)

A 265 pound market swine is purchased at the price of \$3.50 per pound for a total of \$928. After the butcher's processing fee of \$400, the total is \$1328. By dividing \$1328 by the weight of the meat taken home (146 pounds) the price of \$9.10 is paid per pound for this high-quality, hand-raised meat. In the process, you have helped a young person complete their project, reach a hard-earned goal, and possibly make a profit to help fund future projects. Also, because you are buying through the Ramona Junior Fair (a 501 c3 non-profit), you can consult with your tax preparer and possibly receive a tax write-off for any amount that you paid that is over the current market price. It's a win-win situation for both parties!

## What Does an Exhibitor Put in to Raising a Market Swine?

The animal receives 4 months of hand feeding, exercise, and care.

One market swine is purchased for \$200 to \$300.

The cost of feed to finish a market swine is \$250 to \$300.

The total estimated investment into raising a market swine is \$450 to \$600.

With a conservative average financial investment of \$525 into a market swine at an average weight of 265 pounds, the breakeven point for the kids, when selling through the auction, is \$2.00 per pound.