

PROP 12 REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING MARKET SWINE IN 2024

What is Proposition 12?

Proposition 12 addresses the living conditions of certain farm animals, including pigs, chickens, and veal calves, setting a new minimum space requirements for their confinement. This legislation aims to provide more humane conditions by mandating specific square footage for the living space of these animals.

For swine, Proposition 12 stipulates that breeding pigs must have at least 24 square feet of floor space. The requirements for their enclosures include allowing the animals to turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs. Additionally, the sale of pork in California from farms that do not meet these space requirements is prohibited.

What are the new rules for Proposition 12?

Under Proposition 12, any whole pork meat sold within California must originate from pigs born to sows that had at least 24 square feet of space and could stand up and turn around freely, without touching another animal or the sides of their enclosure, throughout their lives.

These rules are applicable across all counties in California. Consequently, any county fair in the state that features a terminal premium auction must show Proposition 12-compliant hogs. Exhibitors are required to present documentation verifying certification.

What can show pig producers do to be compliant?

Beginning January 1, 2024, all whole pork meat sold within California must receive certification from a state-authorized firm.

Based on our understanding, the certification process is straightforward. It involves a brief visit to your facility where they assess the conditions. The most crucial preparatory step is to complete the necessary paperwork, which includes proof of record-keeping and a detailed map of your operation.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture offers free auditing services for those in California. Out-of-state operators may need to hire an independent auditor, which could incur fees.

Below please find the link for accrediting agencies. Please click on the link and contact an agent to get your accreditation:

California Department of Food and Agriculture. (n.d.). Accredited certifying agents. CDFA. <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/AnimalCare/AccreditedCertifyingAgents.html>

If you are a 4-H, FFA, Grange, Independent, or similar youth program exhibitor, leader, or parent planning to include a breeding pig project for youth participating in the upcoming fair season, what do I need to do?

- * Breeding pigs that are kept as part of a 4-H, FFA, Grange, Independent, or similar youth program breeding project are exempt from Animal Confinement minimum standards.
- * Therefore, the commercial sale of pork meat from the breeding pig and immediate offspring of the breeding pig while she is part of a 4-H, FFA, Grange, Independent, or similar youth program breeding project, are exempt from Animal Confinement minimum standards and the requirement of third-party certification.
- * The pork meat from the breeding pig and her immediate offspring can be legally sold in California without a valid third-party certification.
- * CDFA recommends a kid keeping a breeding pig as part of their 4-H, FFA, Grange, Independent or similar youth program provide to the buyers of the breeding pig's immediate offspring a simple letter that accompanies the bill of sale explaining that the market hog is compliant with Animal Confinement requirements under HSC section 25992(d) and 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(4). The purpose of this letter is to ensure the buyers of the breeding pig's immediate offspring have access to resale markets if that is an option at their fair.

What do I need as an exhibitor:

To be able to show at the 2024 fair you will need to submit a copy of one of the following:

- the breeder accreditation that you receive from the breeder where you purchased your animal from.

A letter from a 4-H, FFA Grange, Independent or similar youth program exhibitor, leader or parent explaining that the market hog is compliant with Animal Confinement requirements under HSC section 25992(d) and 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(4).

Need Help?

If you need help with talking with a breeder about the importance of the Prop 12 Certification. Please send us the breeders name and contact information to livestock@ivfairgrounds.com