



Skill-a-Thon

Swine

Notching Pig's Ears

Supplies Needed

Paper diagram of pig's ears. Pencils or markers.

Note: The universal ear notching system is explained on page 10-2 of the *Swine Resource Handbook published by Ohio State University*.

Situation

You are raising pigs for your 4-H swine project. You will need to learn how to notch your pig's ears so you have an animal identification system in place.

Task

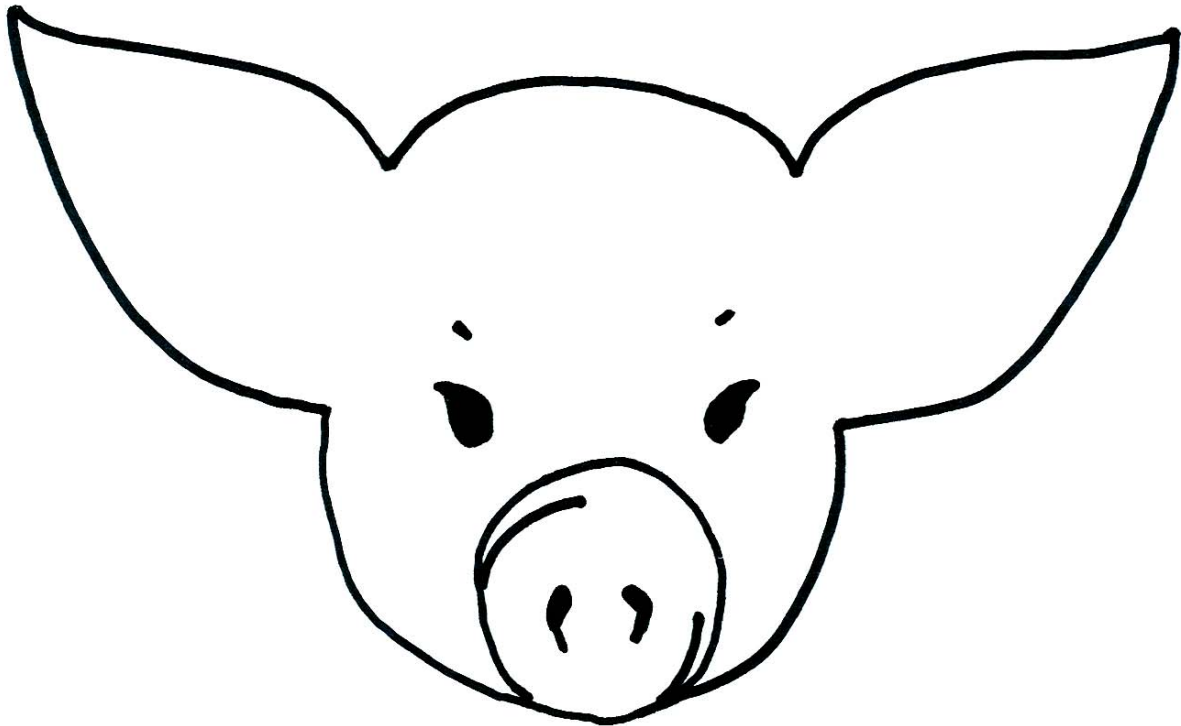
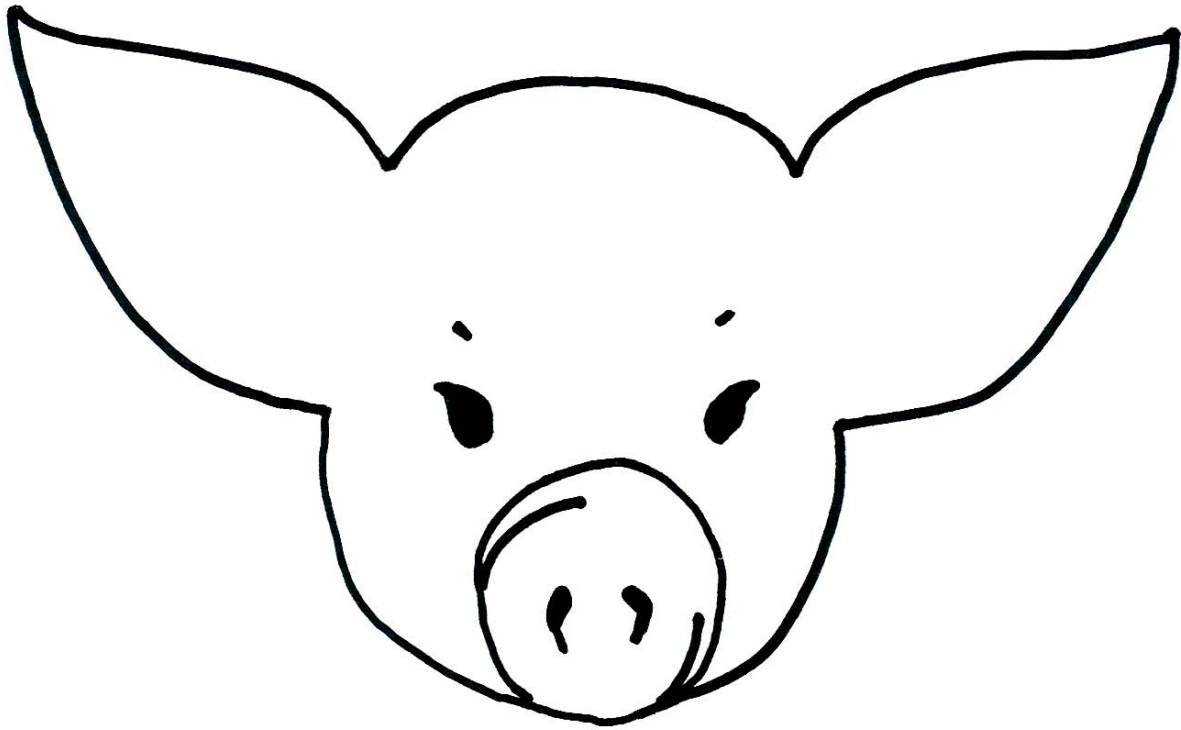
The two paper pigs come from the same litter. You will notch each pig's ears.

All pigs in the same litter must have the same ear notches in their right ear. The left ear will have different notches to show the individual pig number in the litter so each pig will have a different notch in the left ear.

Directions

Carefully notch the ears of each of the two paper pig's ears.





Universal Ear Notching System

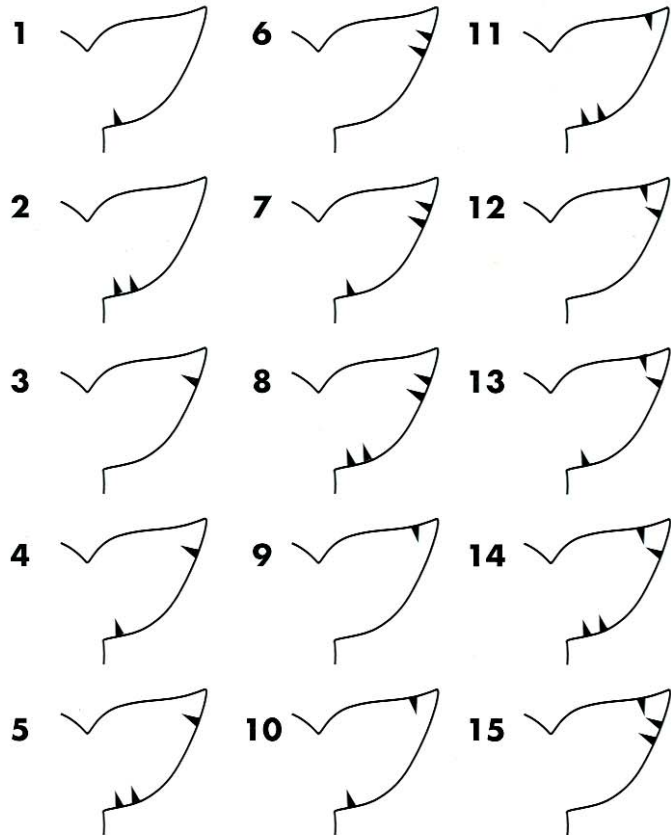
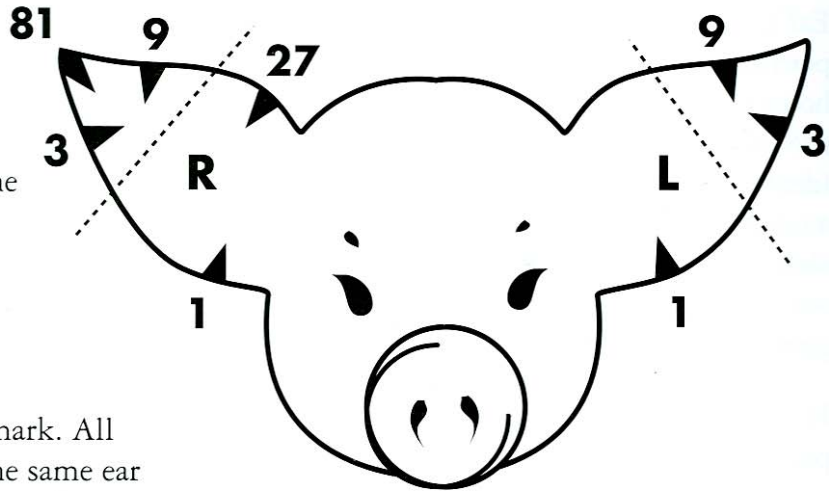
The Universal Ear Notching System is the most common method of permanent identification. The following paragraphs and diagrams explain the Universal Ear Notching System.

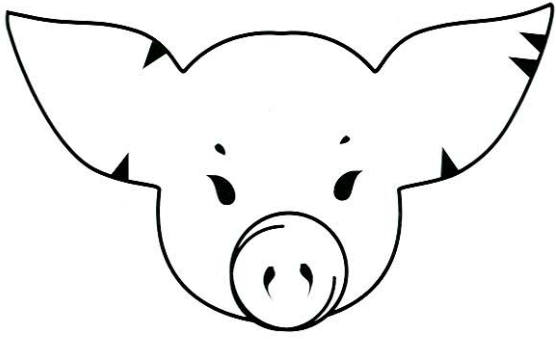
Litter Mark (Right Ear)

The right ear is used for the litter mark. All pigs in the same litter must have the same ear notches in this ear. The right ear is on the pig's own right.

Individual Pig Mark (Left Ear)

The left ear is used for notches to show individual pig number in the litter. Each pig will have different notches in this ear.





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When listing (or reading) ear notches, the litter number is listed first and the individual pig number is listed second. This pig is out of litter #28.

Source: Swine Resource Handbook, Ohio State University

