Dallin Edwards, age 8, grade 3

Mrs. Funkhouser
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Forest products have affected me a lot this year. For instance, they helped me while I raised my Yorkshire pigs that I showed at the Western Idaho Fair. I used forest products every day when I was raising my pigs.

Every day I’d go to the wooden barn, scoop feed from 50 pound paper sacks, and reaching over a wood railing, I’d pour the grain into a feeder for my pigs, Shivers and Pumba. When I bought them they were small, and with the cold spring weather we used a lot of pine shavings to give them warm, clean, bedding.

When I showed Pumba at the fair I was nervous, and a little scared. But she stayed under control and showed really well. Every day I scooped out the pine shavings and provided fresh, clean bedding so she’d stay happy, healthy, and calm. The last day of the fair was the livestock sale. Everything I’d done with my pig since February had built up to this moment. Going into the sale ring I was nervous, and a little sad. The auctioneer started throwing out numbers faster than I can speak. Faster than I expected, he sold it. I took her back to her pen and said my final goodbye.

Forest products provide us with important things we need to live. Like showing my pig at the fair, they also provide us with opportunities to learn and grow, probably more than we even realize. Idaho forests are a blessing to everyone.