MEMORANDUM

TO: County AgriLife Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers
FROM: Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program
SUBJECT: Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb, Goat, Breeding Sheep and Breeding Goat Validation Programs

It’s time to order ear tags for the 2015-16 Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb, Goat, Breeding Goat & Breeding Sheep Validation Programs. The deadline for ordering tags will be August 26, 2015. Tag orders MUST be postmarked by August 26, 2015. Order forms have been sent to County Agents only. The order form should be given to your County Level State 4-H and FFA Sheep Validation Chairman and Goat Validation Chairman. Your County Sheep and Goat Validation Chairmen should remit your order on the form. The Lamb Validation Program, the Goat Validation Program, the Breeding Sheep Validation Program, and the Breeding Goat Validation Program will have one order form. Only one order per county for all FFA chapters and 4-H clubs will be taken. Orders must be in writing, no phoned orders. Any correspondence should refer to the county submitting the order form. The chairman of the County Level State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s) is responsible for ordering tags from the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, TX 76901-9714. Tags will cost $10 each for market lambs, market goats, wether dams and wether does. Validation for breeding sheep and breeding goats is $7.50 per head.

You do not order ear tags for breeding sheep and breeding goats, but use their original flock tag. After the August 26, 2015 deadline, late tags may be ordered if needed at a cost of $20 per tag for lambs, goats, wether dams and wether does and late entries for breeding sheep and breeding does will be $15.00 per head. Late tag orders must be received by October 28, 2015 or they will not be filled. Checks must accompany order and be made payable to Texas Sheep & Goat Validation Fund. One check should be made for all orders (market lambs, market goats, breeding boer goats, breeding sheep, wether dams and wether does). Tags will not be mailed out after October 28, 2015. Since refunds cannot be given, be accurate in the number of tags you order.

LAMBS & GOATS VALIDATED FOR THE 2015 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS WILL HAVE TO BE RE-VALIDATED FOR THE 2016 WINTER/SPRING MAJOR SHOWS. STATE FAIR OF TEXAS LAMB & GOAT VALIDATION TAGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE WINTER/SPRING MAJOR SHOWS.

Texas Lamb Breeders Association tag numbers MUST be in the lambs’ ear and recorded on the validation form at validation. The tag numbers MUST be recorded on the validation forms when they are submitted to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program. NO TLBA tag numbers will be added to the validation forms after the forms are submitted to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program. Market lambs must have a Texas Lamb Breeders Association tag to be eligible to compete in the San Angelo Stock Show or receive TLBA recognition at other major shows.
We also want to remind each of you to order your nose printing materials as soon as possible as we will still be nose printing lambs and breeding sheep. We do not nose print goats. We are once again requiring two nose prints per card on lambs and breeding sheep. We recommend you use blue or black micropore stamp pads that can be purchased from a local office supply store. The county number must also be tattooed in the ear of both lambs and goats so make sure you have the necessary tattoo equipment on hand.

This year we will again be taking hair samples for DNA identification testing for market lambs, market goats, and breeding sheep and breeding does.

The same system will be used for the Sheep and Goat Validation Excel Reports as last year. Excel reports will have to be downloaded from the Texas Lamb and Goat Validation web page at http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/, fill them out, and email them back to us. More detailed information will be sent at a later date.

All official validation and tagging will occur during the month of October (October 1-31, 2015) in the presence of the County Level State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s). Once you have completed your validation, the validation forms and hair samples must be returned to Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program postmarked on or before November 6, 2015. More detailed instructions will be sent with the tags the first week of October. If you have questions, please contact us at 325-653-4576.

Major Updates & Changes to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program:

* New single order form for all sheep and goat validation tags.
* Addition of Breeding Boer Goats to the State Validation Program.
* Separate Validation Forms for Lambs, Goats, Breeding Goats, & Breeding Sheep.
* Wether dams are now included on Breeding Sheep Validation form.
* Wether does are now included on Breeding Boer Goat Validation form.
* Revisions on guidelines for County Level State 4-H and FFA Validation Committee to include county structure and responsibilities.
* Breeding Sheep and Breeding Boer Goat validation cost is $7.50.
* Registration papers for breeding sheep and goats must be reviewed by the County Level State Validation Committee to confirm ownership on or before October 1, 2015.

For detailed information (order forms, instructions, guidelines, ethics policy, etc.) go to http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu.

Thanks for your support of the 2015-2016 Texas Lamb, Goat, Breeding Sheep & Breeding Doe Validation Programs. Again, if you should have any questions, give us a call at 325-653-4576.

County AgriLife Extension Agents, Agricultural Science Teachers, and exhibitors should review the major show rules and be aware of requirements regarding state validation programs:

http://www.hcdjls.org/